# Two sentenced for smuggling five Vietnamese migrants hidden under rubbish in Eurotunnel van



Andrew Stainton, aged 48, and Denice Blendell, aged 62, have been sentenced in connection with an attempted human smuggling incident involving five Vietnamese migrants. The two were apprehended in March 2022 when Border Force officers conducted a search of their unregistered van at the Eurotunnel terminal in Coquelles, France.

The migrants were discovered concealed beneath a heap of rubbish, which included an old mattress, various clothing items, and heavy motorbike parts. This form of concealment highlights the extreme measures taken by people-smugglers to evade detection by authorities.

Stainton, a resident of Burringham Road in Scunthorpe, faced a more severe penalty and was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison. Blendell, who shares the same address, received a shorter sentence of one year and eight months.

The actions of Stainton and Blendell have drawn attention to the ongoing issue of human trafficking and the lengths to which traffickers will go to transport individuals across borders illegally, often putting lives at risk. The case underscores the ongoing challenges faced by authorities in combating human smuggling operations across Europe.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-41227700> - This article discusses a 2015 case where a couple was jailed for attempting to smuggle Vietnamese migrants into the UK through the Eurotunnel, highlighting the use of concealed spaces in vehicles for human smuggling.
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/10/french-court-convicts-18-people-for-roles-in-essex-lorry-deaths> - This report details the convictions of 18 individuals involved in the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants who suffocated in a refrigerated container, underscoring the extreme measures traffickers employ to evade detection.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2022-01-19/smuggling-ringleader-jailed-over-essex-lorry-deaths-of-39-vietnamese-migrants> - This article covers the sentencing of a Vietnamese ringleader and others involved in a people-smuggling operation that led to the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants, highlighting the severe penalties for such crimes.
4. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3241164/french-court-convicts-vietnamese-lorry-tragedy-suspects> - This piece reports on the convictions of 18 individuals in France for their roles in the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants, emphasizing the lengths traffickers go to in transporting individuals illegally across borders.
5. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/a-human-smuggler-was-jailed-over-the-deaths-of-39-vietnamese-migrants-who-suffocated-in-a-uk-lorry-1.6475784> - This article discusses the sentencing of a human smuggler over the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants who suffocated in a UK lorry, highlighting the severe consequences of such trafficking operations.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/10/french-court-convicts-18-people-for-roles-in-essex-lorry-deaths> - This report details the convictions of 18 individuals involved in the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants who suffocated in a refrigerated container, underscoring the extreme measures traffickers employ to evade detection.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiXEFVX3lxTFAyblFsaTlkaVlNODVPWEo4Y2tmZE1ncWxUN2FfdHRvdW1YbkdKT2ZpNHZaajdOZTJXWmRQcjJ5WnV3dHZ0bzFPb3U2UVFzUWhDc3p0cGVCOElWVUxz0gFiQVVfeXFMT21Sd1NneXhmVjU2eml5Q1ZVcThmYnJOMUJGUlh4Smppa0xXc1ZhT01TeHRKM2dkNlpKSm1LUElqb2JfMUg0SF9pOEM2TURfd2l6QVEtX3B4OE1hZnd1WklocHc?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data