

## **Refugees in the Sinai: the traffickers have killed another police officer.**



*In the photo, African Refugees are moving towards the border.*

*Cairo, January 26th, 2011. The trafficking in human beings continues in the Sinai. It has become a criminal market that brings millions of dollars into the coffers of Al-Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, and the Muslim Army.*

*The Egyptian police have finally stepped up controls along the border. However, the government has decided not to use the anti-terrorism task force, and the police are finding themselves in difficulty when they have to face the powerful weapons of the marauding Bedouins. Today traffickers murdered another police officer, Farag Abdel-Sattar, aged 23. "Officers of the border patrol attempted to stop the smugglers, who were leading a group of African migrants to the Israeli border", said a spokesman for the Interior Ministry. "The criminals began shooting, and in the crossfire Abdel-Sattar was hit in the head, and killed instantly". The tragedy took place on the border between the two states. The police ordered the smugglers to stop, just as they were attempting to get through the barbed wire. After pressure from the police, the smugglers and refugees were forced to return to Egyptian territory, towards Rafah. The events that took place yesterday, that culminated in the death of the young police officer, is not the only gun battle between robbers and police in recent days.*

*During various police operations, numerous African refugees have been arrested and taken to the prisons of the North Sinai Governorate. The hostages have confirmed to the Egyptian authorities that they had handed over the ransom demanded by their captors in order to be released from the shipping containers (where they were being held in chains) and taken to the border. The traffickers have been demanding ransoms of 8,000/10,000 dollars for Eritreans and Ethiopians, and 1,000/2,000 dollars for Somalis and Sudanese.*