

THE NEWSCAST

SPAIN COMMENDS MOROCCO IN THE FACE OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, addressing his country's parliament, stated that Morocco is a fundamental ally for Spain's security and for "organized migration" to it and to the European continent.

He added, "I believe the numbers speak for themselves: the Atlantic route (towards the Canary Islands) is the only pathway to Europe," where the number of illegal immigrants has decreased amidst a general increase in illegal migration to the European continent.

The socialist Prime Minister presented statistics for the first three months of 2023, indicating a 63% decrease in the number of illegal immigrants arriving in the Canary Islands. Meanwhile, the numbers of arrivals in Greece and Italy during the same period increased by 95% and 300%, respectively.



A 6-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE AND A FINE OF 500,000 EGYPTIAN POUNDS FOR PROMOTING ILLEGAL MIGRATION - TOURISM COMPANY OWNER CONVICTED

The Giza Criminal Court has sentenced the owner of a tourism company to 6 years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of 500,000 Egyptian pounds, in addition to requiring him to cover the legal expenses. He was charged with facilitating illegal migration.

The case, registered as No. 4523 of 2022 in the Giza Police Department, came to light when the security authorities in the Giza governorate received a notification regarding the defendant's involvement in an illegal migration case. Investigations revealed that the defendant, identified as "A.S.R," the owner of a tourism services company, had formed and managed a criminal group to attract individuals wishing to travel and arrange their means of leaving the country in exchange for financial compensation.



A PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF 200,000 EGYPTIAN POUNDS FOR ANYONE PROVIDING A PLACE TO SHELTER SMUGGLED MIGRANTS



Article 8 of the Law on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants, as issued by Law No. 82 of 2016, stipulates that anyone who prepares or manages a place for sheltering smuggled migrants, gathers or transports them, or provides any services to them with proven knowledge of this, shall be punished with imprisonment and a fine not less than two hundred thousand Egyptian pounds and not exceeding five hundred thousand Egyptian pounds. This law aims to protect Egyptian national security and aligns with the state's efforts to combat the phenomenon of illegal migration, in accordance with international frameworks related to this matter.

Conference to Raise Awareness about the Dangers of Illegal Migration and Ways to Combat It in Sharkia

Dr. Mamdouh Garrab, the Governor of Sharkia, emphasized that the state is dedicated to addressing the issue of combating illegal migration by creating genuine employment opportunities for the youth, allowing them to lead dignified lives.

He pointed out that the governorate has implemented various purposeful programs for rehabilitating young people and providing suitable employment opportunities in the private sector. Additionally, they have intensified awareness campaigns about the dangers of illegal migration, executed small-scale development projects for working women, and focused on vocational education to prepare graduates capable of entering the job market. The ultimate goal is to eliminate the specter of unemployment and the phenomenon of illegal migration.



MOROCCO INTERCEPTS BOAT CARRYING 54 PEOPLE IN ATTEMPTED ILLEGAL MIGRATION

A Moroccan military source announced on Saturday that a unit of the Moroccan Navy, responsible for coastal monitoring, intercepted a rubber boat carrying 54 individuals during a late-night operation. These individuals were attempting illegal migration and originated from sub-Saharan Africa. Among the passengers were 15 women and 5 minors. The interception took place approximately 50 kilometers northwest of the Moroccan city of Tan-Tan.

The military source explained that necessary medical assistance was provided to the rescued individuals before they were handed over to the relevant authorities to initiate the administrative procedures currently underway.



CONTROL OF 58 VARIED CASES AND 2,374 TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS AT ENTRY POINTS

The security agencies of the Ministry of Interior have intensified their control over all entry points to counter various smuggling attempts, apprehend criminal elements involved in such activities, and capture fugitives.

The efforts of the General Directorates under the purview of the Entry Security Sector, in coordination with all relevant authorities, have yielded results over a 24-hour period. They have led to the discovery of 9 smuggling cases, 2,374 traffic violations, the execution of 290 judicial orders, 39 cases related to public security, one case in the realm of illegal migration and document forgery.

Legal measures have been taken, and security campaigns at all entry points of the country continue to tighten security control.



MOROCCO INTERCEPTS A BOAT CARRYING 54 PEOPLE DURING AN ATTEMPT AT ILLEGAL MIGRATION



A Moroccan military source announced on Saturday that a unit of the Moroccan Navy responsible for coastal monitoring intercepted, late yesterday evening, a rubber boat carrying 54 people attempting illegal migration. The individuals come from Sub-Saharan Africa, including 15 women and 5 minors. The interception took place approximately 50 kilometers northwest of the Moroccan city of Tan-Tan. The military source explained that necessary medical assistance was provided to the rescued individuals before handing them over to the relevant authorities to carry out the administrative procedures in progress.

Belgium and Austria Emphasize Intensive Cooperation on Asylum and Migration Issues

The Austrian Minister of the Interior, Gerhard Karner, met with the Belgian State Secretary for Asylum and Migration, Nicole De Muynck, on Friday to discuss the European Union's asylum and migration pact.

Minister Karner emphasized that Belgium and Austria maintain intense cooperation on asylum and migration issues, as both countries are significantly affected by illegal migration within the European Union, with a large number of asylum applications.

Karner stated that the discussions focused on the asylum and migration agreement, which was decided at the European level on June 8 of this year. He emphasized the need for effective external borders for the European Union, taking appropriate measures and collaborating with safe third countries.



AMBASSADOR NAILA GABR: ORGANIZING AWARENESS MEETINGS FOR YOUTH ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Ambassador Naila Gabr, the Chair of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, has decided to organize awareness meetings for the youth in the Eastern region. These meetings aim to educate them about the dangers of illegal migration and human trafficking. She noted that the meetings would be attended by several relevant executive leaders, religious figures, civil society organizations, and the National Council for Women branch chairperson. Additionally, directors of the Village Development and Economic Affairs departments at the General Secretariat will participate in discussions addressing the reasons for illegal migration, ways to combat it, the importance of media's role in raising awareness, and the role of religious leaders in highlighting the dangers of illegal migration and available alternatives to eliminate it.



UK: GIVING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS 30 MINUTES TO PROVE THEY'RE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DEPORTATION TO RWANDA

According to The Times newspaper, the UK Home Office is training its staff to make swift decisions on whether immigrants arriving in the UK meet the criteria that would allow them to be deported to Rwanda under the new immigration plan.

The four qualifying criteria for deportation from the UK include entering the country without permission, arriving after July 20 of this year, not coming from a country where their life and freedom are at risk, and not having permission to stay in Britain.

Illegal immigrants who enter the country unlawfully will have a 30-minute interview with Home Office officials upon their arrival. During this meeting, the officials must assess whether they meet the deportation criteria.



UK FOREIGN SECRETARY TRAVELS TO ALBANIA IN AN ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL MIGRATION



The British Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, has traveled to attend the annual Berlin Process summit in the Albanian capital, Tirana, in an effort to address illegal migration.

The Berlin Process summit in Tirana is set to bring together leaders from Western Balkans and Europe amid attempts to ease tensions in the region.

It is expected that Mr. Cleverly will use this gathering to seek greater cooperation regarding the movement of migrants as the UK government continues its efforts to halt the crossing of small boats across the English Channel.

The Foreign Secretary stated, "The UK is committed to working with the Western Balkans region to tackle the criminal gangs that exploit lives for profit, as well as addressing broader security challenges across the region."

James Cleverly Urges Western Balkans Leaders to Confront Illegal Migration

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly attended a summit of Western Balkans leaders and European heads in Albania on October 16th to encourage them to increase cooperation across the Western Balkans region to address the drivers of illegal migration.

At Tirana International Airport, the Foreign Secretary officially opened the Police Command Center alongside the Albanian Minister of the Interior. This center houses a joint working team responsible for coordinating operational measures to combat human smugglers and traffickers who facilitate illegal migration from Albania to the United Kingdom.



THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO EXPEDITE THE DEPORTATION OF 193 ILLEGAL EXTREMIST FOREIGNERS

French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin stated on Monday that the government aims to expedite the deportation of 193 illegal foreign extremists following the murder committed by an Islamist extremist against a teacher in Arras.

Darmanin added that 2,852 other illegal foreigners would undergo investigation, and France might implement stricter immigration laws.

On Friday, 20-year-old Mohamed Mugotchkov, a Chechen youth whose family came to France from Russia, killed Dominique Bernard, a French language teacher in a school in Northern France. Two other people were injured in the attack. Mugotchkov was arrested along with ten others.



MALTA... GATEWAY FOR IRREGULAR MIGRATION ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

The majority of irregular migrants come from African countries, sneaking into Libya or Tunisia, and then making their way to the island of Malta. Malta often isn't their final destination but rather a point of crossing the sea and a gateway towards the more prosperous Europe.

Diana Butijeg, director of Malta's Immigration Directorate, mentioned that "migration is a factor of pressure on the Maltese economy, especially collective migration."

She added, "Malta received 28,000 migrants between 2018 and 2022, including a large number of irregular migrants."

It's worth noting that since 2005, the island of Malta has been facing a wave of migrant flows. According to official figures, in 2019, Malta received 4,054 migrants, with 2,795 still on its territory, and in 2020, around 1,400 migrants arrived on the island.



THE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS FROM THE TUNISIAN COASTS HAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY



The National Guard of Tunisia announced the apprehension of 45 irregular migrants and the recovery of a body on the last Thursday and Friday. This number is much lower compared to the migrants who were apprehended in attempts to reach the nearby Italian islands over the past few weeks.

This reduction can be attributed to the heightened security measures taken by the authorities, including increased surveillance and patrols along the coasts, to prevent the launching of migrant boats. A week ago, the maritime guard apprehended 223 migrants, including 121 from sub-Saharan African countries, and 150 migrants on the coasts of Sfax.

It's worth mentioning that Tunisia signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Union in July to establish a "strategic and comprehensive partnership," focusing on various areas, including economic development, renewable energy, and combating irregular migration.

Tunisia Reaffirms Its Rejection of Settling Irregular Migrants on Its Soil

The Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reaffirmed its rejection of settling irregular migrants on its territory and its commitment to addressing irregular migration in accordance with Tunisian laws and relevant international treaties. The Tunisian authorities have stated that they do not accept resettlement, with President Kais Saied explicitly rejecting the settlement of migrants coming from countries south of the Sahara, asserting that "Tunisia is not a furnished apartment for sale or rent."

Tunisia's refusal to allow resettlement is part of its strategy to improve negotiations with European partners and secure increased financial support beyond previous offers, aimed at overcoming its economic challenges. This approach also serves to strengthen Tunisia's position in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund.

It's worth noting that Tunisia regularly reports the thwarting of attempts at irregular migration to European coasts and the apprehension of hundreds of migrants, including those from other African countries.



THE MOROCCAN NAVY PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO 58 IRREGULAR MIGRATION CANDIDATES

A unit of the Moroccan Navy succeeded, on the past Thursday, within the scope of its tasks of providing aid and rescue, in intercepting a perilous rubber boat off the coast of Tan-Tan and rescuing 58 irregular migration candidates on board, including 11 women and minors.

Following the transfer of the migrants from the rubber boat to the Navy unit, they were all rescued. They originate from Sub-Saharan Africa and received initial medical care before being transported on the same day to the port of Tan-Tan. There, they were handed over to the relevant authorities to carry out the ongoing administrative procedures.



RESCUE OF A BOAT CARRYING 157 SENEGALESE MIGRANTS

The Moroccan Navy intercepted a boat carrying 157 migrants that had departed from Senegal, according to the Spanish news agency "EFE," citing a Senegalese diplomatic source. This incident occurred amid an increase in the number of people using the "Atlantic route" to attempt illegal travel to the Canary Islands. The Senegalese consul in Dakhla, Babou Sene, stated to the Senegalese government agency, "157 citizens were attempting irregular migration and were rescued by the Moroccan Navy off the coast of Dakhla-Oued Ed-Dahab."

It is expected that the Spanish Acting Interior Minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, will head to Mauritania and then to Senegal to discuss migration issues with the authorities of these countries.



BUS CARRYING UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS OVERTURNS IN GERMANY, KILLING 7



The Münchner Merkur newspaper reported that 7 people were killed in an accident when a bus carrying 20 undocumented migrants overturned in southern Germany.

According to the newspaper, on the previous Friday, a small Mercedes cargo bus was traveling at high speed and collided with a barrier on the A94 highway, causing it to overturn multiple times near the town of Ampfing in the Bavaria region in the south of the country.

The accident occurred as the bus was attempting to escape from a police chase, resulting in the death of 7 people and injuring 13 others, including children, all of whom were undocumented migrants.

Italy: Release of 4 Tunisian Migrants, Interior Ministry Appeals the Ruling

The immigration judge of the Catania Court in the Italian island of Sicily, Yolanda Apostolico, rejected another request to continue detaining four Tunisian migrants, conflicting with the government's decision to appeal the ruling.

Apostolico stated that "a person applying for asylum cannot be detained solely for the purpose of processing their request," and that border procedures should take place in Lampedusa, where the migrant landed and sought asylum.

The judge also ruled that paying a 5,000 euro deposit by asylum seekers who do not wish to be detained "conflicts with the 2013 European Union guidelines."

The Interior Ministry and the Appeals Attorney's Office are preparing to challenge the actions taken by the Catania judge in order to bring the case to the Supreme Court.

