

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

THE NEWSCAST

THE HIGH COMMITTEE FOR MIGRATION IS CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIALIZED CENTERS FOR TRAINING THOSE INTERESTED IN MIGRATION

"The High Committee for Migration, in accordance with the Immigration and Care of Egyptians Abroad Law, specializes in studying the establishment of specialized centers for training those interested in migration, particularly in the fields of agriculture and industry.

It is worth noting that the formation of the committee and the organization of its work are carried out by a decision of the Prime Minister, based on the recommendation of the minister responsible for migration affairs. One of the primary responsibilities of the High Committee for Migration is to study the organization of specialized courses for the qualification of those interested in migration. The Minister responsible for migration issues issues a decision to regulate and determine their programs.

The law grants these centers the right to provide cultural, informational, and national materials to meet the needs of Egyptians residing abroad, preserving their connection to their homeland."



GREECE ADOPTS A PLAN TO PUNISH COUNTRIES REFUSING TO TAKE BACK MIGRANTS

Greece has called on European Union member states to adopt a proposed plan to penalize countries that refuse to accept migrants being deported by EU member countries.

Greek Minister of Asylum and Migration, Dimitris Keridis, stated in an interview with the Greek newspaper "Kathimerini" that existing bilateral agreements for migrant returns between EU member states and non-member states have proven to be ineffective.

These countries have been urged to take back their citizens, or else there will be no sanctions or financial aid. Keridis further added, "Europe has the authority to enforce its will on this issue," confirming that the proposal for sanctions is in the final stages of negotiation.



THE CONVENING OF A EUROPEAN SUMMIT TO DISCUSS IMMIGRATION SYSTEM REFORM



European Union leaders discussed the main text for reforming immigration policy in Europe during their summit in Spain last Friday. This text, which was reached during their meeting in Brussels the previous Wednesday, notably extends the possibility of detaining immigrants at the external borders of the bloc for up to 40 weeks. It also allows for faster processing of asylum applications for a greater number of arrivals (from countries with an acceptance rate of less than 75 percent) to facilitate their easier deportation.

The United States resumes deportations of undocumented immigrants to Venezuela

The United States has resumed direct deportation operations for undocumented immigrants to Venezuela, as announced by the U.S. Department of State in a statement. The authorities in Caracas have also agreed to receive their citizens who will be repatriated, according to the same source. Several years ago, the United States had suspended direct deportation flights to Venezuela, which is currently facing a severe political, security, and economic crisis





DIFFERENCES OVER IMMIGRATION SOUR THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT IN GRANADA

A diplomatic scandal unfolded among European leaders during the unofficial summit in the Spanish city of Granada due to disagreements over how to handle the influx of migrants, according to Bloomberg. The agency reported that French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni agreed to an unplanned meeting with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to discuss immigration, which caused displeasure for Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. He believed it diverted attention from ongoing discussions. Sánchez canceled a planned press conference with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The summit took place on October 5 and 6 to discuss several issues, including immigration, but failed to formulate a common position on the matter



THE LEBANESE NAVY RESCUES 125 MIGRANTS OFF THE COAST OF TRIPOLI

Lebanese Navy rescues 124 Syrians and Lebanese on an illegal migration boat off the coast of the port city of Tripoli, in the vicinity of the Palm Islands.

The boat had departed from the Abdeh beach, and its engine malfunctioned on Friday afternoon. The passengers requested assistance from the army's naval forces, who immediately intervened and rescued them. They were transported to the port of Tripoli, where they received immediate medical assistance.

It's worth noting that Lebanon has witnessed increasing attempts at illegal migration by sea to Europe over the past three years, amid the financial crisis facing the country



How did Spain succeed in reducing the numbers of undocumented immigrants to it?

Spain has succeeded in reducing the number of undocumented immigrants to its territory by 3.3% this year, despite the fact that the Canary Islands, which are part of Spain, continue to receive around a hundred people daily.

The Spanish success can be attributed to a sharp decrease in the number of people crossing to the Iberian Peninsula from Morocco following the tragedy that occurred in Melilla in June 2022. In that incident, 23 migrants were killed when thousands attempted to breach the fence and enter Spanish territory.

After the incident, Madrid reevaluated this issue with Rabat, and it appeared that the Moroccan authorities subsequently strengthened the fortifications of the fence separating their territory from the Spanish enclaves.





The head of the migration department at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Verina Kanawos, affirmed that two children drown every day during the summer due to illegal migration, and she explained that the number of children losing their lives increases daily. Kanawos emphasized the necessity of involving Mediterranean countries and providing support to them to address illegal migration.

The International Organization for Migration estimates that the total number of migrants arriving by sea in the Mediterranean to Mediterranean Europe has exceeded 82,000 this year. Furthermore, more than 20,000 deaths have been recorded since 2014 along the perilous sea route between North Africa and the southern coasts of Europe





UNICEF OFFICIAL: COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT ILLEGAL MIGRATION

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni reaffirmed their joint commitment in an op-ed published on Friday, stating that both countries aim to lead Europe in combating "illegal migration."

This joint article serves as another indication of the unified stance between the two governments, which follow a strict approach regarding immigration. This approach has faced criticism from charities and human rights advocates.

Sunak and Meloni stated, "We collaborate to stop the boats and urge others to act with the same sense of urgency for this pressing matter."

This comes a day after they hosted a migration-focused meeting with other European leaders in Granada, Spain.



BRITAIN AND ITALY PLEDGE TO DISMANTLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING GANGS

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and her British counterpart Rishi Sunak have agreed to join forces in combating illegal immigration to their respective countries and pledged to dismantle human trafficking networks that facilitate migrants' arrival.

The two leaders stated, "We are working together to stop the migrant boats and urge others to act with the same sense of urgency" in an article published in The Times (British newspaper) and the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera. They emphasized that the issue of migration represents a "moral crisis" in Europe and that those engaged in human smuggling to the continent are responsible for committing a "humanitarian crime."

They added, "It should be left to European nations to determine who comes to Europe, not the smugglers and traffickers.



SUNAK CALLS ON EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO TAKE MEASURES TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS



Rishi Sunak called for more coordinated European actions to address the increasing numbers of undocumented immigrants arriving at the continent's borders. He made this statement during a summit of European leaders in Spain, stating that the situation is "unethical and unsustainable."

He urged the adoption of "innovative solutions at the European level" to address the migration crisis on the continent. For him, this means tackling human traffickers and tightening border security.

The British Prime Minister called on European leaders to act "with the same sense of urgency" in dealing with illegal immigration, as expressed in a joint article with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in The Times.

Theresa May: The new British law allowing the deportation of undocumented immigrants benefits human traffickers

Former British Prime Minister Theresa May has warned that current efforts by the government to combat illegal immigration may deter those who have been trafficked from seeking help. In a recent interview with the BBC, she stated, "If we want to catch the slave drivers, we need the victims and survivors to come forward."

May continued, "We have welcomed many people over the years who have come and become part of our community, contributing to what the United Kingdom is today."

She emphasized the importance of diversity, both in policies and in the UK's political leadership, highlighting that the UK has its first Prime Minister of Asian origin.





SPAIN: THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT FAILS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION

European leaders confirmed that European Union leaders made positive steps towards reforming the immigration system at the European summit held in Spain on Friday. However, the summit concluded without adopting a final declaration on illegal immigration due to opposition from Poland and Hungary.

Charles Michel, the President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, agreed during a joint press conference on the need to continue working within the Union, combat human trafficking networks, and deepen cooperation with countries of origin and transit, particularly Tunisia.

This came after the conclusion of the informal meeting of the European Council, attended by the heads of state and government of the 27 EU member countries in the Andalusian city of Granada.



BIDEN INTENDS TO EXPAND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BORDER WALL WITH MEXICO USING FUNDS FROM THE TRUMP ERA.

President Joe Biden made a decision contrary to his election promises during his 2020 presidential campaign, and it faced opposition from Democrats. The Biden administration announced that it would add sections to the border wall with Mexico to prevent the entry of migrants whose numbers have reached record levels, continuing the policy of former President Donald Trump.

The Biden administration defended the decision, stating that they took this step because the funds allocated during Trump's presidency in 2019 must now be spent.

Former President Trump quickly declared victory and demanded an apology, writing on social media, "Will Joe Biden apologize to me and to America for taking all this time to act?"



SPAIN: ARRIVAL OF 280 MIGRANTS ON A BOAT TO THE CANARY ISLANDS.



Rescue teams confirmed that 280 migrants, all alive, arrived on Tuesday on a single boat to an island in the Spanish Canary Islands archipelago, including 78 men and ten minors. The migration route to the Canary Islands, Europe's gateway in the Atlantic Ocean, has witnessed a significant increase from attempted crossings in the northwestern African coast beginning of the summer.

On Tuesday, 280 migrants, all alive, arrived on a single boat to an island in the Spanish Canary Islands archipelago through one of the world's most dangerous migration routes, according to the maritime rescue teams as reported by the French news agency.

Migrants celebrate on board a boat operated by Doctors Without Borders after being rescued at sea.

Migrants rescued off the coast of Libya celebrated on board the rescue ship Geo Barents operated by Médecins Sans Frontières. A few hours earlier, their faces showed fear when they spotted the rescue ship, unsure whether they would be returned or reach their European destination.

As they boarded the ship, they were informed that they had been rescued and the ship would now sail towards the port of Civitavecchia in Italy.

Italy has received 133,170 migrants by boat this year, compared to 70,796 in the same period in 2022, despite Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's pledge to stop the influx of newcomers from North Africa.

