

THE NEWSCAST

THE INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE 'WORKSHOP PROGRAM' IN CAIRO." AND "THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: THE YOUTH'S ENTHUSIASM TO JOIN THE PROGRAM HAS MOTIVATED US TO PREPARE ACTION PLANS IN VARIOUS PROVINCES. COMING SOON

The Independent Organization International has announced the start of the second phase of the Workshop Program, targeting Egyptian youth in all governorates of Egypt. The second phase kicks off in Cairo, with a series of training sessions planned for the remaining governorates of the Northern and Southern regions in January of the coming year.

The Workshop Program is the first training program in the Arab world and Africa that works on combating irregular migration through the economic empowerment of irregular labor. The program aims to reach the largest number of young people, both males and females, in various fields, within the framework of a series of diverse training workshops that meet their aspirations and develop their skills and talents. The training programs include areas such as entrepreneurship, handicrafts, and professional training.

The program targets young people and females who are not currently employed and lack opportunities for income due to not being engaged in any work and not having security coverage. The foundation welcomes all individuals who wish to develop their skills and benefit from the Workshop Program, regardless of educational qualifications or age. Trainees are hosted, and all learning and development opportunities are provided by offering materials and skilled trainers.

Registration for the Workshop Program can be done through the following link.

<https://forms.gle/MhmxLsNUa94t6daf8>



AFTER THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT VOTED ON THE NEW IMMIGRATION LAW, THE FRENCH LEFT CONDEMNS THE LAW, CONSIDERING IT A 'SHAMEFUL VOTE' AND A VICTORY FOR RETROGRESSION

After the French Parliament voted on the new immigration law with a majority of 349 votes in favor and 186 votes against, following extensive debate in the French streets, the opposition deemed it a victory for the far right. Despite parliamentary approval, the law project awaits review by the Constitutional Council before final adoption.

The French left condemned the law, labeling the voting process as a 'shameful vote.' Associations criticized what they perceived as an 'ideological victory for the far right' and even deemed it 'the most regressive text in 40 years.'

Thirty-two government agencies declared their refusal to implement some of its provisions. Hundreds of undocumented immigrants took to the streets of Paris in coordination with illegal immigrant groups and solidarity marches to protest against the controversial immigration law, expressing not only a call for their rights but also bearing witness to the human stories behind policies affecting them.

The law, consisting of 100 articles, includes several contentious provisions related to the regularization of workers, social benefits, and the right to citizenship. According to Rami Al-Khalifa, a political philosophy professor in Paris, the French Parliament passed the new immigration law after the National Assembly rejected its discussion last week, forming a committee directly responding to the demands of the far right.

Al-Khalifa states that the new law represents an ideological triumph for the National Front party, as it endorses the principle of national preference advocated by the far right, signifying a departure from the equality principle that the French Republic has upheld since the revolution, in addition to liberty and fraternity.

He explains that, under this law, French citizenship can be revoked from dual citizens in case of an assault on an official. Moreover, French citizenship will not be granted to those born in France to foreign parents until the age of eighteen, and the person must apply for citizenship, which will be denied if there is a criminal offense on their record.

The law tightens regulations on immigrants, as social assistance related to children will only be granted after three years of work or five years if not working. Illegal immigrants will only receive free state healthcare in exceptional cases. Those seeking regularization must work for an extended period before applying for legal residence.

The new law considers illegal residence a punishable offense, making family reunification a challenging matter. The wife of a resident in France must learn French and have a good language proficiency to obtain a visa to come to France.

The law also mandates those wishing to study in France to deposit 2,000 euros, a substantial amount. Al-Khalifa emphasizes that the new immigration law undermines the principle of equality and views immigration and immigrants as a problem to be limited and reduced, which is inaccurate since immigrants are an integral part of France's economic life.



THE EUROPEAN UNION CALLS FOR THE RETURN OF BAZOUM TO POWER IN NIGER AFTER THE MILITARY AUTHORITY CANCELS THE LAW CRIMINALIZING ILLEGAL MIGRATION



A recent report from the International Organization for Migration has warned of new waves of migration originating from Niger due to the military junta's repeal of the law criminalizing human trafficking across borders. Migrants from the city of Agadez, in central northern Niger, travel to Algeria and Libya.

The military coup in Niger, which occurred on July 26 of this year, repealed the "Criminalization of Illegal Migration" law in November. This move has raised concerns for the International Organization for Migration and European Union member states, as they anticipate an increase in the number of illegal migrants from Niger and countries south of the African Sahara.

The Algerian government has observed a growing number of Nigerien citizens in recent months. Algeria serves as one of the transit points for illegal migrants heading to Libya, which is a departure point for Italy or Tunisia, where boats for illegal migration set sail for Spain.

As for the law criminalizing migration in Niger, it was adopted in 2015 with funding from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, amounting to 1 billion euros. This financial support led the European Union to demand the return of President Mohamed Bazoum to power.

Director of the African Migration Center: Between 80 to 120 million climate migrants in Africa by 2050

Ambassador Nimir Najm, Director of the African Migration Center, said that the expected numbers of climate migration in Africa will range from 80 to 120 million by 2050. She noted that 80% of migration processes are internal displacement, while the remaining occurs between African countries and across seas.

She explained that the recent period has witnessed many upheavals in the Sahel and desert regions, leading to significant displacement operations. In the south, there are terrorist activities causing large-scale displacement on the African continent.

Najm, during her television interview, added that there is significant movement within the African continent due to migration, with 20% of African migration crossing borders within African countries and the remaining portion crossing seas. This migration is expected to worsen due to climate change.

She stated that predictions indicate an increase in migration numbers in the coming period due to drought and heavy rainfall that leads to house flooding. She emphasized the need for awareness about dealing with climate change, suggesting that areas affected by floods can be cultivated afterward. It is essential for African governments to recognize the danger of climate change and plan for it in advance.

She pointed out that the current global displacement exceeds 100 million, and most of this displacement is caused by climate change and political conflicts.



10,000 MIGRANTS DAILY AT THE US-MEXICO BORDER EMBARRASS THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Biden confirms his readiness to make concessions regarding his border plan, while the Mexican President emphasizes increasing aid and implementing a development plan to reduce immigration flows. The U.S. border patrol has observed the arrival of 10,000 migrants daily in recent months across the U.S.-Mexico border, where law enforcement struggles to cope with the growing numbers due to a lack of resources. This comes amid rumors among migrants arriving at the U.S. border about the possible closure of the U.S.-Mexico border, especially with the approaching U.S. presidential elections and the possibility of Donald Trump returning to the White House. Border patrol intercepted 2.4 million migrants from October 2022 to September 2023. With increasing opposition to President Biden's immigration policies, the state of Texas has decided to close railway lines in Eagle Pass and El Paso due to the "return" of illegal immigrants entering the United States by freight trains. Cross-border vehicle crossings in Eagle Pass have also been suspended since the beginning of the month, as well as two crossings in California and Arizona. The border police have had to move their crews away from inspection points to focus on dealing with irregular entries. Texas Governor, a supporter of former U.S. President Donald Trump, signed a law on Monday allowing state police to arrest and deport migrants entering the United States illegally from Mexico. Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, announced sending the National Guard to the state's border to protect it from migrants and ensure the safety of its citizens. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas are scheduled to visit Mexico in the coming days to meet with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and attempt to curb ongoing migration flows. Biden recently announced his readiness to make concessions to Republicans in Congress regarding his border plan, after they called for tangible tightening of immigration policies in exchange for agreeing to a new aid package for Ukraine. In a related context, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced a telephone conversation with his U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden, to discuss economic issues and immigration. He emphasized the need to develop a plan for Latin American countries and the Caribbean region to reduce northward mass migration. He urged the United States to send more developmental aid to the countries of origin of migrants and to reduce or eliminate sanctions imposed on Cuba and Venezuela.



"A 'HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALERT' CAUSES A FLIGHT TO BE DETAINED AT A FRENCH AIRPORT FOR 3 DAYS

An anonymous tip to the French authorities led to the detention of a plane carrying 303 passengers from India at Paris public prosecution for 3 days on suspicion of "human trafficking." Despite France's swift investigations, the judiciary quickly reconsidered the decision to detain passengers due to human rights violations. Although French law allows the retention of a foreigner arriving by plane in France and prohibits them from going to the intended country for a maximum of four days, this period can be extended to 26 days by judicial decision. The incident began last Thursday when a plane from Dubai, en route to the Nicaraguan capital, Managua, made a fuel stop at France's Vatry Airport. However, a passenger on the Airbus A340, operated by Romanian company "Blue Air," filed a report with French authorities, stating that the passengers might "become victims of human trafficking." The informant mentioned that the passengers, including 11 minors, all Indian workers in Dubai, planned to travel to Central America and then illegally enter the United States or Canada. Upon notification, the French public prosecution initiated an investigation with the assistance of translators, lawyers, and airport staff. Passengers were moved to the waiting area to verify the absence of human trafficking suspicions by an organized gang. Despite the court's decision to release the plane, the flight's destination was changed to India instead of continuing to Nicaragua. While French authorities investigated the incident, the airline denied any involvement in "human trafficking," confirming that it only operated a few flights for "non-European passengers." The Indian Embassy in France also assured its continued communication with the passengers to provide them with necessary support.

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY: FAILURE TO ADDRESS 'IMMIGRATION' WILL DESTROY TRUST IN POLITICIANS AND THE GOVERNMENT



David Cameron, the British Foreign Secretary, stated that the failure to address the issue of small boat crossings in the English Channel would be destructive to the trust of the British people in politicians and the government. This comes in response to critics of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's legislation regarding the transfer of illegal immigrants to Rwanda.

Cameron mentioned that Sunak's proposal is the best legislative project to accomplish the task, confirming that the Foreign Office could participate more in assisting in the implementation of Sunak's commitment to "stop the boats." He stated that dialogues on immigration could be initiated with countries whose citizens come in small boats to Britain, and that assistance should be provided.

He added, "The presence of very clear illegal migration is incredibly destructive to the legal immigration system and immigration in any country. It is also destructive to people's perception of the ability of politicians and governments to act on their behalf."



Arrest of Smuggling Gangs of Illegal Immigrants and Weapons for the Houthis

The Yemeni Coast Guard Authority announced that it has managed to apprehend "smuggling gangs of illegal immigrants and weapons" on the Yemeni coasts. The authority stated in a press release that it "arrested gangs engaged in smuggling illegal immigrants as a cover and means to smuggle weapons and ammunition for the Houthi rebels supported by Iran," indicating that this was done "in coordination and joint cooperation between the intelligence of the national resistance and the coast guard of the Red Sea sector." The official Yemeni news agency reported that the forces of the Red Sea Coast Guard sector succeeded in intercepting a ship carrying smuggled weapons and ammunition for the Houthi group. The Coast Guard received information from the General Intelligence branch in the national resistance about weapons and ammunition smuggled for the Houthi group. This prompted the Coast Guard in Al-Makha to adapt its maritime and coastal patrols, reaching the target where two wooden boats were intercepted, carrying migrants, weapons, and ammunition.



"JABR" AND "NAJM" EXPLORE WAYS OF COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Ambassador Naela Gabr, the head of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking, met with Ambassador Dr. Naimera Negm, the Director of the African Migration Observatory at the African Union.

The two ambassadors discussed ways of cooperation between the coordinating committee and the African Migration Observatory. Ambassador Naela Gabr presented the committee's work and efforts in addressing the phenomenon of irregular migration and human trafficking. The ambassadors also consulted on ways of collaboration between the observatory and the committee, particularly regarding training and transferring the Egyptian experience in developing migration strategies to other countries on the continent. They also discussed the exchange of experiences between similar national committees in African countries.

Ambassador Negm highlighted the observatory's goals, focusing on collecting migration data in Africa for analysis and use in African policy-making. She also mentioned the observatory's programs aimed at building African national capacities in collecting and analyzing migration data. The goal is to present facts to decision-makers and provide programs to address irregular migration, human trafficking, and the organized migration of African labor to Europe.



ZAHRI: EVERY NEW MIGRANT TO EUROPE REDUCES THE WELFARE LEVEL OF ITS NATIVE POPULATIONS

Dr. Ayman Zahri, an expert in demographics and migration studies, discussed the negative effects of irregular migration on Europe. Zahri stated in press statements that irregular migration represents between 10% to 15% of the international migration rate. He pointed out that the United States, with its balance between its economy and population, contrasts with Europe, which is facing challenges due to the migration process. He emphasized that every new person entering affects negatively by reducing the welfare level of the original populations.

Zahri mentioned that England receives 2 million immigrants annually, and despite its rejection of irregular migration, it continually needs a workforce. He noted that hostility towards immigrants has increased globally due to the policies of far-right movements.

He explained that there is a significant legal difference between refugees and irregular migrants. International law allows refugees to enter without any documents, pointing out that Egypt has 460,000 refugees who receive protection and residence.

Zahri emphasized that there are no accurate numbers for the global migrant population.

TUNISIA: 100 AFRICAN MIGRANTS APPREHENDED BEFORE ATTEMPTING MIGRATION TO ITALY



The security authorities in Tunisia have announced the apprehension of around 100 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa off the coast of Sfax before attempting an illegal migration journey to Italy, in two separate sailing attempts. The Tunisian National Guard stated that the city of Sfax is a major attraction point for irregular migration activities and human smugglers. It, along with other Tunisian cities, witnesses the presence of tens of thousands of migrants arriving from sub-Saharan African countries, attempting to cross to Europe.



The navy rescues 54 Syrians from drowning, and December witnesses a significant wave of Syrian refugees heading to Lebanon

The Lebanese Navy rescued 54 Syrians aboard a boat that was sinking in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea during an attempt at irregular migration, amid Syria's ongoing war and instability.

The Lebanese army stated in a press release that a patrol from its naval forces managed to rescue 54 people, including women and children, all of Syrian nationality, who were on board a boat off the coast of the town of Al-Arida in northern Lebanon, where the passengers of the boat were rescued.

The eastern and northern Lebanese borders with Syria have witnessed a significant wave of refugees since the beginning of December due to the worsening economic conditions in Syria.

It is worth noting that Lebanon hosts 1.8 million Syrian refugees, with 880,000 of them registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

