

# THE NEWSCAST

## DEPORTATION OF 600 EGYPTIANS FROM LIBYA FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY.

The Libyan Ministry of Interior's Illegal Immigration Combat Unit announced the deportation of 600 Egyptians who entered the country illegally, transporting them to the Amssad border crossing with Egypt. Libyan authorities shared a video in which hundreds of young people wearing gray or white shirts and black pants responded to the officer's instructions before receiving their transit permits. The Libyan Ministry of Interior stated that they have arranged for ten buses to return the Egyptian youth to the Saloum



border crossing between Libya and Egypt. The International Organization for Migration affirmed that many Egyptians attempt to reach Europe through Libyan territory, endangering their lives. Still, thousands of others have been living in Libya for years, engaged in agriculture, construction, and trade, especially around the capital. The organization also confirmed the presence of over 700,000 migrants on Libyan soil.

## "1000 UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS ARRIVE IN LAMPEDUSA, ITALY IN 10 DAYS" ITALIAN AUTHORITIES NOTE A CHANGE IN THE "MIGRATION FLOW" WITH SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS AMONG THE HIGHEST NATIONALITIES ARRIVING.

"1018 undocumented migrants managed to reach Italy in the past 10 days, aboard 3 large fishing boats. Most of the migrants who arrived on the Italian island of Lampedusa came from Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and Bangladesh, traveling on overcrowded fishing boats that departed from the western coast of Libya in what are considered 'unusual' journeys.

Italian newspapers report that the coastal trips from western Libya used to involve small boats carrying dozens of people, but there is currently a new trend, driven by human traffickers, using dilapidated boats packed with hundreds of migrants. For instance, last Wednesday, a large boat carrying 426 migrants arrived. It is noteworthy that a fishing boat, measuring 25 meters in length, set sail from the town of Abu Kamashah in western Libya, close to the Tunisian border, carrying 426 undocumented migrants. After spending two days in the Mediterranean Sea, Italian coastguards found it a few kilometers from the Italian shore and towed it to the port of Lampedusa. Among the survivors were 15 women and 11 children.

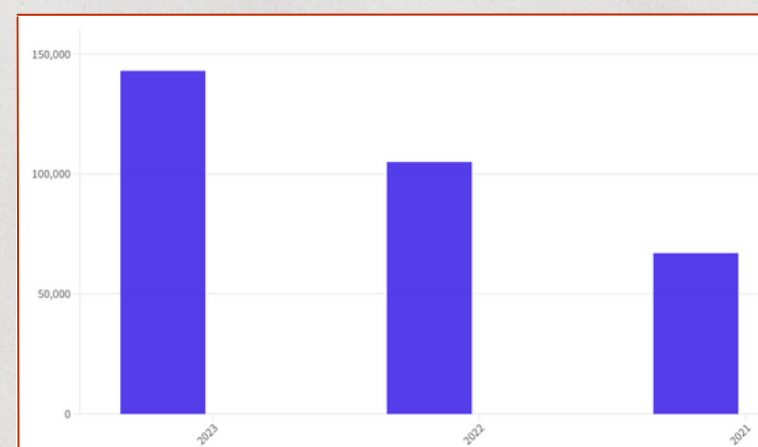
Italian authorities believe there is a new shift in irregular migration flows across the Mediterranean Sea. Smugglers have replaced the small boats used in previous years in western Libya with larger fishing boats capable of carrying more people. These new boats are different from the large fishing boats that have traditionally departed from the eastern coast of Libya, especially from the city of Tobruk.

Over the past ten days, 1018 migrants arrived on the island of Lampedusa, which is located just a few kilometers off the North African coast. Among them, 590 migrants arrived aboard two fishing boats that set sail from the Libyan city of Zuwara. The Italian Ministry of the Interior has noted an increase in the numbers of Syrians, Egyptians, and Yemenis compared to migrants from Tunisia and sub-Saharan Africa in previous years.

Italian authorities also report that migrants are paying substantial sums, up to 5,000 euros per person, to make the journey. Italy has witnessed a surge in the number of migrants arriving, with 143,000 undocumented migrants arriving in the country during the current year. In September of the previous year, Italy received 10,000 Tunisian migrants in a single week, causing political tensions and disagreements within the European Union. In response, the Italian government imposed a new decree to charge migrants around 5,000 euros to avoid detention while their asylum applications are processed, tightening the conditions for receiving migrants."



**THE NUMBERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS WHO ARRIVED IN ITALY DURING THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF THE YEARS 2023, 2022, AND 2021."**



## MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL: TWO NEW MIGRATION ROUTES TO EUROPE

With international agreements between Morocco and Spain in place, irregular migrants from Africa have sought alternative routes. A migration route through Mauritania and Senegal has emerged as they attempt to reach the Canary Islands and subsequently Spain. This route has gained significant popularity during the past week.

Moroccan migration and human rights organizations have observed the flow of thousands of migrants taking the routes through Mauritania and Senegal, ultimately reaching the Canary Islands. This development has led to comparisons with the situation on Lampedusa, an Italian island that serves as the first point of arrival for irregular migrants.

Recently, the Spanish Minister of the Interior visited the Canary Islands, Nouakchott, and Dakar to coordinate efforts to combat illegal migration.

Meanwhile, in Nouadhibou, a municipality in northern Mauritania, it was reported that 13 irregular migrants lost their lives after the boat carrying them, with 250 migrants on board, sank in the territorial waters of Nouadhibou. These migrants hail from various African countries, including Senegal, Guinea, and The Gambia.





**"GREECE IS GRAPPLING WITH A 'LABOR SHORTAGE' BY REGULARIZING THE STATUS OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT, WHILE REFUGEES ARE LEAVING DUE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS."**

"The Greek government has announced a program to regularize the employment status of undocumented migrants in response to a labor shortage, particularly in the construction sector. This initiative is expected to have a positive impact on approximately 300,000 undocumented migrants or individuals whose residence permits have expired. Despite the Greek government's efforts, economic difficulties in Greece often lead migrants to move to other Western European countries once they obtain international protection.

Civil society organizations have documented the exploitation of migrants in sectors such as strawberry farming, where migrants are heavily relied upon during the harvest season. Humanitarian organizations have categorized this kind of work as 'black market labor,' with migrants vulnerable to exploitation.

Greece is currently facing an economic crisis that has affected the living conditions of migrants. Greece lacks support programs, housing, and social assistance for migrants. Additionally, there is a housing crisis, as asylum seekers are not entitled to housing upon their asylum approval, leading to the suffering of refugees due to a lack of shelter. This situation has prompted many refugees to leave Germany as soon as their asylum requests are accepted, especially Afghan migrants, while Africans tend to prefer France. The Greek economic crisis has resulted in a struggle for local residents to find work, making it challenging for refugees to secure employment. Bureaucratic procedures often prevent asylum seekers from obtaining social security through work, and suitable jobs with contracts that offer insurance, taxes, and retirement benefits are scarce."



**THE UNITED STATES IS REPATRIATING MAURITANIANS BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND.**

**IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, APPROXIMATELY 8,000 MAURITANIANS HAVE ENTERED THE UNITED STATES, AND IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE COST OF AN ILLEGAL MIGRATION JOURNEY CAN REACH UP TO \$10,000.**

The United States has announced the repatriation of a significant number of Mauritians who do not possess legal residence permits in the United States. The U.S. Embassy in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, reported that a flight carrying individuals from the United States to Mauritania arrived on Friday. This effort is part of the cooperation between the United States and the Mauritanian government to enforce immigration laws and deter illegal migration attempts that pose a threat to the safety and well-being of Mauritians.

The embassy emphasized that this deportation plan aligns with international norms and principles. It comes after suicide bombings involving Afghan refugees in Mauritania. Notably, Pakistan has hosted approximately four million Afghan refugees, including 1.7 million irregular migrants, despite not being a signatory to the Geneva Convention governing the reception of Afghan refugees.

Mauritania is currently grappling with economic inflation and financial constraints amid a strict International Monetary Fund (IMF) program. The Mauritanian government maintains that irregular migrants have depleted its resources over the years. In the meantime, reports indicate a significant influx of Afghan migrants to the Pakistan border. Concerns arise as some of these individuals may face repatriation due to the challenges of returning to Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

The situation in Pakistan has led to the closure of several schools for Afghan children in Islamabad. The police in Pakistan have taken action by demolishing homes that were illegally constructed and where irregular migrants lived under harsh conditions.

Approximately 20,000 Mauritians entered the United States through the border wall with Mexico since 2021. Many Mauritians choose to follow a migration route from Mauritania to South America and subsequently reach the United States, crossing through nine countries along the way.

The United States has enacted border control laws to deport most migrants who crossed the border from Mexico without first seeking asylum in other countries. Many of these migrants do not qualify for asylum if they passed through other countries without seeking protection there or if they failed to enter the United States legally.

Meanwhile, Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani has launched an extensive program to enhance youth employment opportunities through supporting agriculture, developing tools for youth entrepreneurship, and engaging youth in the country's economic and social development.

In a study conducted by the Honduran Institute for Migration, the number of irregular Mauritanian migrants increased annually from a single migrant in 2016 to 3,703 migrants in the first half of 2023. An American study also reported the existence of 500,000 unemployed youth in Mauritania. It's estimated that between March and July 2023, more than 8,500 Mauritians were registered as they sought to reach the United States. The cost of such journeys ranged between \$8,000 and \$10,000.



**THE PAKISTANI POLICE HAVE DEMOLISHED THE HOMES OF UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN MIGRANTS AND CLOSED DOWN SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.**

**THE GOVERNMENT ASSERTS THAT IT IS TAKING THESE MEASURES DUE TO THE STRAIN ON ITS RESOURCES.**



The Pakistani authorities have issued a warning to undocumented migrants on their soil, threatening them with detention and deportation and urging them to leave the country promptly. This decision is not exclusive to Afghan migrants but applies to all nationalities. Pakistan hosts 4 million Afghan refugees who have been living in the country for 40 years, with 1.7 million of them considered "illegal" migrants. Despite not being a signatory to the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees, Pakistan has hosted a large Afghan refugee population.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry emphasized that the deportation plan is in line with international norms and principles, and it comes after suicide bombings involving Afghan refugees. It's worth noting that Pakistan is currently facing economic inflation and financial constraints under a strict IMF rescue program. The government has stated that illegal migrants have drained its resources for decades. According to reports, 20,000 Afghan migrants have arrived at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border until last Tuesday, with 100,000 Afghans leaving in the month of October. Pakistan has decided to deport 1.7 million Afghans, either willingly or after detention, as many fear returning to Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

Furthermore, several schools designated for Afghan children in Islamabad have been closed due to concerns of Pakistani police detaining undocumented migrants, who have been living in unregulated and harsh conditions in hundreds of unlawfully built houses.

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**The Austrian Parliament is addressing illegal migration with an enhanced educational integration system.**

The Austrian Parliament is taking stricter measures against illegal migration, citing the need to combat religious extremism that is appearing in Europe and Austria in the wake of the current Middle East conflict, and the increasing extremism among migrants, especially newcomers.

The Parliament aims to launch a strong plan to enhance education to address the cultural changes and shifts in the population composition in Austria. Studies indicate that enhanced integration education shows that youth with a good education are less likely to be influenced by hatred and rejection of others.

Austria is considered one of the European countries that bear the greatest burden of migrants. This has led government officials to press the European Union for solutions to expedite the return of migrants to their countries or to third-party countries for those coming to Europe illegally.





## **THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IS ADDRESSING IRREGULAR MIGRATION WITH 'RESCUE BOATS'. MINISTER OF EMIGRATION: WE COMBAT THIS PHENOMENON THROUGH AWARENESS AND PROVIDING SAFE ALTERNATIVES.**

Minister of Emigration, Sahar Jundi, stated that the "Rescue Boats" initiative works on raising awareness about the dangers of irregular migration and providing safe options for Egyptian youth. The initiative includes important elements such as awareness, training, and qualification, as well as offering employment opportunities both domestically and abroad. The program operates in 72 villages across 14 provinces, which are among the regions with higher rates of irregular migration.

She emphasized that irregular migration is an unsafe and illegal solution for Egyptian youth seeking to move abroad. To address this issue, it is essential to provide education and guidance while offering safe alternatives to young Egyptians and helping them find suitable employment opportunities either at home or abroad.

It's worth noting that the "Rescue Boats" initiative is a presidential program aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of irregular migration. It was launched by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi at the conclusion of the World Youth Forum in 2019. The President instructed the Ministry of Emigration, in collaboration with various ministries, to implement this initiative.



### **TURKEY: OVER A THOUSAND IRREGULAR MIGRANTS APPREHENDED IN ONE WEEK**

In just one week, Turkish authorities in the Edirne province, located in the northwest of the country, apprehended around 1,061 irregular migrants who had entered the country illegally. They were transported to a deportation center to complete their legal procedures.

Turkey serves as a major transit route for migrants and refugees from Central Asia and countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Many of them head towards Greece, which is considered the main gateway for migrants to enter Europe and the European Union.

Irregular migration has caused significant tension between the Turkish and Greek governments. The Greek authorities have adopted an anti-migration policy, preventing asylum seekers from reaching their territory. They also work to construct a border fence at their land borders with Turkey and strictly patrol their maritime borders to deter illegal migration boats.



### **RIDA AND ABDULKADER" AND 4 YEARS OF SMUGGLING TRIAL IN GREECE**



The ordeal of Abdulkader, the young Syrian, came to an end after 4 years of legal pursuit in Greece, as he was acquitted along with his friend Rida.

The story began in 2019 when Abdulkader, his wife, and siblings decided to escape the perils of the Syrian war. They headed to Turkey, and from there, they boarded an illegal boat to the Greek island of Samos.

The young Syrian, who left with his family in search of a safe haven and a stable life, was subjected to kicks and beatings by the smuggler. The smuggler forced him to "pilot the boat" upon reaching the Greek maritime borders, despite his ignorance of navigation. This was done so that the smuggler could escape Greek law, which considers anyone piloting a boat of migrants as a smuggler. This crime carries a 10-year prison sentence for each passenger on board and a fine of no less than 20,000 euros.

Because Abdulkader and Rida were refugees, the Greek authorities left them free during the 4-year trial period. The trial eventually ended with a final judicial verdict of acquittal on all charges against them.

### **Doctors Without Borders reveals "violent attacks" by Greece against irregular migrants**

The organization "Doctors Without Borders" has revealed the "systematic" forced returns by Greek authorities against immigrants arriving from Turkey, in practices that are not without violence, continuing for the past two years. The organization has provided support to around 8,000 people in Greece and has arrived at "concerning" results indicating that authorities are systematically forcibly returning migrants to Turkey without respecting their rights. The organization confirmed that most of those they encountered had experienced "multiple pushbacks" accompanied by "violence," whether at sea or on land. They stated that "Doctors Without Borders teams have witnessed how forced return operations have become commonplace" due to the "blatant absence of protection for individuals seeking safety in Greece." The organization detailed that among the acts of violence that regularly recur are restraining wrists or ankles with plastic ties, beating with sticks or rods, verbal abuse, and intrusive body searches in front of strangers.





**"30,000 undocumented migrants have arrived in Spain, and authorities are designating additional emergency accommodation facilities."**

"The Spanish Coast Guard rescued 500 migrants, including women and children, aboard 4 boats off the coast of the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. During the migrant rescue operation, two bodies were discovered, and 2 others lost their lives and were taken to the hospital.

The Spanish Ministry of the Interior announced the number of undocumented migrants who have arrived in the first 10 months of 2023, totaling 30,705, which is close to the number of undocumented migrants who arrived in Spain in 2006, which was 31,678.

The Spanish government has designated emergency accommodation facilities to house an additional 3,000 migrants in hotels, hostels, and military barracks.

Despite Italy's announcement that the Canary Islands receive 100 migrants daily, Spain has been successful in reducing the number of migrants arriving. International organizations attribute Spain's success to its cooperation with Morocco in border control. However, changes in migration routes and migrants' choice to set sail from Tunisia have made the issue of irregular migration more complex, dangerous, and costly.

It's worth noting that 2020 saw a significant increase in the number of undocumented migrants arriving in Spain."



**GERMAN STATES ARE DISCUSSING FUNDING FOR THE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.**

The German government held a conference involving representatives from the 16 states that make up the Federal Republic of Germany. Representatives of the German states are currently discussing the funding of refugee costs and ways to reduce the number of asylum seekers. The federal government has been accused by state representatives of wanting to reduce its share of the refugee reception costs from 3.75 billion euros this year to 1.25 billion euros next year, a proposition the states are unwilling to accept.

After the conference, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced a campaign against illegal immigration, along with a set of new measures designed to expedite deportations and make Germany a less attractive destination for human traffickers. This comes as state governors have complained that local services are struggling to accommodate the significant increase in new arrivals.

The federal government has issued a decision requesting state representatives to contribute a fixed support amount of 1.25 billion euros, with an average of 10,500 euros for each migrant. The Federal Statistical Office of Germany reported that 230,000 people applied for asylum in Germany during the first nine months of this year.



**FRANCE AND ALGERIA DISCUSS "EXTRADITING WANTED MIGRANTS AND DEPORTING ILLEGAL ONES"**



French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin met with his Algerian counterpart Ibrahim Murad to discuss several important issues related to the migration matter. The two sides discussed cooperation in the field of civil security, combating organized crime, and judicial police, all of which were part of the discussions held by the French Interior Minister in Algeria.

While Algeria is demanding the extradition of some individuals wanted by Algerian justice residing in France, Paris is seeking to expedite the deportation of a number of Algerians residing illegally.

**The Moroccan Ministry of Interior has thwarted 60,000 migration attempts in 10 months.**

The Moroccan Ministry of Interior has announced the thwarting of 60,192 illegal migration attempts since the beginning of 2023, along with the dismantling of 250 criminal networks operating in the field of illegal migration. The government of Morocco is working to encourage voluntary return for migrants in an illegal situation in cooperation with diplomatic authorities from their respective home countries accredited in Morocco. Additionally, the statement mentioned the deportation of 3,317 migrants to their home countries since the beginning of the year. The Royal Navy has also rescued 10,405 individuals from drowning, including 6,495 of foreign nationalities, who attempted migration by sea using boats in search of a better life amidst wars, security instability, and deteriorating economic conditions in several African countries. The statement further noted the regularization of the status of registered refugees in Morocco with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, totaling 2,300 refugees.

