# Man jailed for 13 years after Vietnamese woman found hidden in car glovebox in UK people-smuggling ring



A recent judicial outcome has shed light on the alarming scope of a sophisticated people smuggling operation that crammed a Vietnamese woman into the glovebox of a vehicle in an attempt to usher her into the UK. The case came to light in June 2022 when border officers discovered the concealed individual during a routine intercept in Dover. This pivotal incident triggered a comprehensive investigation, revealing a sprawling criminal network trafficking individuals primarily from Iraq and Vietnam across Europe.

At the helm of this illicit enterprise was 43-year-old Mukhlis Jamal Hamadamin, a Kurdish-born barber from Stockport. Despite having immigrated to the UK himself by hiding in the back of a lorry in 2002, Hamadamin orchestrated a far-reaching operation that relied on modified vehicles and counterfeit identity documents to facilitate illegal entries into the UK. His network stretched from Spain through to Northern Ireland, employing various transportation methods, including air travel and land routes.

Manchester's Minshull Street Crown Court, where the gang's operations were laid bare, heard that members of the group had gone to alarming lengths to conceal migrants. In one notable instance, a Vauxhall Vectra, driven by 25-year-old gang member Josef Kadet, was found to have a woman hidden in a custom-built compartment behind the dashboard. The modifications made to accommodate this compartment were described as “highly dangerous,” removing crucial safety features such as airbags and heating systems, making the vehicle a potential death trap.

Prosecutor Dan Calder highlighted the ruthlessness of the gang, pointing to instances where they involved children as 'human shields' to evade detection during these smuggling attempts. The court was informed that the gang's operations evolved over time; as law enforcement pressure mounted, they adapted their methods, increasingly relying on forged documents to facilitate air travel.

Amid the harrowing accounts of exploitation presented in court, the broader implications of this case have resonated among authorities. Dame Angela Eagle, Minister for Border Security and Asylum, condemned the gang's callous operations, underscoring their disregard for human life and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals for profit. She stated that the government's strategy, supported by a £150 million funding boost, aims to disrupt people-smuggling networks and safeguard the borders.

Several accomplices were also sentenced for their roles in this extensive illicit operation. Hamadamin himself received a 13-year prison term after admitting to multiple counts of conspiracy and fraud. His brother, Muhamad Jamal Hamadamin, along with other gang members, received sentences ranging from suspended sentences to four-and-a-half years based on their respective roles in the trafficking conspiracy.

The investigation into this network has been framed as an essential example of the complexities surrounding organised crime that exploits the desperate circumstances of individuals seeking safety and opportunity in the UK. Chief Immigration Officer Paul Moran articulated the team's commitment to protecting borders while dismantling such dangerous criminal organisations, emphasising the collaborative efforts with international law enforcement agencies across Europe.

This case serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing challenges posed by human trafficking and illegal immigration, as authorities intensify their efforts to combat these perilous practices and provide safety for those at risk of exploitation.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14812547/Gang-smuggled-Vietnamese-Britain-glovebox.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8edwn4pdexo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14812547/Gang-smuggled-Vietnamese-Britain-glovebox.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/vietnamese-border-force-home-office-angela-eagle-manchester-b1205091.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14812547/Gang-smuggled-Vietnamese-Britain-glovebox.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/16/man-jailed-smuggling-vietnamese-woman-uk-glove-box/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-67996769)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/smuggler-who-stuffed-vietnamese-woman-in-car-dashboard-jailed-13049675), [[6]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/crime/border-force-vietnamese-canterbury-crown-court-home-office-manchester-b2479502.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14812547/Gang-smuggled-Vietnamese-Britain-glovebox.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/16/man-jailed-smuggling-vietnamese-woman-uk-glove-box/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8edwn4pdexo), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/vietnamese-border-force-home-office-angela-eagle-manchester-b1205091.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14812547/Gang-smuggled-Vietnamese-Britain-glovebox.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/smuggler-who-stuffed-vietnamese-woman-in-car-dashboard-jailed-13049675)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14812547/Gang-smuggled-Vietnamese-Britain-glovebox.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8edwn4pdexo)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14812547/Gang-smuggled-Vietnamese-Britain-glovebox.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8edwn4pdexo> - In June 2022, a Vietnamese woman was discovered hidden in a secret compartment behind the dashboard of a car crossing from France to the UK. This led to the dismantling of an international people smuggling network operating between 2022 and 2024. The gang facilitated the illegal entry of non-EU nationals into the UK via land and air routes, including the creation of counterfeit identity documents. Three members were found guilty of assisting unlawful immigration, with sentencing scheduled for later this month. The case highlights the ruthless tactics of criminal gangs exploiting vulnerable individuals for profit.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/smuggler-who-stuffed-vietnamese-woman-in-car-dashboard-jailed-13049675> - In January 2024, Jozef Balog, a Slovakian national, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison at Canterbury Crown Court after admitting to assisting unlawful immigration. In June 2022, Balog attempted to smuggle a Vietnamese woman into the UK by concealing her behind the dashboard of his car. Border Force officers discovered the woman hidden in a custom-built compartment during a routine inspection in Coquelles, northern France. The case underscores the callous disregard these criminals have for the lives and safety of vulnerable people they exploit.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/16/man-jailed-smuggling-vietnamese-woman-uk-glove-box/> - In January 2024, Jozef Balog, 33, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison at Canterbury Crown Court for attempting to smuggle a Vietnamese woman into the UK by concealing her behind the dashboard of his car. The vehicle had been modified to create a small hiding place for her. The case highlights the callous disregard these criminals have for the lives and safety of vulnerable people they exploit. Balog had pleaded guilty to assisting unlawful immigration in June 2022 and had already served 19 months in custody.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-67996769> - In June 2022, Jozef Balog, a Slovakian national, was stopped at the UK border upon his return from France. During a search of his vehicle, Border Force officers discovered a Vietnamese woman hidden in a cramped compartment behind the dashboard. The vehicle had been modified to create the tiny concealment. Balog pleaded guilty to assisting unlawful immigration and was sentenced to two and a half years in prison at Canterbury Crown Court. The case underscores the disregard these criminals have for the lives and safety of vulnerable people they exploit.
6. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/crime/border-force-vietnamese-canterbury-crown-court-home-office-manchester-b2479502.html> - In January 2024, Jozef Balog, 33, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison at Canterbury Crown Court for attempting to smuggle a Vietnamese woman into the UK by concealing her behind the dashboard of his car. The vehicle had been altered to create the tiny hideaway. Balog had pleaded guilty to assisting unlawful immigration in June 2022 and had already served 19 months in custody. The case highlights the callous disregard these criminals have for the lives and safety of vulnerable people they exploit.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/vietnamese-border-force-home-office-angela-eagle-manchester-b1205091.html> - In June 2022, Border Force officers discovered a Vietnamese woman hidden in a cramped compartment behind the dashboard of a car crossing from France to the UK. This led to the dismantling of an international people smuggling network operating between 2022 and 2024. The gang facilitated the illegal entry of non-EU nationals into the UK via land and air routes, including the creation of counterfeit identity documents. Three members were found guilty of assisting unlawful immigration, with sentencing scheduled for later this month. The case highlights the ruthless tactics of criminal gangs exploiting vulnerable individuals for profit.