

# THE NEWSCAST

## GREECE AND TURKEY IN TALKS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Greece and Turkey are seeking common ground for cooperation in combatting illegal migration, amidst growing and ongoing rapprochement between the two countries and an increase in the unauthorized migration flow to Europe.

Greek Minister of Migration, Dimitris Keridis, stated during his visit to Ankara for discussions with Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya, "We are exploring a collaborative approach with Turkey to combat illegal migration for the benefit of all parties."

The Greek minister further added that "illegal migration represents a critical issue," not only for Greece but also for Turkey, as well as for the entire Europe and the Balkans region, with Turkey being a key country to address and deal with this pressing issue," according to a press release from the Greek Ministry of Migration.



## SPANISH GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES 11,000 TEMPORARY SHELTERS FOR ARRIVALS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

The Spanish government has confirmed its commitment to provide approximately 11,000 additional accommodations for migrants arriving on the Canary Islands, in response to the increasing number of arrivals. These accommodations will be distributed as follows: four thousand spaces in four former military barracks in Madrid, Alcalá de Henares, Seville, and Cartagena, in addition to 4,000 beds in various hotels, and 3,000 more beds in reception centers and other facilities in several cities, according to the Spanish newspaper "El País."

It's worth noting that the duration of their stay in these shelters will be limited to one month, after which a state-funded non-governmental organization will take over their reception and care.

The Acting Spanish Minister for Migration announced a 50 million euro support for the Canary Islands to address the "influx of migrants."



## FORMER PRISON BOUGHT FOR OVER €17.5 MILLION TO HOUSE MIGRANTS IN THE UK



British Interior Ministry has been accused by organizations of squandering millions on purchasing new locations for detaining migrants.

The government bought the former "Northeys" prison in East Sussex at double its value to convert it into a detention center for migrants.

The British government spent £15.3 million (over €17.5 million) to purchase the "Northeys" site in Peasmarsh East Sussex.

The BBC reported that the site was formerly a prison and later a technical training area for the United Arab Emirates.

A real estate company made a profit of £9 million (€10.33 million) by selling it to British authorities.

A Member of Parliament stated that the government aims to transform the "Northeys" site into a detention center for approximately 1,200 migrants.

## The European Union and India Discuss Collaboration to Combat Illegal Migration

The European Union and India explored ways to enhance cooperation in the areas of "safe and organized migration" alongside combatting human trafficking and the smuggling of illegal migrants. This discussion took place on the past Friday as part of the seventh round of dialogue between India and the European Union on migration and mobility.

The dialogue was held in New Delhi and was co-chaired by Anurag Bhushan, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, and Johannes Luchner, the Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission.

Both sides referred to the agreement they signed in 2016 and expressed mutual interest in facilitating labor mobility within existing legislative frameworks while respecting national jurisdictions.



## **NINE MIGRANTS FOUND DEAD OFF THE ITALIAN COAST**

Nine bodies were discovered in the Mediterranean Sea, belonging to North African migrants who had attempted to reach the shores of Italy, as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) last Saturday.

According to the UNHCR spokesperson in Italy, Chiara Cardoletti, in a post on the "Ex" platform, she mentioned, "More deaths in the Mediterranean Sea: five due to the sinking of a fishing boat from Tunisia off the coast of Trapani (Sicily) and four bodies were found (by a non-governmental organization) on a boat coming from Libya."

According to Italian media, the five bodies were found on a beach in Marinella di Selinunte, southwestern Sicily, and 20 individuals who were on the same boat were apprehended upon their arrival.



## **TWO KILLED IN BUS CRASH CARRYING ILLEGAL MIGRANTS IN BULGARIA**

Bulgarian police announced that they pursued a bus transporting illegal migrants on the fast route to Turkey, which led to the bus overturning and the death of two people.

According to the police statement, a police car signaled for the bus to stop, but the driver did not comply with the police orders and attempted to flee. However, he lost control of the bus, causing it to overturn.

The police stated that there were 14 people on board the bus, with 12 of them being foreign nationals without documents. One of the migrants and the driver's companion died instantly.

The driver and the other victims were transported to hospitals in Svilengrad and Yambol for medical assistance, while preliminary investigations into the case have begun.



## **ONE KILLED AND EIGHT INJURED AS MIGRANT CAR COLLIDES WITH TRUCK IN HUNGARY**



Hungarian authorities reported that one person was killed, and eight, including four children, were injured near the Serbian border last Friday when a car carrying migrants collided with a truck.

Renáta Babus, the Mayor of Ásotthalom, where the accident occurred, stated on Facebook that the car's driver, who was a smuggler, was pulled out by another smuggler and fled in a different vehicle.

A spokesperson for the ambulance service mentioned that three children are in life-threatening condition.

Police data shows a surge in illegal migration incidents on the southern border of Hungary with Serbia in recent months, as migrants travel through the Balkans route, aiming to reach Slovakia or Austria with the assistance of smugglers.

## **Drowning of 5 Migrants off the Coast of Sicily**

The bodies of five drowning victims were found as a result of an overturned old, unfit-for-navigation fishing boat carrying migrants off the coast of the town of Marinella di Selinunte in Sicily last Saturday.

The search for the missing individuals is still ongoing, with the participation of the coast guard and the police in an attempt to find survivors, according to reports from Italian media.

The cause of the boat's capsizing is yet to be determined. The boat reportedly departed from Tunisia to Italy midweek. It is not yet clear how many people were on board and whether anyone reached the shore unharmed.



**MOROCCAN NAVY RESCUES 274 INDIVIDUALS ATTEMPTING ILLEGAL MIGRATION**

A Moroccan military source announced that elements from the Moroccan naval forces responsible for monitoring the coast intercepted a boat, last Thursday, about 290 kilometers south of the city of Dakhla, Morocco, carrying 274 individuals attempting illegal migration.

Among these individuals were 200 people from Senegal, 66 from Gambia, 3 from Guinea-Conakry, 2 from Mali, and 1 from Sierra Leone, in addition to two bodies. They had set sail from the Senegalese coast six days ago, heading towards the Canary Islands. The military source noted that those rescued received initial medical assistance before being handed over to the competent Moroccan authorities to undergo the necessary administrative procedures.



**EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER: CREATING JOBS REDUCES ILLEGAL MIGRATION WAVES**

Dr. Mustafa Madbouly, the Prime Minister of Egypt, met with Odile Renaud-Basso, the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, last Thursday, on the sidelines of his participation in the second day of the "Global Gateway" forum organized by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

The Prime Minister praised the existing cooperation between Egypt and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, especially in infrastructure projects and other developmental initiatives, confirming that the significant developmental projects initiated by the state have contributed to providing millions of job opportunities for the new generations.

He added, "Creating job opportunities directly impacts the reduction of illegal migration waves to Europe."



**HYBRID MIGRATION ON THE RISE IN EASTERN LIBYA**



An international report has confirmed the efforts of law enforcement authorities, both in eastern and western Libya, to politically and financially exploit control over human trafficking tools. This comes as these operations have become significantly more complex in 2022, in line with the general political maturity of armed groups in the country.

This has led to the emergence of complex, cross-border networks capable of transporting large numbers of migrants from East and West Africa to the Libyan coast and from there to Europe. This era ended in late 2017, giving way to a post-crisis era characterized by the suppression of smuggling networks and a significant reduction in departure rates, which continued from 2018 until the end of 2020, as reported by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime in its latest report.

**Moroccan Interior Minister Discusses Migration Issues with German Counterpart**

Moroccan Interior Minister Abdelouafi Laftit held a meeting in Rabat with the German Federal Minister of the Interior, Nancy Faeser. The meeting was dedicated to discussing bilateral issues of mutual interest and exploring ways to enhance security cooperation between the two countries.

According to a statement from the Ministry of the Interior, this meeting, attended by senior officials from the ministries of the interior in both countries, provided an opportunity for the two ministers to exchange views on topics related to counterterrorism, extremism, and illegal migration. This discussion took place in the context of the changing landscape of various threats, with both countries emphasizing the need for proactive prevention to reduce these crimes.



## **GERMAN-NIGERIAN TALKS ON MIGRATION**

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, during his visit to Nigeria, once again called for a stronger partnership in managing migration.

Scholz emphasized, during his address at an economic forum in the coastal city of Lagos, that in addition to facilitating the return of Nigerians who do not have the right to stay in Germany, there should also be an encouragement of skilled labor migration.

He stated that there are plans to expand migration centers that have been established in Nigeria to support individuals returning from Germany to achieve this goal.

He added, "This requires some preparations and investments from both sides," noting that he discussed this matter with Nigerian President Bola Tinubu the day before.

In response, Tinubu announced that he is open to receiving refugees, stating, "If they are Nigerians, we welcome them to their homeland."



## **THE QATARI COLLEGE OF PUBLIC POLICY AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION HOLD A LECTURE ON COMPARATIVE MIGRATION POLICIES**

The Qatari College of Public Policy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, organized a lecture focusing on the options and challenges related to collecting and organizing various migration policy data. The lecture also discussed opportunities for improving these policies in the future.

The lecture, titled "Comparative Migration Policies and Their Knowledge Sources," was held at the "Twin Minarets" building in the Education City. Dr. Lucie Pedroza, a professor at the Mexican College, and an associate fellow at the German Institute for Global and Regional Studies' Institute for Latin American Studies, presented her recent research projects. She discussed the importance of evidence-based policymaking in this field and addressed issues related to funding, comparative frameworks, and gaps in analytical studies of migration policies.



## **IRAQI MINISTER OF MIGRATION ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR 9,000 RETURNING FAMILIES**



The Iraqi Minister of Migration and Displaced Persons, Ivgan Fayek Jabro, announced that 9,000 returning families to their original areas have been included in the return grant. In a press statement, Jabro mentioned that "Batch 30 of the one and a half million dinars grant for families returning to their original areas, consisting of 9,000 families, has been released." She confirmed that "the amount will be disbursed starting today through the smart card."

She added that "the coming days will witness the launch of new batches of financial grants to include the remaining families registered in the ministry's database, once sufficient funds become available."

## **Cyprus prepares for a potential influx of migrants as the risks of the Gaza conflict widening increase**

In just one week, Cyprus has received 458 Syrians who arrived from Lebanon to the island, with the anticipation of more migrants arriving as the conflict between Israel and Hamas escalates, according to officials. Cypriot authorities reported that 194 Syrians arrived from Lebanon on Saturday night aboard four boats, and they have been transported to a reception center in Pournara, located outside the capital, Nicosia. Interior Minister Constantinos Yiannou warned that the capacity of the island, situated in the eastern Mediterranean, to handle large numbers of migrants is limited.



**AROUND 400 MIGRANTS DEMONSTRATED ON THE ISLAND OF RHODES, DEMANDING TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GREEK MAINLAND OR ANY SUITABLE PLACE OF RESIDENCE**

According to the Greek Coast Guard. The majority of these migrants and refugees who took part in the protest had been rescued after making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean on "death boats" and were then brought to Rhodes for medical treatment, with their fate left in limbo.

According to official figures, 10,790 migrants and refugees have arrived in Greece during the first eight months of the current year, which is twice the number recorded during the same period last year, which was 5,216.



**THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A DRAFT LAW TO EXPEDITE THE PACE OF DEPORTING MIGRANTS**

following a call from Chancellor Olaf Scholz to deport such individuals more extensively and swiftly. The draft law, introduced by Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, includes provisions to extend the maximum period of "exit detention," which is the period of detention for rejected asylum seekers before their deportation, from the current ten days to 28 days.

The proposed law also expands the authorities' powers and enforces stricter measures against human traffickers. It still requires approval from the parliament to become law.

**PAKISTAN IS PLANNING TO DEPORT ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**



The Ministry of Interior in the Pakistani caretaker government announced on October 26 that Pakistan is finalizing a plan to deport all illegal immigrants.

Government sources have reported that approximately 1.73 million Afghan nationals in Pakistan lack legal documentation, and the total number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is 4.4 million.

According to the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mehmood Zahra Baloch, the deportation process will be carried out in phases and will not involve mass expulsion. She mentioned that the process might begin with individuals who have criminal records or are involved in smuggling activities, and each case will be individually assessed.



**Three Migrants Killed in Shooting Near Serbia-Hungary Border**

Three migrants were killed, and a fourth was injured in a shooting that occurred on Friday near the border between Serbia and Hungary, according to Serbia's official television network, RTS. The incident took place on an abandoned farm near the town of Horgos, a border area frequently used by migrants attempting to enter Hungary, an EU member state. Serbia has deployed significant police reinforcements to the region, where clashes between human traffickers and migrants have led to casualties in recent months.

Serbia is located on the "Balkan route" those hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflicts and poverty in Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East traversed while attempting to reach European Union countries during the large migration wave in 2015 and 2016.

