

THE NEWSCAST

THE INAUGURATION OF THE EGYPTIAN-ITALIAN CENTER FOR QUALIFYING EGYPTIAN LABOR IN THE ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN MARKETS

Ambassador Saha Gendi met with the Minister of Migration, the Minister of Interior of Italy, Matteo Piantedosi, responsible for migration affairs in the Italian government, during her visit to Italy. The ministers discussed the establishment and strengthening of legitimate channels for migration to Italy, as well as enhancing positive cooperation to combat illegal migration. This includes the creation of the Egyptian-Italian Center for Training and Qualifying Egyptian labor to work in the Italian and European markets.

Matteo Piantedosi, the Italian Minister of Interior, welcomed Ambassador Saha Gendi, commending the Egyptian community in Italy for its integration into society, being the largest Egyptian community in Europe. Ambassador Saha Gendi praised the results of her discussions with the Italian Minister of Interior, Matteo Piantedosi, in Cairo, and the completion of her second round of talks in the Italian capital, Rome.

Minister of Migration mentioned that the "Egyptian-Italian Center" will focus on training and qualifying Egyptian youth to work in the Italian market. She highlighted Egypt's successful experience with the German government and its expertise in achieving positive outcomes. Minister emphasized the need to start quickly and accurately, selecting an appropriate time to form technical delegations from both sides to consult on the details and structure of the center.

Minister Piantedosi emphasized that the Egyptian community serves as a good model for communities in Italy, expressing a strong interest in promoting legal migration channels for qualified workers. The minister also pointed out the existing collaboration between Egypt and Italy in the Italian hotel school in Fayoum, where young people are educated and prepared for work in the hospitality industry.

The Minister sought support from the Italian Minister regarding mutual recognition of driving licenses between the two countries and issuing permits for the Egyptian school in Milan, "Naguib Mahfouz School," which he promised to assist with through the relevant authorities. Both ministers agreed to form a team from both sides to immediately implement the agreed-upon plans within a specified timeframe, emphasizing the strong history of joint work between Egypt and Italy, aiming for a stronger future for both nations.



THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES \$168 MILLION FOR MONITORING 141 RELEASED MIGRANTS.

The Australian government has allocated \$168 million USD (equivalent to 255 million Australian dollars) to fund the police and other law enforcement officials to monitor 141 migrants who were released following a court ruling deeming their indefinite detention unconstitutional.

This new funding reflects a two-year increase in the workload of law enforcement officials due to the government's concerns about the growing societal risks posed by those who have been released. The Australian court decided on November 8th of the previous year that the individuals cannot be detained for an "indefinite period," meaning that foreigners who have been denied Australian visas, cannot be deported to their home countries, and no third country will accept them.

Most of the released migrants under the court's decision had criminal records. The group also included individuals who failed visa character tests for other reasons, some of whom were appealing visa refusals through the courts, and some were refugees and stateless individuals.

Minister of Home Affairs Claire O'Neil stated that the government's priority is to protect the safety of the Australian community within the bounds of the law. The funding will play a role in allocating the necessary time and resources to manage this group in the future.

The Australian Parliament approved emergency laws imposing restrictions on recently released immigrants, including curfews, police notification requirements, and mandatory wearing of electronic ankle bracelets to track their movements at all times. Last week, lawyers for a Chinese refugee filed a challenge to the High Court against the new measures, arguing that their client was punished through curfews and being forced to wear an electronic bracelet.

Despite the court's decision to release the detained immigrants, the Australian High Court is currently examining the legal responses to the government's actions. The seven judges of the High Court will reveal on Tuesday the reasons for their decision and whether there is a need to release more immigrants. It is possible that some recently released migrants may be detained again.



The European Union is launching new legislation to prevent and combat migrant smuggling. The Commissioner for Home Affairs of the Union confirmed a decrease in the number of migrants coming from Tunisia, while there has been an increase in arrivals from Libya.

The European Commission intends to launch new legislation to prevent and combat migrant smuggling. It has called for global cooperation to combat migrant smuggling at the ongoing international conference in Brussels. The EU's executive body stated in a press release that these initiatives collectively establish a new legal, operational, and international cooperation framework to combat migrant smuggling in the coming years.

Ylva Johansson, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, mentioned that the legislation would allow the European Police Agency to play a crucial role in the fight against criminal activities related to migrant smuggling by identifying trends, exchanging data, and deploying on the ground.

Johansson confirmed a significant decrease, up to 90%, in the number of migrants coming from Tunisia to the EU, but there has been an increase in arrivals from Libya. Tunisia and Libya are considered key departure points for thousands of irregular migrants to the European Union, mainly through Italy, which has witnessed a sharp rise in arrivals on its shores.

Regarding the decline in departures from Tunisian shores, Johansson attributed it to intensified coastal patrols in the country. She also highlighted a substantial increase in the voluntary return of third-country nationals from Tunisia to their home countries. Johansson emphasized that the decrease in migrant arrivals is a result of cooperation beyond just migration issues and requires ongoing efforts.

She mentioned that the broader partnership with Tunisia aims to reduce the arrival of migrants from Tunisia to the EU, providing 105 million euros for combating irregular migration and direct financial assistance of 150 million euros to the country facing economic challenges. The partnership addresses multiple objectives, including financial support and assistance in the fight against irregular migration.

AN EGYPTIAN COURT IS EXAMINING A CASE INVOLVING THE SMUGGLING OF 100 PEOPLE TO ALBANIA.



The anti-gang unit in the Moroccan city of Laayoune has arrested three individuals on charges of being associated with criminal enterprises due to their involvement in the manufacturing of rubber boats used in illegal migration operations across the sea. Security authorities stated that the arrests took place in two operations. The first operation's investigative procedures led to the apprehension of two individuals caught in the act of illegally manufacturing rubber boats. Additionally, a rubber boat and equipment used in the production of these boats, utilized in illegal migration operations, were seized.

In the second operation, search and inspection measures resulted in the arrest of a third person and the confiscation of two rubber boats, one of which was in the manufacturing stage. Equipment and supplies used in the production and preparation of rubber boats were also seized. The three suspects are undergoing judicial investigation to uncover any possible connections of these criminal activities to networks involved in illegal migration and human trafficking.



IT SEEMS THAT THE MILITARY COUNCIL IN NIGER HAS REGAINED LOCAL SUPPORT AND REVERSED A DECISION RELATED TO "MIGRATION CONTROL." IN THIS CONTEXT, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AFFIRMED THAT THE DECISION DOES NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTERESTS OF NIGER AND ITS CITIZENS.

The military council in Niger has decided to repeal the 2015 law combating migration, which aimed to curb the trafficking of individuals across the country to Europe. This move by the military council is an attempt to regain local support. The state, located in West Africa and considered a hub for irregular migrants to the European Union through Libya and Algeria, has been affected negatively economically in desert regions, such as Agadez, where the population is involved in guiding migrants through the desert.

The Nigerien government is currently considering releasing those convicted of "illegal migration," as human traffickers faced a prison sentence of 5 years upon conviction. The repeal of the migration control decision may escalate tensions between Niger and the European Union, especially after the EU imposed sanctions on the country following the military coup that ousted President Mohamed Bazoum in July last year.

In a related context, the International Organization for Migration confirmed that the repealed law had been significantly effective in preventing illegal Nigerian migration flows. It is now anticipated that there will be weekly flows of migrants through the Nigerien desert, reaching up to 4000 migrants per week. Olf Leisang, the Regional Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Germany, described the decision's annulment as the "start of a horror scenario in Europe."



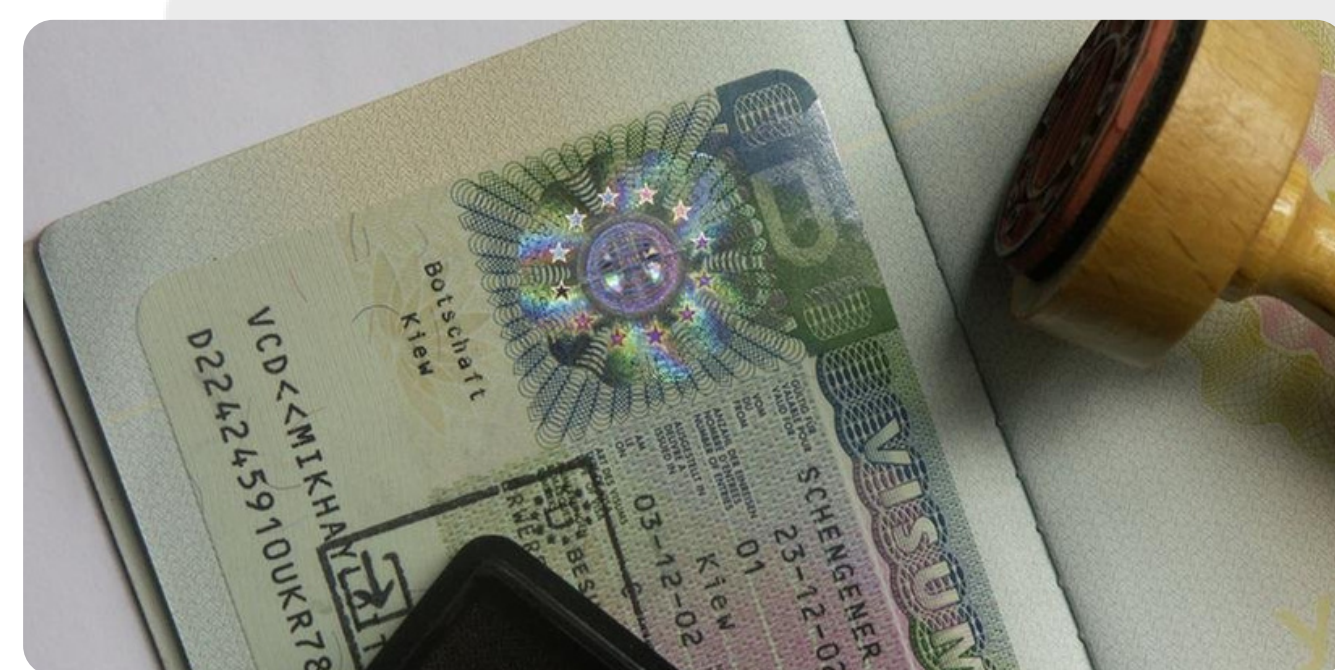
COUNTRIES IN THE SCHENGEN AREA ARE BACKTRACKING ON FREEDOM OF TRAVEL WITHIN THEIR BORDERS, WITH 13 EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES TARGETING UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS WITH "INSPECTIONS."

Thirteen European Union member states have imposed new measures on internal travel among the 27 EU countries in an attempt to curb illegal migration and target human traffickers across borders. This decision, made during a conference to discuss combating irregular migration through the Balkan route, involves the implementation of inspections between their borders, a departure from the usual freedom of movement within the Schengen Area. Countries such as Chile, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany are among the thirteen nations taking these measures. Concerns about increasing pressures on the Balkan migration route, particularly from Serbia to Hungary, have prompted the need for stricter measures. While some EU governments are worried about the impact on Schengen, Czech Interior Minister Vít Rakušan emphasized that migration is a common challenge for Europe, and solutions should focus on preventing illegal entry, with governments along the Balkan route working together to reimpose internal border controls and protect external Schengen borders. German Minister Nancy Faeser asserted that these migration movements led to controls being imposed on neighboring countries, emphasizing the importance of respecting human rights when discussing the defense of the EU's external borders and internal controls. Hungarian Interior Minister Sándor Pintér stated that Hungary is not prepared to reach a compromise on the proposed distribution of asylum seekers across the EU, rejecting the compulsory nature of relocation. Northern Serbia has seen escalating violence along its borders with Hungary in recent months, with armed conflicts becoming common as migrants gather, seeking ways to enter the EU with the help of traffickers. Hungary has constructed an electrified border fence between the two countries after over a million migrants entered the EU in 2015, fleeing wars and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

248 UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS WERE DEPORTED FROM LIBYA TO NIGER AND CHAD.



The Libyan Anti-Illegal Immigration Department deported 248 undocumented migrants last week. According to the department's office, 120 individuals were flown to Niger, while the remaining 128 were deported overland to Chad. Deputy Head of the Presidential Council, Musa Al-Koni, who was present at the migration department during the deportation, described the process as "humanitarian and appropriate."



The trial of 20 African migrants in Tunisia on charges of assaulting security forces.

The Court of Sfax is considering the trial of 20 irregular migrants from sub-Saharan African countries on charges of involvement in burning a police car and assaulting security personnel in the Amra area, affiliated with the Sfax Governorate. Four security personnel suffered physical injuries, with two of them in critical condition and receiving treatment at Habib Bourguiba Hospital. The attack occurred during their duty in combating irregular migration and destroying a number of iron boats in the Hamayzia area of Amra. The incident, recorded and shared on social media, led to clashes and tensions between Tunisians and irregular migrants, especially since it is not the first incident involving such migrants. Sfax is a crucial point for irregular migrants seeking to reach the Italian island of Lampedusa, approximately 130 kilometers from the Tunisian coast. Tunisia is facing increasing European pressure to enhance control over its shores and prevent migrant boats from departing. In response, the Tunisian government has sought UN support for its efforts to implement voluntary return programs for irregular migrants and overcome the crisis. The government recently reached an agreement with Italy to establish temporary accommodation centers and facilitate the return of migrants to their countries of origin, with the humanitarian treatment of their situations. The UN Refugee Agency will sort and redirect asylum requests to European countries from Tunisian territory, aiming to protect migrants from human trafficking risks, the dangers of sea voyages, and the costs incurred upon their arrival in Europe.



FOR THE FIRST TIME: EGYPT HOSTS A CONFERENCE ON COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME. THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME COMMENDS EGYPT'S ROLE IN PREVENTING ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Egypt hosted a conference on combating organized crime, attended by 12 African countries in Cairo from November 28-29. Participating countries included Egypt, Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the conference, Ambassador Naela Gabr, head of the National Committee for Combating Migration and Preventing Human Trafficking, emphasized that exchanging information among participating countries helps enhance cooperation and combat organized crime. She highlighted the role of Egyptian authorities in combating illegal migration from Egyptian shores and securing Egyptian borders. Ambassador Gabr noted that the conference, held in Cairo for the first time, will play a significant future role in preventing these crimes.

Regarding the role of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, she affirmed its possession of a map of the provinces most prone to illegal migration, currently being updated in collaboration with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics. This map supports monitoring new aspects of the issue and aids in awareness and prevention efforts.

Ambassador Gabr also mentioned various activities related to human trafficking, including a cooperation protocol with the Union of NGOs through visits to provinces for risk awareness. She underscored continued efforts in holding more meetings in villages to address this issue.

Hervey Jammeh, Director of the Regional Operations Center for Combating Organized Crime, commended Egyptian efforts in combating organized crime, human trafficking, and preventing illegal migration. Jammeh emphasized the importance of cooperation among member countries of the center, facilitating the fight against organized crime. He highlighted the significance of information coordination between Interpol and its African counterpart, Afropol, to enhance the means of combating and reducing the spread of organized crime.



FLORIDA CALLS FOR IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON IMMIGRATION AND TAXES ON OVERSEAS BANK TRANSFERS

In a time when illegal immigration is considered a major issue in American society, a grand jury in the state of Florida has called on Governor Ron DeSantis to impose new restrictions on immigration, including imposing a tax on all bank transfers of money abroad. The report states that many Florida residents are seriously naive and unaware of the true scale and cunning of the illegal immigration industry, with up to a million of the state's approximately 23 million residents being present illegally. The grand jury report calls for imposing "modest" fees similar to those imposed by the state of Oklahoma, which can amount to about 1.5% for each electronic transfer. Such fees, according to the grand jury, could generate tens of millions to be used for enhancing enforcement, education, or funds to help state agencies deal with unaccompanied migrant children. The report suggests that participants in legitimate financial transfers can reclaim their money, but such a tax could have a significant impact in places like South Florida, which is home to a community of people who left Latin America and the Caribbean and sent money to their relatives. The grand jury also calls for additional restrictions on companies, including requiring all employers to check potential employees' names in the federal immigration database. Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican, has been critical of the Biden administration's handling of immigration and criticized Donald Trump for his failure to persuade Mexico to pay for the border wall between the US and Mexico. The grand jury conducted its investigations with the assistance of the statewide attorney general who works for Republican Attorney General Ashley Moody, who filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration over immigration policies. Some Democrats and immigration advocates expressed concern about the tone of the report, fearing it would contribute to more inflammatory language and policies towards immigrants, while others see the report as a damning indictment of the complete failure of the Biden administration to protect the borders.

THE EGYPTIAN PORT SECURITY SUCCESSFULLY FOILED FOUR ATTEMPTS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION.



The Egyptian Port Security sector has successfully thwarted four attempts of illegal migration within a 24-hour period. This comes as part of the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Interior's agencies to combat various crimes, especially smuggling, by enhancing security control at all entry points.

The coordinated efforts of the General Directorates under the Port Security sector of the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with relevant authorities, resulted in the apprehension of 5 cases related to goods smuggling, 4 cases involving illegal migration and document forgery, a case of drug smuggling and possession of narcotics, and 29 cases in the field of general security.

Legal procedures have been taken regarding the apprehended cases, and security campaigns continue across all entry points of the country to strengthen security control.



The Minister of Emigration announces the launch of the Presidential Elections Operations Room for Egyptians abroad

Minister of Emigration, Sahar Ghandi, announces contact numbers for the Ministry's Operations Room for the 2024 Presidential Elections

Ambassador Sahar Ghandi, Minister of State for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs, announced the launch of the Ministry of Emigration's Operations Room to monitor the elections of Egyptians abroad in the 2024 presidential elections. The elections will last for three days on December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2023. The Operations Room will respond to all inquiries and questions from Egyptians abroad around the clock, in coordination with the National Elections Authority.

The Minister of Emigration added that the elections will continue during these days at timings from 9 AM to 9 PM local time in each country. The polling stations will be located in the premises of Egyptian embassies and consulates around the world.

The Minister further stated that two numbers have been allocated for communication with the Ministry of Emigration's Operations Room for the presidential elections of Egyptians abroad. She noted that the National Elections Authority has defined the election guidelines for Egyptians abroad, requiring a valid Egyptian passport or a national ID card, whether valid or expired. The voter must also be registered in the voter databases.

Ambassador Sahar Ghandi emphasized that, according to the election law, every Egyptian who has reached 18 years of age before the closure of the voter registration is entitled to participate in the 2024 presidential elections and choose the representative to lead the nation in the coming years.

The Minister of Emigration affirmed that Egyptians abroad are an essential part of the decision-making process in Egypt, and their votes matter. Therefore, they are eager to participate effectively to preserve their constitutional rights, as the Egyptian constitution grants them the right to vote. It is crucial for them to exercise this constitutional right.

