

THE NEWSCAST

EGYPTIAN STRATEGY TO ACTIVATE "RESCUE BOATS"

The Minister of State for Migration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs, Ambassador Soha Gendi, delivered a recorded speech during the celebration marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the Coptic Orphans organization, under the theme "From Generation to Generation," this week.

Gendi praised the role of civil society organizations in collaboration with the government in achieving sustainable development goals in regions and villages that are sources of illegal migration. She emphasized providing training and rehabilitation courses for orphaned children and marginalized girls, offering them support, and empowering women in Upper Egypt.

She also highlighted that the Ministry of Migration has been actively implementing the presidential initiative "Rescue Boats," launched by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during the third edition of the World Youth Forum in 2019, and has developed a comprehensive strategy for its execution.



EGYPT'S EFFORTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Egypt participated in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in the Italian city of Palermo.

Ambassador Naila Gabr, the head of the National Coordination Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, presented Egypt's significant efforts in this regard to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. These efforts include the establishment of a national committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to develop studies, policies, and programs to support the government's efforts in this field. She also clarified the government's vision that development is the cornerstone for combating this phenomenon.



EGYPTIAN WRITERS DISCUSS THE DANGERS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION



This week, the Culture Palace in Kafr El-Zayat in the Gharbia Governorate of Egypt hosted a panel discussion on the risks of illegal migration. The event was attended by poets, writers, intellectuals, and artists.

During the panel, participants pointed out that the main reasons behind this phenomenon include poverty, population growth, and a lack of job opportunities. They also warned that migrants often put themselves at legal risk and find themselves forced to work for meager wages, all while facing constant scrutiny and pursuit by security authorities.

Participants called for more awareness-raising events and educational meetings for young people, as well as the promotion of safe means of migration to foreign countries.

Kais Saied Rejects European Financial Support, Saying "We Accept Cooperation, Not Charity"

Tunisian President Kais Saied stated last Monday that he rejects financial support announced by the European Union (EU) a few days ago, citing that the amount contradicts the agreement signed this summer with the European bloc.

According to a statement from the Tunisian presidency, Saied affirmed during a meeting with the Foreign Minister, Nabil Ammar, that "Tunisia, which accepts cooperation, does not accept what resembles charity or alms."

Last month, the European Commission announced that it would provide Tunisia with 127 million euros in aid as part of its agreement with the country to combat illegal migration from Africa to Europe.

The statement further read: "Tunisia rejects what the European Union announced, not due to the disdain for the amount, as all the treasures of the world do not compare to a single grain of our sovereignty in the eyes of our people. Instead, it's because this proposal contradicts the memorandum of understanding signed in Tunisia and the spirit that prevailed during the Rome conference in July, which was initiated by both Tunisia and Italy."

The agreement signed in July includes substantial aid to Tunisia, amounting to one billion euros, aimed at supporting its economy and dealing more rigorously with the migration crisis.



TUNISIA THWARTS 52 ILLEGAL MIGRATION ATTEMPTS

Tunisian authorities have thwarted 52 attempts at illegal migration to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea and apprehended 1,004 individuals during a two-day security operation in the governorate of Sfax (in the south). Among those detained were 48 human traffickers.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Interior, the security campaign took place from September 27 to September 29 and resulted in the apprehension of 216 Tunisians, 667 individuals from sub-Saharan African and coastal countries, and 73 from various other nationalities.

Sfax is a significant point of departure for irregular migrants attempting to reach the Italian island of Lampedusa, which is located approximately 130 kilometers off the Tunisian coast.



TUNISIA: ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION

Tunisian Interior Minister Kamal El-Faqi stated that addressing illegal migration requires a comprehensive and multidimensional realistic approach that primarily focuses on eliminating the root causes rather than attempting to treat the consequences.

During a ministerial conference commemorating the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Palermo, Italy, last Friday, El-Faqi emphasized that addressing the issue of illegal migration necessitates developing the economies of origin countries by creating job opportunities for youth and combating human trafficking networks.

In a video posted on the official page of the Tunisian Ministry of Interior, the minister stressed that the solution must be humanitarian and collective.

El-Faqi reaffirmed Tunisia's commitment to align its legislation related to combating human trafficking with international standards and principles of human rights, in line with its commitment to implementing the UN Convention since its ratification on September 23, 2002.

The Tunisian minister presented statistics from January to September 18, 2023, indicating that the total number of individuals attempting to cross the borders to Europe amounted to approximately 72,516 people, including 58,057 foreigners, accounting for around 80%. The number of those rescued was approximately 19,033 individuals, including 17,865 foreigners. Authorities detained 909 human trafficking brokers and organizers, seized 824 boats, thwarted 5,609 operations, recorded the sinking of 488 boats during the same period, and recovered 1,290 bodies, including 1,239 foreign bodies.



GERMANY PAVES THE WAY FOR A EUROPEAN AGREEMENT

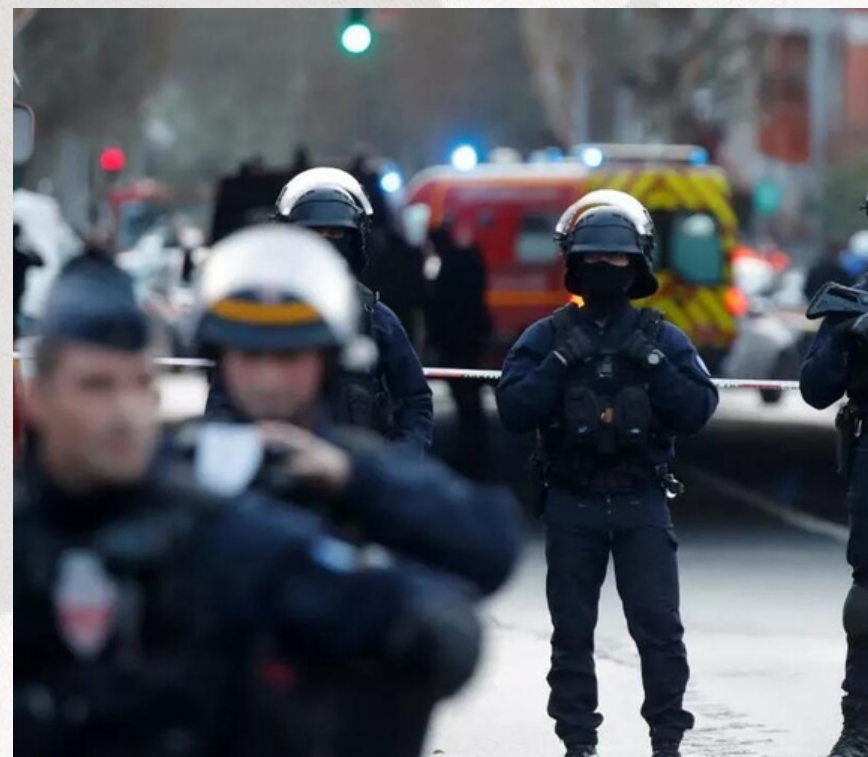


Germany withdrew its demands and paved the way for an agreement on European Union rules regarding how to handle the immigration issue, including the prolonged detention of migrants at the borders. The Spanish Interior Minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, who chaired a meeting of his counterparts in the European Union last Thursday, emphasized the existence of an 'undeniable will' now regarding the rules that had been suspended for several months due to objections from Berlin.

Arrest of Sudanese Individual During Investigation into Migrant's Death in France

Days after French authorities found the body of an Eritrean migrant washed up on a beach in northern France, and during the investigation conducted by both French and British authorities into the circumstances surrounding the death, British police arrested a Sudanese migrant suspected of being involved in piloting a migrant boat on the night of the incident. The direct reasons for the death have not been clarified.

Last Thursday, British police announced that the Sudanese youth, aged 21, is facing charges related to assisting in illegal migration, according to the National Crime Agency.



LIBYA SINKS MIGRANT BOAT

The German maritime rescue organization Sea-Watch reported that a Libyan coast guard boat collided with a rubber dinghy carrying approximately 50 migrants near the Libyan coast last Friday, leading to the sinking of the rubber boat and the people on board being cast into the Mediterranean Sea before being rescued.

The Associated Press requested a comment from a spokesperson for the Libyan coast guard, which receives training and funding from Europe to stem the flow of migrants, but there was no response. The agency noted that footage and the schedule of the German organization show that the Libyan coast guard boat was pursuing the migrant dinghy.



ITALY REJECTS "MAGNET FOR MIGRANTS" CRITIQUE

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani stated last Thursday that the maritime rescue organizations operating in the Mediterranean should not be a "magnet" attracting migrants to Europe. He made this statement during a press conference in Berlin alongside his German counterpart, Annalena Baerbock.

Tajani added that "nobody is waging a war against non-governmental organizations."

This comes after Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni wrote to the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz earlier this week, expressing her surprise at the German government's initiative to fund charitable organizations working with migrants in the Mediterranean and in Italy.



LEBANON ARRESTS SYRIANS SMUGGLING MIGRANTS BY SEA



Lebanese security forces arrested two individuals from Syria last week who were involved in smuggling illegal migrants from Libya to Europe through the Wadi Khaled area in Lebanon.

According to a statement from the Lebanese security forces, these two individuals had previously attempted to smuggle dozens of migrants from Libya through the coasts of Tobruk. However, the boat sank with dozens of migrants on board. After one of them survived an attempted murder by some relatives of the victims, they fled from Libya to Syria and subsequently entered Lebanon clandestinely.

Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic Form Joint Task Force

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser announced that Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic have formed a joint task force to combat inhuman smuggling crimes and illegal migration.

The joint task force will be led by the EMPACT program under Europol, and German, Czech, and Polish police will work together on each other's territories to reduce illegal migration and identify smuggling routes.

This move comes at a time when mainstream parties in Germany are facing growing anxiety and changing their stance on immigration amid the increasing popularity of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.



FRENCH WRITER: LAMPEDUSA IS EVIDENCE OF EUROPE'S FAILURE

French journalist Nicolas Baverez considers that the blockade strategy pursued by Italy and Britain to reduce the flow of migrants has failed. He points out that the recent Lampedusa crisis is indicative of the European institutions' shortcomings and provides a significant argument for far-right parties in the upcoming European Parliament elections.

Baverez, in an article published by the magazine *Le Point* last Sunday, believes that the top priority in Europe today is to regain control over the external borders of the European Union by establishing an integrated system for monitoring and intervention in the Mediterranean Sea, considering migration as one of the crises of the 21st century.



CYPRUS OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

Cyprus, an EU member state, has offered to donate fast boats and conduct joint patrols with Lebanon, as maritime smuggling routes have shifted away from Turkey and towards the Lebanese coast.

Cypriot Interior Minister Constantinos Ioannou stated in an interview with his country's official radio that estimates indicate there are around 2.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, a country with a population ranging from 5 to 6 million, and it does not receive any technical or financial assistance from the European Union. He added, "This is something we are working on." Lebanese and Cypriot government agencies, along with international humanitarian organizations based in Lebanon, have reported that Lebanon has become a country of departure for migrants fleeing the economic collapse in the Middle East, especially for Lebanese, Palestinians, and Syrians.

TURKISH ELECTRONIC APP TO COMBAT MIGRATION



The Turkish Interior Minister, Ali Yerlikaya, announced last Tuesday that Turkey will launch an electronic application to identify the identities of migrants and determine their legal status to combat increasing illegal migration.

Turkey has initiated a pilot program in the province of Istanbul, with plans to expand the application to all provinces of the country starting from December 1st.



2500 Dead and Missing in the Mediterranean

During a meeting of the United Nations Security Council dedicated to the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean, Rovin Minicdiuila, the director of the New York office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stated that as of September 24, 2023, more than 2500 people have been counted as dead or missing, marking a 50% increase compared to 1680 individuals during the same period last year.

Minicdiuila explained that 186,000 migrants successfully crossed the Mediterranean into Southern Europe (Italy, Greece, Cyprus, and Malta), with 130,000 of them arriving in Italy, representing a 38% increase. She emphasized the necessity of "establishing a regional mechanism for disembarkation and redistribution" of migrants arriving on death boats in the Mediterranean.



10 KILLED IN MIGRANT TRUCK OVERTURNING IN MEXICO

At least 10 migrants were killed, and 25 others were injured last Sunday when a truck they were riding in overturned on a highway in the state of Chiapas, southern Mexico, near the border with Guatemala. This is the same state where a similar incident occurred, resulting in two deaths and 27 injuries, as they were trying to reach the United States.



According to a source in the Mexican Attorney General's Office quoted by Agence France-Presse, the victims include women, including minors, and they are of Cuban origin. U.S. border patrol officially counted 1.8 million migrants crossing the southern border between October 2022 and August 2023.

SENEGAL: INTERCEPTION OF 272 MIGRANTS ON TWO BOATS

The Senegalese Navy announced that it intercepted two wooden boats carrying 272 undocumented migrants about 100 kilometers off the coast of the capital, Dakar. According to an online post, among the passengers returned to a naval base in Dakar, there were 7 children and 16 women.

In 2022, 559 people lost their lives while attempting to cross the ocean that separates Africa from Europe to reach the Canary Islands. The first 6 months of 2023 saw the deaths or disappearances of 126 individuals on the same route, with 15 shipwrecks recorded, according to the International Organization for Migration. In August of the previous year, only 37 people survived after a migrant boat carrying 101 Senegalese migrants ran out of fuel and drifted in the ocean for weeks.

RESCUE OF 19 MIGRANTS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL



The North and Channel Police Prefecture in Northern France announced in a statement the rescue of 19 migrants from drowning in the English Channel last Tuesday after their rubber boat ripped on the rocks in the Bay of Ouistreham while they were on their way to the United Kingdom.

According to the prefecture's statement, to assist these migrants who sought refuge on the rocks to escape drowning, rescue teams used a sea rescue hovercraft.



Libya: Rescue of 110 Africans

The forces affiliated with the temporary National Unity Government in western Libya announced last Saturday in a statement that they rescued 110 irregular migrants of various African nationalities who were on board two rubber boats off the coast of the city of Al-Khums, northeast of the country, on their way to Europe.

In recent years, Libya has become a starting point for irregular migration journeys across the Mediterranean in search of a better life in Europe.



INCREASE IN MIGRATION TO CROATIA BY 140%

The head of the border police in Croatia, Zoran Nizino, announced last Thursday that Croatia has recorded a 140% increase in illegal migration compared to the previous year.

According to the French Press Agency, Nizino stated that more than 54,500 people crossed the Croatian borders, adding, "They have all applied for asylum, which proves that smugglers and migrants are familiar with the European system and know that they can move freely."



FRANCE: RESCUE OF 6 WOMEN FROM SUFFOCATION

Six women (four Vietnamese and two Iraqis) were rescued from suffocation inside the refrigerated cargo box of a truck in France after their failed attempt at illegal migration from Lithuania to England via France.

A journalist with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) received a distress call on his phone, where he was informed that they were trapped inside the refrigerated cargo box of a truck, struggling to breathe.

The journalist contacted the French police, who stopped the truck and arrested the driver, launching an investigation. The six women were attempting to escape to England by hiding inside a fruit-carrying refrigerated truck and remained inside for 10 hours. The temperature dropped in the truck, and they were surprised when the air conditioning was turned off, leading to a decrease in oxygen.



ARRIVAL OF 35 ARABS IN LAMPEDUSA



Last Saturday, a boat carrying 35 undocumented migrants arrived on the shores of the Italian island of Lampedusa, coming from Libya.

Italian authorities stated in a press release that the majority of the undocumented migrants who arrived in Lampedusa were of Syrian nationality, and they informed the rescuers that they had departed from the city of Zuwara. They were aboard a fiberglass boat that was approximately 7 meters long.

Slovenia: Number of Migrants Triples

The number of migrants to Slovenia has tripled in the first 8 months of this year compared to the same period in 2022, according to the French Press Agency reported last Thursday.

Slovenia's Interior Minister, Boštjan Poklukar, noted that it is currently not feasible to reintroduce border controls, but the number of patrols has increased "in the most critical areas."

