

THE NEWSCAST

AFTER EUROPEAN COMMISSION FUNDING, TUNISIA ARRESTS 16 HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, Tunisian authorities announced the arrest of 16 organizers of illegal migration operations in the province of Sfax in the south of the country. They also seized 19 iron boats used in illegal migration operations, 5 vehicles intended for transporting those who crossed to gathering points, and various amounts of money in different currencies.

This comes after the European Commission began providing funds to Tunisia last Friday, as part of an agreement between the two sides reached in July to combat irregular migration. The Commission stated that out of the total 105 million euros in assistance outlined in the agreement, 42 million euros will be disbursed "quickly," with an additional 24.7 million euros designated as part of ongoing programs.



ITALY: UNDERSTANDING WITH TUNISIA "OPTIMAL SOLUTION FOR MIGRATION"

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni stated that "the memorandum of understanding on migrants between the European Union and Tunisia remains the most logical solution to the ongoing crisis in Italy," as reported by the Italian news agency ANSA.

She added during her participation in the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York last Wednesday that "the European Commission believes that the memorandum of understanding with Tunisia could also serve as a model that can be used with other countries." She continued, "In the meantime, we need to complete this model and obtain the necessary resources, after which we can also use the same plan with other countries in North Africa."

TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER: WEAK DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AGGRAVATES IRREGULAR MIGRATION



Tunisian Foreign Minister Nabil Ammar stated that the phenomenon of irregular migration has exacerbated in Africa due to the low levels of development in many countries on the continent, prolonged conflicts, and the effects of climate change. He emphasized that Tunisia will not accept the hidden settlement of irregular migrants.

Ammar, during his address to his country at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly last Sunday, pointed out the exploitation of criminal networks that take advantage of the vulnerable situations of thousands of individuals searching for better opportunities and engage in human trafficking, whether in countries south of the Mediterranean, north of it, or in countries south of the Sahara.



The death of 8 migrants in a traffic accident in Tunisia

A traffic accident last Sunday in central Tunisia resulted in the loss of 9 lives, including 8 migrants from countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to the Civil Protection Agency. The accident also left 5 people injured, including 4 from Sub-Saharan Africa. The incident occurred when a small truck carrying them overturned on a road between the towns of Nasrallah and Manzil al-Mahiri in the governorate of Kairouan.

Such accidents are relatively common in Tunisia, particularly in rural areas, where many laborers use inadequate but cost-effective means of transportation to commute to work in the fields.



MELONI: THE IMMIGRATION PRESSURE ON ITALY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IS UNBEARABLE

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, visited the Italian island of Lampedusa last Sunday, where more than 127,000 migrants have arrived so far this year, nearly double the number for the same period in 2022.

Over 2,000 people have died during the journey between North Africa and Europe, according to the United Nations Migration Agency.

Before the visit, Meloni stated in a video posted on website X that "Italy needs the European Union's assistance to deal with the emergency situation" and added that "the immigration pressure that Italy has been experiencing since the beginning of the year is unbearable."

Since the beginning of the year, the Italian government has been attempting to hinder the operations of private rescue ships, but this has had little impact on the number of arrivals, as around 90% of migrants cross independently and disembark at various locations inside or outside Italian ports.



POLAND TIGHTENS INSPECTION OF MIGRANTS ON ITS BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA

The Polish government has ordered the tightening of inspections along its borders with its southern neighbor, Slovakia, amidst an increase in the number of incoming migrants.

This measure targets both small and large buses, small trucks, and cars suspected of transporting illegal migrants, as announced by Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki during a campaign event in Krasnik last Monday, according to the Polish news agency PAP.

The conservative nationalist politician stated that by intensifying border inspections, Warsaw aims to counter those who "accuse us of having easily penetrable borders," adding that "it is well known that in the past, migrants reached the European Union through Hungary, Slovakia, and then Poland."

ITALY IMPOSES €5,000 FEES ON "REJECTED" REFUGEE



Italian authorities have decided to impose a fee of €5,000 on each rejected asylum seeker to avoid detention. This fee is intended to cover the costs of accommodation and living for one month, as well as the expenses associated with their return to their home country in case their asylum request is definitively rejected. This financial guarantee, which amounts to €4,938, is supposed to be imposed on individuals who attempt to bypass border controls and those coming from countries considered "safe," meaning individuals whom authorities deem ineligible for asylum until they prove otherwise. This development was reported in the Italian press on Thursday, September 21st.



The Guardian: Hungarian Police Involved in "Hit-and-Run Incidents" with Migrants

A report by The Guardian newspaper has pointed fingers at the Hungarian police for their involvement in fatal hit-and-run incidents with migrants.

According to the report, human rights organizations operating in Serbia discovered at least 4 collision incidents involving "car chases" over the past year.

By examining Hungarian media sources since June 2021, The Guardian found 20 additional cases related to migrants who reported police chases before the incidents or cases where drivers attempted to evade police control before the accidents occurred.



POPE FRANCIS TO EUROPEANS: MIGRANTS ARE OUR BROTHERS, NOT INVADERS

Pope Francis urged European countries to welcome migrants and show greater tolerance toward them, emphasizing that they are "not invaders" but individuals who "risked their lives and cast themselves upon the mercy of the waves."

During his visit to Marseille, southern France, last Saturday, the Pope added that "migration is no longer an emergency but a reality of our time, a process taking place across three continents surrounding the Mediterranean, and it must be managed wisely."

Pope Francis stressed that "the duty of humanity requires us to rescue our migrant brothers trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea" and warned of the consequences of indifference and the fear that breeds paralysis.

Around 8,500 migrants arrived on the Italian island of Lampedusa aboard 199 boats between Monday and Wednesday of the previous week, according to the United Nations International Organization for Migration.



GERMANY EXPLORES ESTABLISHING FIXED BORDER INSPECTION POINTS TO MANAGE MIGRATION FROM POLAND AND CZECH REPUBLIC

During a visit to the Italian island of Sicily, where a large number of migrants arrive via the Mediterranean Sea, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier stated that Germany is facing a "dense migration" movement. On Friday, September 22, 2023, German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser announced that Berlin will consider the idea of creating fixed border inspection points to contain illegal migration passing through Poland and the Czech Republic. Faeser stated in a press release that these inspection points could serve as a "more robust means to combat migrant smuggling."

Key Points:

- We differentiate between asylum seekers legally and illegal migrants.
- Implementing stricter controls does not mean rejecting more arrivals of asylum seekers.
- If someone applies for asylum at the border, their asylum request must be examined in Germany; this is a clear legal commitment.
- Protecting the external borders of the European Union is important, and we can ensure it through a common asylum system.

GERMAN POLICE RAID HOMES IN SEARCH OF HIDDEN MIGRANTS



More than 350 members of the German federal police participated in raids on Tuesday morning targeting several buildings across the country suspected of housing migrants.

The raids, as reported by the German news agency, focused on cities and towns in northern and western Germany, as well as Bavaria in the south. The police executed 5 arrest warrants, with 3 of them in the town of Stade in the north and 2 in the town of Gladbeck in the west.

According to the agency, the police found numerous migrants inside the apartments and other buildings who did not possess residence permits.



Reports: 10% of the casualties in the Libyan floods are "migrants."

Reports indicate that approximately 10% of the casualties in the floods in Libya are individuals of other nationalities, some of whom were attempting to migrate to Europe.

According to the latest statistics cited by the German news network Deutsche Welle, among the flood victims whose bodies were found were more than 500 non-Libyan nationals, including 276 Sudanese, 110 Syrians, and 6 Bangladeshis. Additionally, there are around 10,000 people missing, many of whom are likely migrants.

Before the floods caused by Cyclone Daniel, the United Nations migration agency estimated that more than 230,000 migrants were living in eastern Libya.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) had registered around 1,000 asylum seekers in the city of Derna, which was the most affected by the cyclone. However, it is likely that there are more unregistered individuals. The organization believes that around 8,000 foreigners are living in Derna.



LIBYA REFUSES ENTRY TO 400 MIGRANTS EXPELLED BY TUNISIA TO THE BORDER

The Libyan Red Crescent Society called for the rescue of 400 migrants from various African countries who are stranded on the border with Tunisia after being expelled from Tunisia and denied entry by Libyan authorities.

A Libyan military patrol intercepted a vehicle carrying irregular migrants who claimed that Tunisian authorities had pushed them to the Libyan border through the desert. However, the patrol forced them to return to where they came from.

The Libyan Red Crescent stated that, with the assistance of UNICEF's office in Libya, they provided food and water to the migrants and distributed hygiene kits to meet their immediate needs. They also mentioned providing emergency lifesaving humanitarian aid in the same border area.



"FILE 12": AN IRAQI PLAY DISCUSSING ILLEGAL MIGRATION

The 13th edition of the Alexandria International Theatre Festival kicked off last Friday with an Iraqi play titled "File 12," which addresses the issue of illegal migration.

The play revolves around the issue of migration, which has become a significant problem in many countries, especially in the Arab world. It is directed by Murtadha Ali, the troupe's director, and written by Ali Daaim. The cast includes artists such as Fikrat Hussein, Ali Jaber, Muhtadi Basim, Muamal Haider, and Asaad Majid.



ALGERIA DISMANTLES TWO MIGRANT TRAFFICKING NETWORKS ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN



The Algerian police announced last Saturday that they had dismantled two human trafficking networks operating in the Ain Temouchent region in western Algeria. They arrested 17 individuals and seized two boats, as well as equipment and devices used in clandestine migration operations.

Mustafa Khayati, the head of the National Agency for Research Development in Algeria, stated that there are no accurate statistics on the number of irregular migrants arriving in Europe from the Algerian coast. However, he mentioned that the Center for Social Science Studies in Algeria records between 2,000 and 3,000 cases of irregular migration annually.

The Lebanese army rescues 35 undocumented migrants

The Lebanese army succeeded in rescuing passengers of an illegal migration boat from drowning off the coast of Chekka, as reported by the Lebanese newspaper Al-Diyar.

Rescue teams from the Civil Defense and army units rushed to the sea after receiving a call from a woman aboard a boat carrying 35 people, appealing to the security agencies to rescue the boat before it sank in the waters off Chekka. She mentioned that there were children among the passengers.



CZPRUS RESCUES A BOAT CARRYING 65 SYRIAN MIGRANTS THAT SET SAIL FROM LEBANON

Cypriot authorities have rescued 65 illegal migrants, all of them from Syria, after their boat broke down at sea near the island before reaching it. According to Al Arabiya TV, the migrants' boat set sail early last Monday from the Abdeh area in northern Lebanon, near Cypriot territorial waters, and lost contact. However, the boat immediately sent out a distress call, prompting a Cypriot authority unit to intervene and rescue them.



THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS FROM MEXICO HEADING TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES.

A report by the German network Deutsche Welle has indicated that around 9,000 migrants arrive daily at the southern borders of Mexico, attempting to travel north towards the United States. According to the report, Mexican authorities say that the number of attempted border crossings into the United States may reach record levels this month. The Mexican president has proposed holding talks in Washington to address this escalating crisis.

GREECE RESCUES 76 MIGRANTS IN THE SOUTHEAST AEGEAN SEA.



The Greek Coast Guard announced that it rescued 76 undocumented migrants on Sunday while they were sailing on a sailboat southeast of Astypalea Island in the Aegean Sea. According to the Greek newspaper "Kathimerini," the authorities detained the captain of the sailboat and mentioned that all the migrants were safely evacuated and transferred to one of the reception centers on the island.



An elderly Tunisian man documented his illegal migration journey in a video: "Join me in Europe."

An elderly Tunisian man documented his illegal migration journey, sparking widespread controversy on social media platforms. A viral video showed the elderly man with a white beard on board a boat filled with children, women, and young people, calling for others to join him towards Europe. Social media users reacted to the video, with comments ranging from sadness about the uncertain fate awaiting these individuals to sarcasm about the economic conditions that drive such unsafe journeys.

