

THE NEWSCAST

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE THE JUDICIARY AND IS EXPECTED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH RWANDA FOR THE DEPORTATION OF MIGRANTS

Despite the British judicial rejection of deporting immigrants to Rwanda, considering it an unsafe country, for the past three weeks, the government continues to resist the court's decision. London and Kigali recently signed a new treaty in Rwanda aiming to deport non-regular immigrants to East Africa.

The British government circumvents the Supreme Court ruling on the illegitimacy of the decision by entering into a new 43-page agreement, stating that immigrants deported to Rwanda "will not be at risk of being returned to a country where their lives or freedom are threatened."

The agreement was signed by the British Home Secretary, James Cleverly, and the Rwandan Foreign Minister, Vincent Biruta. The Rwandan Foreign Minister stated, "We have pursued this partnership with the United Kingdom because we believe we have a role to play in this crisis of illegal migration."

The British Interior Minister expressed admiration for the Rwandan government, affirming it as a safe country. The UK Home Office stated in a release that the new treaty "directly responds to the outcomes of the Supreme Court and provides a long-term solution."

The Deputy Spokesperson for the Rwandan government, Alan Mukuralinda, emphasized that the agreement also includes establishing a "joint court with Rwandan and British judges in Kigali to ensure the safety of immigrants and prevent the deportation of any immigrants sent to Rwanda to their home country." This will also ensure hearing complaints from all immigrants.

Currently, London is considering ratification by both the British and Rwandan parliaments. Yasmin Ahmed, the director of a non-governmental organization in the United Kingdom, urged London to "open its eyes to Rwanda's history full of human rights violations, especially against refugees and asylum seekers, and to completely abandon its plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda."



IT ANNOUNCES A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBERS OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND PROHIBITS THEM FROM BRINGING THEIR FAMILIES

Britain has announced plans to reduce the number of legal immigrants arriving in the country, including raising the minimum wage for skilled jobs. High levels of legal migration have dominated the political scene in Britain for over a decade, playing a key role in the 2016 vote to leave the European Union.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged greater control over immigration after facing criticism from lawmakers within the Conservative Party. However, businesses and labor unions attacked the measures, deeming them counterproductive and challenging for both the private sector and the state-managed healthcare sector, both suffering from labor shortages.

The net number of legal immigrants reached 745,000 last year, with a significant portion coming from countries such as India, Nigeria, and China instead of the European Union. Home Secretary James Cleverly stated that the new measures could reduce this number by 300,000. The government plans to raise the minimum wage for skilled foreign workers to £38,700 (\$48,900) from its current level of £26,200, excluding workers in the health and social care sectors. Foreign healthcare workers will be prohibited from bringing their families with them through their visas. Additionally, immigrants will face a 66% increase in fees for accessing healthcare services, and the minimum income requirement for family visas will be raised.

Cleverly explained that the government will end the current system allowing employers to pay immigrants only 80% of their salary for jobs experiencing labor shortages. The list of occupations facing shortages will be reviewed.

Labor unions expressed concerns about Cleverly's plan. Christina McAnea, the General Secretary of UNISON, the leading healthcare union, described the decision as a "complete disaster" for the healthcare service. She added that immigrants will now choose countries more welcoming to them instead of being forced to live without their families.



THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES ARE DEPORTING 190 MIGRANTS TO PREVENT THEM FROM DROWNING



The French authorities rescued 190 migrants off the coast of Calais, northern France, as they attempted to cross the English Channel aboard boats to reach Britain. The authorities did not specify the location from which these migrants set off. The English Channel is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, characterized by strong currents that increase the danger of crossing, especially for migrants on unseaworthy boats. Human traffickers often overload these boats beyond their capacity, leaving them barely afloat and at the mercy of the waves as they attempt to reach British shores.

A German organization: Italian authorities detain a ship that rescued migrants

A German relief organization stated that Italy has detained one of its ships following a rescue operation in the Mediterranean. Italian authorities attribute the responsibility for the escape of undocumented migrants from Libyan coastal patrol and their jumping into the water to the ship's crew, a claim that the organization denies.

The German organization "SOS Mediterranee" announced that Italian authorities, based on "false allegations," have detained its ship "Ocean Viking" after conducting a rescue operation in the central Mediterranean.

The German organization clarified that authorities in the southern Italian city of Crotona removed the ship from maritime traffic, indicating that the detention period will last for 20 days, along with the imposition of a financial penalty.

The ship had rescued around 200 migrants from drowning at sea and brought them ashore in the coastal city of Calabria. Italian authorities accuse the organization of earlier disregarding instructions from the Libyan coast guard to leave the area.

Italy had implemented laws to restrict the operations of rescue ships, including a limit of rescuing only one sinking boat per journey, with the obligation to notify Italian authorities to stop and disembark migrants—a measure that rescue organizations reject. They have lodged complaints with the European Union about the impact of Italy's decisions on increasing the number of drownings at sea.



AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF ANTI-MIGRATION LAWS IN NIGER, A HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION WARNS OF THE REPERCUSSIONS ON LIBYA

The National Human Rights Institution of Libya expressed deep concern about the decision by the Nigerien authorities to cancel laws related to combating irregular migration in the Republic of Niger. This decision is expected to have negative repercussions on the levels of security, stability, and border security with Libya.

The organization emphasized that the repeal of the law would encourage human trafficking networks, human trafficking, transnational organized crime, all contributing to an increase in the volume and indicators of migration flows towards Libya.

The organization affirmed that this decision would result in an increase in the number of migrant deaths during perilous journeys across the Mediterranean Sea, with direct implications for Libya related to this irresponsible decision made by the Nigerien authorities.

The National Human Rights Institution of Libya considered the decision a undermining of Libya's efforts to combat migrant smuggling, human trafficking, eliminate crime networks and transnational organized crime crossing its borders, and secure its southern borders with neighboring countries, including Niger.

The organization warned Libyan authorities, including border guards and residents of border areas in the southwest and east, of unprecedented waves of irregular migrant crossings, which may include elements from extremist organizations in the Sahel countries facing military campaigns.



SYRIAN MIGRANTS IN BULGARIA ARE EXPERIENCING A "SHORTAGE OF FOOD AND MEDICINE

Syrians residing in the Harmanli Center in southern Bulgaria are enduring a difficult life, facing a shortage of food and a lack of hygiene essentials. Despite Bulgarian law stipulating a prompt response to asylum requests, granting residents the freedom to move within the country, only those lucky enough to be in the center for just two months benefit, according to testimonies from irregular migrants.

Residents in the center assert that the lengthy wait for asylum approval, which takes up to two years, forces migrants to borrow money to purchase food and water. The center accommodates 700 asylum seekers, including 276 children, with 81 unaccompanied minors, mostly from Syria, who arrived in Bulgaria via Turkey.

Although the center is designed to accommodate up to 3,650 migrants, it lacks the financial resources to adequately support them, given the Bulgarian government's reduction in migration-related expenditures. Bulgaria is currently grappling with an increase in the number of migrants, receiving 20,000 asylum applications in 2022, mostly from Syria, Afghanistan, and Morocco.

Syrians in the center complain of escaping the Syrian war only to find themselves in deplorable conditions, with no medical care, insufficient food and medicine, and a lack of clean clothes or blankets. Hamed Khoshseeyar, a coordinator at a human rights organization, confirmed continuous assaults on migrants residing in the center, hearing terrifying stories of special forces attacking them away from cameras.

Khoshseeyar emphasized the urgent need for basics such as food, medicine, and hygiene.



POLAND TIGHTENS SECURITY ON ITS BORDERS WITH SLOVAKIA TO CURB ILLEGAL MIGRATION



Authorities in Poland have increased surveillance on their borders with Slovakia amid a rise in attempts by irregular migrants to enter their territory.

Slovakia serves as a transit country for migrants, most of whom come from the Middle East and Afghanistan, seeking to reach Western Europe, particularly Germany, after crossing into the European Union through Hungary from Serbia. Slovakia is not a member of the European Union.

Poland, along with the Czech Republic and Austria, has strengthened its borders with Slovakia after declaring that its borders pose a serious threat to illegal migration.

Authorities in Tunisia have arrested four individuals after they stole money from irregular migrants

The Tunisian police have arrested four individuals suspected of attempting a maritime piracy operation by dismantling an engine and stealing money from irregular migrants at sea. A video was published on social media showing individuals attempting to seize the engine of a boat carrying Tunisian irregular migrants at sea and stealing their money. Tunisian authorities took action, and a rubber boat, an engine, and a quantity of fuel were seized at their residence. They are facing charges of "forming a gang with the intent to assault individuals and property."



IN A NEW STATISTICAL STUDY, 15% OF BIRTHS IN AMERICA ARE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS

The United States Center for Migration Studies has released a new study on the numbers of births from outside the United States. The population of the United States is reported to be 340 million. According to the center, the proportion of births from abroad is the highest in history, reaching its peak in October 2023. The number of immigrant births has reached 49.5 million, representing 15% of the U.S. population, a record high. This is an increase of 4.5 million since President Biden took office, setting a new record.

The study adds that the birth rate is the highest ever recorded in American history, with an expected 2.5 million births from undocumented immigrants. The average monthly birth rate has increased to 137,000 since President Biden took office, compared to 42,000 during Trump's presidency before the emergence of the coronavirus, and 68,000 during the Obama administration.

The report highlights an increase in births from families of Latin American origin, totaling 2.9 million since January 2021. The study indicates that a significant portion of recent birth growth is attributed to undocumented migration, with legal immigrant births accounting for three-quarters of total births.

The study clarifies that, by definition, all immigrant births in the United States can only contribute to the population of those born in the United States. This means that more than 4.5 million people from outside the country had to arrive to achieve this growth.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Census Bureau in October, 6.3 million immigrants informed the bureau that they arrived in 2020 or later.

The study notes that the increase in the number of undocumented immigrants in America during the Biden administration is due to a significant decrease in the enforcement of internal laws in the first two years of Biden's presidency, where internal deportation operations were less than half of what they were in 2020. The Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year 2022 revealed that 850,000 foreign visitors exceeded their allowed stay that year. The study also points out that the number of undocumented residents increased from 10.2 million in January 2021 to 12.6 million by May 2023, with a Department of Homeland Security report stating that 69% of undocumented immigrants are from Latin America.



CAIRO REJECTS THE FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF PALESTINIANS AND ADOPTS A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH IN DEALING WITH ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Ambassador Dr. Badr Abdellaty, Egypt's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and its representative to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), affirmed Egypt's categorical rejection of the forced displacement of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, whether within or outside its territories, considering it a red line that will not be tolerated.

Ambassador Badr Abdellaty stated in his speech at the international conference on the "Global Alliance against Migrant Smuggling," organized by the European Commission to discuss ways to enhance international cooperation in combating migrant smuggling. The conference was attended by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and Commissioner for Migration Affairs, Ilva Johansson, along with ministers and representatives from more than 55 countries from Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He emphasized that Egypt adopts a comprehensive approach to deal with migration issues, not limited to security dimensions but also encompassing developmental, economic, and social aspects to address the root causes of illegal migration. He highlighted the success of the Egyptian experience in combating illegal migration, noting that no illegal migration boats have left Egyptian shores since September 2016.

The Egyptian Ambassador to Brussels emphasized the need for joint efforts to increase legal migration from Egypt to the European Union. This includes launching training and vocational education programs to qualify the Egyptian workforce for the European labor market, providing them with regulated employment opportunities to contribute to reducing the numbers of illegal immigrants to the European Union.

Ambassador Badr Abdellaty shed light on Egypt hosting around 9 million refugees who enjoy basic services similar to Egyptian citizens. Additionally, Egypt has received hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees since the onset of the recent crisis, imposing economic burdens.

On her part, Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation between origin, destination, and transit countries in combating migrant smuggling networks. She expressed the European Union's anticipation of establishing more bilateral partnerships to provide job opportunities and facilitate circular migration, addressing the gap in the European labor market.

The European Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs, Ilva Johansson, praised the good cooperation with Egypt as a significant partner for the European Union, emphasizing the importance of continuing to support bilateral cooperation in the field of migration.

SINGAPOREAN AUTHORITIES REVEAL MIGRANTS HIDING IN "SEWERS"



Singaporean authorities have uncovered several abandoned buildings used by undocumented migrants as hiding places, prompting strict measures to inspect vacant structures in industrial areas.

The Singaporean police revealed the use of a hidden sewer, approximately 90 cm wide and 2 meters high, as a hiding place for undocumented migrants. The sewer is located about 100 meters from a two-story building that formerly housed factories. The building is surrounded by fences and closed gates, but the sewer can be accessed through a metal cover.

Migrants filled plastic bags and pieces of cloth in several nearby plastic pipes to prevent water leakage into the sewer, where they hid. Singaporean authorities arrested 57 undocumented migrants in 2022. The law prohibits entering waterways such as sewers without permission, and violators may face fines of up to \$3,000 for entering them. Those convicted of intentional property trespass may face fines of up to \$1,000.



Egypt enhances cooperation with the European Union to confront "illegal migration"

By expanding economic support programs for youth and preparing them for the job market, Egypt is enhancing its cooperation with the European Union to address "illegal migration." Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity, Nevine El-Kabbaj, stated that "illegal migration adds real challenges to countries, in addition to developmental challenges that threaten the lives of youth during the migration journey, jeopardizing their moral, professional, and family stability without any health and insurance coverage."

She added, "(Illegal migration) burdens countries and peoples with additional economic and social responsibilities to host migrants and refugees who are not legally registered."

The Egyptian government launched an awareness initiative in 2019 about the risks of migration, including community initiatives such as "Lifeboats," implemented by the Ministry of Migration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs in coordination with relevant Egyptian authorities. The Egyptian government emphasizes "continuing awareness efforts to confront illegal migration with the aim of providing a safe life for citizens."

The Minister of Social Solidarity affirmed that the ministry is implementing developmental programs related to "citizenship," fostering national belonging, responsibility, and social accountability. There is a focus on raising awareness about the dangers of "illegal migration" for different segments of society, especially for youth, enabling them to take proactive steps before falling into the traps of travel brokers and unaccountable practices that affect their security and protection.

