

Mediterranean tragedy, Biden powers up and Kenya's literary great

A shipwreck in the Mediterranean last week claimed the lives of around 500 people, another grim chapter in a wider story of human despair and people smuggling that politicians and authorities seem powerless to tackle. Helena Smith reports from the Greek town of Kalamata, where grief turned quickly to anger, while Jon Henley analyses Europe's long-term policy failures on irregular migration and Patrick Wintour considers the problems in divided Libya, from where the ill-fated vessel set sail. **The big story** [Page 12](#) →

US president Joe Biden has launched his campaign to run again in 2024, but can the 80-year-old last the pace of what is likely to be a bruising re-match against Donald Trump? David Smith analyses Biden's chances, while Hugo Lowell asks whether Trump's federal indictment for allegedly concealing classified documents may kill off the Republican contest - in his favour. **Spotlight** [Page 17](#) →

A real highlight in our features pages this week is Carey Baraka's remarkable interview at home with the 85-year-old Kenyan author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, whose life has intersected with many of the past century's biggest events. **Grand old man of letters** [Page 34](#) →

In the Culture section we find out why Hito Steyerl is considered one of the world's most influential artists, pay tribute to the late American novelist Cormac McCarthy and catch up with the cellist Yo-Yo Ma as he ended a world tour by busking on the streets of Nairobi. **Culture** [From page 51](#) →



On the cover Since the International Organization for Migration launched its missing migrants project in 2014, an estimated 27,000 people trying to reach Europe have been recorded as dead or disappeared while trying to cross the Mediterranean. More than 21,000 of those deaths have occurred on the route from Libya or Tunisia north to Greece or Italy. *Photo: Hugh Peterswald/Pacific Press/LightRocket/Getty; Guardian Design*



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