

ISSUED BY THE INDEPENDENTS ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION ISSUES)

# THE NEWSCAST

#### THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORDERS ROME TO COMPENSATE TUNISIAN

#### **MIGRANTS**

After their arrival on the Italian island of Lampedusa, three Tunisian migrants were placed in the island's sole reception center where they "suffered inhumane and degrading treatment," according to the European Court of Human Rights, which has ordered Rome to compensate them.

Last Thursday, the European Court of Human Rights ordered Italy to compensate three Tunisian migrants after finding that they had been subjected to "inhumane and degrading treatment" on the Italian island of Lampedusa.

The three claimants arrived illegally on the Italian coast between 2017 and 2019 before being placed in a reception center on the island, which is located about 150 kilometers off the coast of North Africa. During their weeks-long stay, they were subjected to "inhumane and degrading treatment" at the island's only shelter, which has a population of about 6,500 people.



## VDS THE FA

## THE FAR-RIGHT DOMINATES THE RESULTS OF SWITZERLAND'S ELECTIONS AFTER AN ANTIIMMIGRATION CAMPAIGN



Switzerland's right-wing populist party leads the results of the parliamentary elections amidst a European immigration crisis and rising concerns of potential attacks on the continent, according to the first post-election survey. The survey also confirms the expected decline of environmental parties.

The Swiss People's Party, the far-right and Eurosceptic party, emerged as a clear leader in the Swiss national elections, according to the final results. The Swiss People's Party, which focused its campaign on an anti-immigrant stance in elections dominated by domestic issues, won 28.6% of the votes in the Parliament's House of Representatives, an increase from 25.6% four years ago, and secured 62 seats.

## SPAIN: €50 MILLION AID PACKAGE TO RESCUE THE CANARY ISLANDS FROM MIGRANT FLOWS

At least 8,561 migrants have arrived on the Canary Islands in the past two weeks, according to the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, representing more than a third of this year's total arrivals. In response to the increasing influx of migrants, the Spanish government will provide a €50 million aid package to the Canary Islands, as announced by the acting Spanish Minister of Immigration last Thursday. The package will also support 4,000 unaccompanied children and teenagers.

This decision comes as thousands of migrants have recently flocked to the Canary Islands. The arrival of at least 8,561 migrants in the past two weeks, according to data from the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, accounts for more than a third of the total arrivals this year.



#### Germany: Arrival of 92,000 illegal refugees in 9 months

The number of refugees who entered Germany illegally across its borders this year is expected to reach the highest level since 2016. The Federal Police in the city of Potsdam in eastern Germany announced yesterday that the number of individuals who entered the country illegally and were registered from January to September reached 92,119 people. The last time the number of illegal refugees exceeded this figure was in 2016 when it reached 111,843 individuals. The total number of refugees last year was 91,986 people.





## SPAIN: ARRIVAL OF OVER 1,500 MIGRANTS TO THE CANARY ISLANDS OVER THE WEEKEND

Rescue services in the Spanish archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean reported the arrival of approximately 1,500 migrants to the Spanish Canary Islands during last Saturday and Sunday. A record number of 321 people arrived on a wooden boat to El Hierro island last Saturday, according to a spokesperson for the emergency services.

Around 1,500 African migrants have reached the shores of the Canary Islands since last Saturday, as announced by the rescue services in the Spanish archipelago located in the Atlantic Ocean.

In total, 1,427 migrants arrived on overcrowded boats on Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday morning, as the number of arrivals has been increasing in recent weeks, according to the emergency services via the x platform.



#### NEWSPAPER: EUROPE OFFERS MONEY TO EGYPT TO PREVENT THE GERMANY: ILLEGAL MIGRATION EXPECTED **INFLUX OF REFUGEES**

According to the Financial Times, citing sources, the European Union is seeking to make an agreement with Egypt regarding migration restrictions and financial support, especially in light of the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The newspaper reported that on the sidelines of the October 21 summit in Cairo, representatives from the European Union, including the Vice President of the European Commission, Margrethe Vestager, discussed an agreement with the Egyptian side aimed at reducing the flow of migrants from the Middle East to Europe.

Under the terms of the agreement, the European Union will provide Egypt with the necessary funds to combat unemployment, which will benefit the country's economic situation and should help limit the migration of more individuals from the Middle East to European countries.



## TO EXCEED RECORD LEVELS



Data released by the police on Saturday showed that more than 20,000 people entered Germany illegally in September, marking the highest monthly figure since February 2016. Policymakers have yet to find a solution to the problem after eight years.

Data from the German Federal Police, released last Saturday, revealed that 21,366 entered Germany people illegally in September. This figure, the highest monthly record for "unauthorized entry" into the country since February 2016 when 25,650 arrived during the peak of the so-called "refugee crisis," follows a continuous trend of increasingly high entry numbers over the past seven months.

## Summit in Mexico to address the issue of illegal migration

Leaders from over ten Latin American countries gathered in the state of Chiapas, southern Mexico, last Sunday to discuss how to confront the flow of illegal migrants, most of whom are heading to the United States. Mexico is considered a transit point for thousands of people coming from South and Central America and the Caribbean region to reach the United States.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, speaking at the event, stated that his country wants to "unify efforts, will, and resources to address the causes of the migration phenomenon."

The number of migrants reaching the Mexican-American border this year alone has reached 1.7 million migrants.





## THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION PRESENTS A GRADUATION PROJECT BY SIX STUDENTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Ambassador Saha Gendi, the Minister of Immigration, received six students from the College of Media at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, "Smart Village Branch," to present their graduation project.

The students dedicated their graduation project to combating illegal migration, and the project was executed under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Immigration, as part of the presidential initiative "Rescue Boats" to combat the phenomenon of illegal migration.

The Minister of Immigration commended the students for choosing a topic that is a global issue and for implementing an awareness campaign through television and radio advertisements. She also praised the messages conveyed in these advertisements.

She mentioned that the ministry selected the graduation project to be an integral part of its campaign against illegal migration.



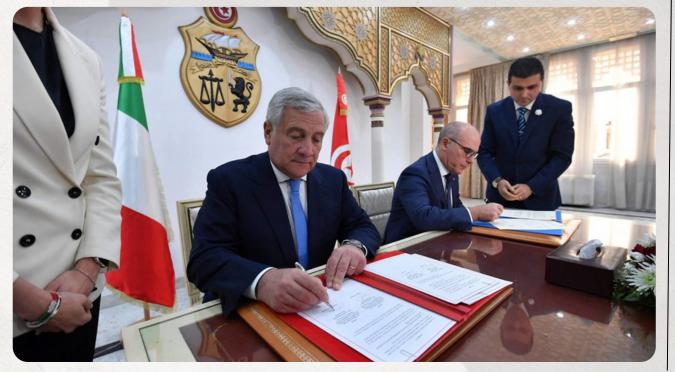
## ITALIAN-TUNISIAN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The foreign ministers of Tunisia and Italy signed a memorandum of understanding last Friday to manage organized migration flows during the visit of the Italian Foreign Minister, Antonio Tajani, to Tunisia.

The memorandum, signed by Tajani and the Tunisian foreign minister Nabil Ammar, stipulates the establishment of new channels for legal migration, allowing 4,000 qualified Tunisian workers to come and work in Italy, as reported by the Italian news agency "AKI."

Italy has taken this step to meet its needs for qualified and trained labor in the job market, and to build bilateral agreements with Tunisia that benefit both parties.

Tajani emphasized, just minutes before signing the memorandum, that his country is working to "promote legal migration against illegal migration and, consequently, against human trafficking.



# THE SECURITY SECTOR OF PORTS AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN EGYPT APPREHENDED 5 CASES OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION



Efforts of the general administrations under the Port Security Sector, in coordination with the relevant authorities, led to the apprehension of these cases. Legal measures have been taken against those apprehended. It is worth mentioning that illegal migration is a criminal offense, and the state is making efforts to combat and punish its perpetrators.

#### Lecture on the Phenomenon of Illegal Migration at Tanta Cultural Palace

Tanta Cultural Palace in the Gharbia Governorate organized an awareness lecture on the implications and risks of illegal migration. The lecture, titled "Death Boats and State Efforts to Combat Illegal Migration," was organized by the General Authority for Cultural Palaces under the leadership of Amr El-Besuni and conducted by Naglaa Nasr, the director of the palace, with the attendance of several patrons.

Mohamed Abu El-Yazeed, a specialist in community health and the environment, highlighted that illegal migration presents a challenge to all countries worldwide due to the risks it poses to young people and society.

Abu El-Yazeed also mentioned the efforts of the Egyptian government to combat the phenomenon of illegal migration, particularly the issuance of Law No. 82 of 2016, which criminalizes illegal migration and prescribes penalties for its perpetrators.





#### **UK: ASYLUM SEEKERS RETURNED TO "HMS STOCKTON"**

Last Thursday, asylum seekers were returned to "HMS Stockton," a vessel that can accommodate 506 people, after it had been evacuated two months ago due to the presence of Legionella bacteria, which can cause respiratory infections. The vessel was docked in the southwest of the United Kingdom.

The Home Office has stated that the place is now "safe and secure," and the bacteria has been eradicated, with fire safety measures ensured.

Opinions about "HMS Stockton" are divided, with migrant support activists considering it as a floating prison, while the authorities running it view it as a suitable place that respects human dignity.

It is worth noting that the UK government, under the leadership of Rishi Sunak, designed the vessel to reduce the cost of hotels or accommodation for 130,000 asylum seekers, which amounts to 2.7 billion euros annually.



## LEADERS OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AGREE ON A PLAN TO REDUCE MIGRATION

The leaders of ten Latin American governments, meeting in the state of Chiapas in southern Mexico, have agreed to "develop an action plan" that enhances job opportunities, food self-sufficiency, environmental protection, energy security, trade, investment, and the fight against organized crime to reduce migration flows.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry, the host of the meeting, issued a statement stating, "The leaders and representatives agreed that the basis of this plan is to combat 'structural' problems that force citizens to leave their countries, including 'poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunities.'"

Lopez Obrador welcomed his counterparts, including Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro, Cuba's Miguel Diaz-Canel, Colombia's Gustavo Petro, among others.



## TUNISIAN AND ITALIAN INTERIOR MINISTERS DISCUSS COMBATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION



The Tunisian Minister of Interior, Kamal El Fakih, contacted his Italian counterpart, Matteo Piantedosi, to discuss avenues of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

According to a statement from the Tunisian Ministry of Interior, the ministers emphasized "the importance of strengthening the relations between the two countries and elevating them to the highest levels, reflecting the deep and historic ties between the two nations, serving the interests of both friendly peoples."

The two ministers reviewed the efforts made by both sides in supporting the capabilities of security units to combat networks involved in human trafficking and the organization of irregular migration.

#### The Yemeni Government Initiates Steps for Solutions to African Migration with UN Support

The United Nations reported that 20 representatives from the Yemeni government convened to discuss the possibility of establishing a comprehensive framework for migration management to promote safe and organized migration.

This informal discussion precedes the second Arab Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration, scheduled for next year in Cairo. It will provide an opportunity for member states in the region to meet and discuss migration policy issues within the framework of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.

The non-official workshop, hosted by the UN Network on Migration with support from the International Organization for Migration, aimed to address migration challenges and assess best practices in the region while implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. It's worth noting that the Yemeni government voted in favor of this non-binding international agreement in 2018.





#### MIGRANTS CROSS HUNGARY DISCREETLY BEFORE CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY TO GERMANY

Migrants leave many signs indicating their crossing of the Hungarian border with Slovakia, whether it's the remnants of a fire, chocolate wrapper coverings, or even lost passports. However, rarely do the locals in that area encounter them.

Across 676 kilometers separating the two Central European countries, Bratislava has recently intensified surveillance operations to combat the increasing illegal border crossings.

But on their way to prosperous Germany, it is challenging to avoid passing through Hungary, the gateway to the European Union from Serbia.

Victoria Technos, responsible for the local community center of the French Press Agency, stated that some residents "no longer camp near the river or in the forest for fear of encountering them.



## SURVIVAL FOR ANOTHER DAY: A TOUGH CHALLENGE FOR MIGRANTS IN ITALY

Migrants in Italy face dire conditions when it comes to meeting their basic needs for shelter, food, and even communicating with their loved ones, as revealed by a recent study conducted by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Their struggle to survive for another day is a daunting task.

The IRC conducted a study this month, based on interviews with 598 migrants who arrived in Italy over the past three months. It found that they are in a desperate situation, unable to access safe shelter or obtain sufficient information about their legal status. Even obtaining food is a challenge. The study also highlighted that these conditions persist even after their transfer from reception centers to resettlement centers.



# ON CHARGES OF SMUGGLING MIGRANTS AND MONEY LAUNDERING, CYPRUS ARRESTS 10 INDIVIDUALS



Cypriot police arrested ten individuals on Monday, suspected of operating a criminal gang involved in smuggling migrants, as the island witnessed a new increase in the number of arrivals earlier this week.

Cyprus, situated at the crossroads of three continents, has seen a rise in irregular migration since 2017. Cypriot officials have expressed concerns in recent days that the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East could lead to an increase in people fleeing the region.

A spokesperson for the Cypriot Ministry of Interior stated that around 264 Syrians arrived earlier this week after setting off from the coast of Lebanon.

# Italy: A Center for Receiving Migrants by Land and Sea

Italy has found itself at the center of receiving irregular migrants arriving by both land and sea, given its location on the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

In September 2023, an astonishing 7,000 migrants arrived at the shores of the island of Lampedusa within 24 hours, surpassing the total population of the island. In 2022, reports indicated that more than 105,000 people arrived at Italian shores, with the International Rescue Committee estimating that 13,126 individuals arrived by land from Slovenia through the Balkans in 2022, the majority of them hailing from Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Tunisia.

Since the beginning of 2023, 12,330 unaccompanied minors have also arrived at Italian shores.

The Italian government has called on EU member states to share the responsibility of receiving some of the asylum seekers.

