

THE NEWSCAST

THE NEW IMMIGRATION LAW PROJECT IS CAUSING A STIR IN THE FRENCH STREETS. INDUSTRY MEN AFFIRM THE NEED FOR IMMIGRANTS TO WORK IN DIFFICULT TASKS, BUT IMMIGRANTS REJECT IT AND PROTEST AGAINST IT

Migration is not the problem; racism is." This is the slogan raised by thousands of protesters in southern Paris in opposition to the new immigration law project, known as the "Darmarin Law," named after the French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin.

The demonstration, which started in the streets near the Montparnasse train station in southern Paris, included youth and adults from various nationalities. They asserted that, as undocumented immigrants, they contribute to paying social security fees and taxes without benefiting from regular healthcare services.

Protesters emphasized the existence of legal loopholes allowing undocumented immigrants to use others' identification documents for "menial jobs" such as cleaning, room services, and construction sites.

The demonstrators view the proposed law as a "middle ground" between right-wing and left-wing parties, affirming that President Emmanuel Macron's government needs undocumented immigrants to perform all menial tasks at the construction sites designated for the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris next summer. However, they criticize the government for simultaneously treating undocumented immigrants as if they are "nothing."

The immigration law project is still under discussion in the French Senate, but it is expected to come into effect in early 2024. At the same time, Paris is considering the establishment of a "green card" for workers in sectors facing labor shortages, with the card's work validity lasting for one year.

THE LAW PROJECT

THE LAW, PRESENTED BY THE FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTER DARMANIN, CAME IN RESPONSE TO THE ATTACK BY A RUSSIAN MIGRANT ON A FRENCH LANGUAGE TEACHER IN THE NORTHERN CITY OF ARRAS, SEEN AS A MEASURE TO GUARD AGAINST UNDESIRABLE MIGRATION.

THE GOVERNMENT PROMISES THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE BALANCED. HOWEVER, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS BELIEVE IT WILL COMPLICATE MATTERS FOR IRREGULAR MIGRANTS TO OBTAIN LEGAL STATUS, POTENTIALLY LEADING TO AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS.

SOME POLITICIANS ARGUE THAT IRREGULAR MIGRANTS POSE A BURDEN AND A THREAT, ADVOCATING FOR THE ANNUAL EXPULSION OF 4,000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DUE TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, WITH DEPORTATION PROCEDURES TAKING OVER A YEAR. OTHERS ARGUE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 100 IMMIGRATION LAWS SINCE 1945, NONE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE, AND THE NEW LAW PROJECT IS CONSIDERED USELESS AND WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE NUMBER OF INCOMING MIGRANTS.

MEANWHILE, FRENCH INDUSTRIALISTS EXPRESS THEIR NEED FOR IMMIGRANTS AND EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY OF FACILITATING WORK PROCEDURES FOR IMMIGRANTS, GIVEN THE RELUCTANCE OF FRENCH YOUTH TO UNDERTAKE CHALLENGING TASKS AND THEIR PREFERENCE FOR WORKING IN THE DIGITAL SECTOR.

THE FRENCH SENATE REOPENS DISCUSSIONS ON THE NEW IMMIGRATION LAW PROJECT, AND THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS A MIDDLE GROUND WITH OPPOSING LEGISLATORS

The French government has announced plans to form a special parliamentary committee aimed at breaking the deadlock over a rejected immigration law project. In a surprising move, government spokesperson Olivier Véran stated that the committee would be formed "as soon as possible," and the government hopes to reach a compromise with opposing legislators. Véran added that the committee would consist of seven representatives from each house of parliament and aims to bring the law project back to the chambers for a vote.

The immigration law project has been a significant element in President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to demonstrate that he can be stricter on legal and regulatory matters while keeping France open to foreign workers who can contribute to the economy. However, the project includes provisions that are unpopular with left-wing legislators and more liberal aspects criticized by some conservatives and far-right figures.

Although the Senate approved the law project, legislators in the National Assembly sent it back for further debate, cutting short discussions and dealing a blow to Macron's attempts to pass laws without a majority. Legislators from the far-right National Rally party led by Marine Le Pen, as well as many Republicans and some members of the left-wing bloc, rejected the law on the first day of its discussion.

Opponents describe the law as a "false package," as it seems to move towards regulating illegal migration, which is deemed unacceptable by critics. Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin stated that the vote against the law project was "against France," but he still believes that a breakthrough is possible before the end of the year "to adopt a strong law against illegal immigration."



LIBYA REPATRIATES 1000 ILLEGAL MIGRANTS TO EGYPT AND NIGERIA



Libya has repatriated nearly a thousand migrants from Egypt and Nigeria during the current week, including 664 Egyptians transported by buses to the Masa'ad border crossing with Egypt, located 1400 kilometers away from the Libyan capital, Tripoli. The head of the Libyan Anti-Illegal Immigration Authority confirmed the deportation of 300 Nigerians, who were taken to the airport for their return to their homeland.

Since the overthrow of President Muammar Gaddafi, Libya has become a hub for illegal migration to Europe. The Libyan Ministry of Interior is currently working through the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency to combat this phenomenon by enhancing the agency's capabilities to detect and thwart illegal migration operations. This includes developing plans and programs to protect borders and prevent the influx of migrants as part of a comprehensive strategy involving security agencies in various Libyan cities.

Last month, the Libyan Interior Ministry announced the deportation of 600 Egyptians and 250 Nigerians. Thousands of Egyptians live and work in Libyan cities, engaging in agriculture, business, and construction. The International Organization for Migration estimated the number of migrants in Libya to be 700,000 during May and June of this year, with the majority being Egyptians and Nigerians.

Doctors Without Borders: 61% of migrants have been subjected to torture in Libya.

Doctors Without Borders announced that 61% of the migrants they are concerned with have been subjected to torture in Libya, with 20% of them also experiencing sexual torture.

Dr. Carmela Verga, the psychologist responsible for providing psychological support to migrants and refugees survivors of violence and torture, stated, "Punches, kicks, beatings with sticks, whipping, burning with thick cables, splitting, and sexual torture are acts of violence endured by the people we assist." She added that "torture is committed with the aim of destroying an individual's identity, and violence is practiced at different levels, as physical pain revives painful memories."

During the period from January 2021 to September 2023, the project received 194 individuals, and 61% of them reported experiencing torture in Libya, 37% in their countries of origin, and the remaining 2% in transit countries during their migration journey. Dr. Verga explained that "detention facilities are the primary locations for acts of violence (58% of cases)," noting that 20% of patients reported experiencing sexual torture.



THE EUROPEAN UNION CALLS FOR URGENT SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED TO LIBYA

The Ministry of Interior has called on the European Union to provide urgent support to the Libyan state in securing its southern borders and supporting anti-illegal immigration agencies through the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

During a meeting attended by the head of the European Union mission in Libya and representatives from the Libyan government, they emphasized their plans to address the situation of undocumented migrants in the country by repatriating them to their countries of origin. The European Union expressed its support for Libya in its efforts to promote peace and stability while committing to human rights principles and urging international compliance and cooperation with human rights organizations.

The European Union declared its readiness to provide concrete measures to support transitional justice and end conflicts in Libya by building trust in state institutions and addressing human rights violations.

In a related context, the Libyan Minister of Interior, Emad Trabelsi, recently announced that Libya and Tunisia have reached comprehensive and permanent solutions to issues affecting their joint border crossings. He confirmed that Ras Ajdir has now come fully under the control of the state, and ongoing efforts are directed at equipping the port with the necessary operational and technical capabilities. The minister praised the success of the administration in securing the ports of Misrata, Tripoli, and Mitiga Airport, emphasizing the ministry's commitment to professionalism and avoiding tribal influence in its decisions.

The Libyan minister pointed out the extensive smuggling activities occurring across the Libyan-Tunisian border, including the smuggling of people, fuel, money, and drugs. Through mutual cooperation between Libya and Tunisia, they aim to dismantle many smuggling networks. He stressed the need for full cooperation between Tunisian gendarmerie forces and Libyan security authorities in efforts to establish surveillance towers along the border. He noted a decrease in the number of suspects listed at the Ras Ajdir crossing from 2000 to 350, emphasizing ongoing efforts to further reduce this number, except for those proven to be involved in criminal activities.



THE TUNISIAN NATIONAL GUARD HAS ANNOUNCED THE INTERCEPTION OF 70,000 MIGRANTS DURING THE YEAR 2023

The Tunisian National Guard has intercepted 70,000 irregular migrants during the year 2023, which is more than double the number intercepted during 2022 while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

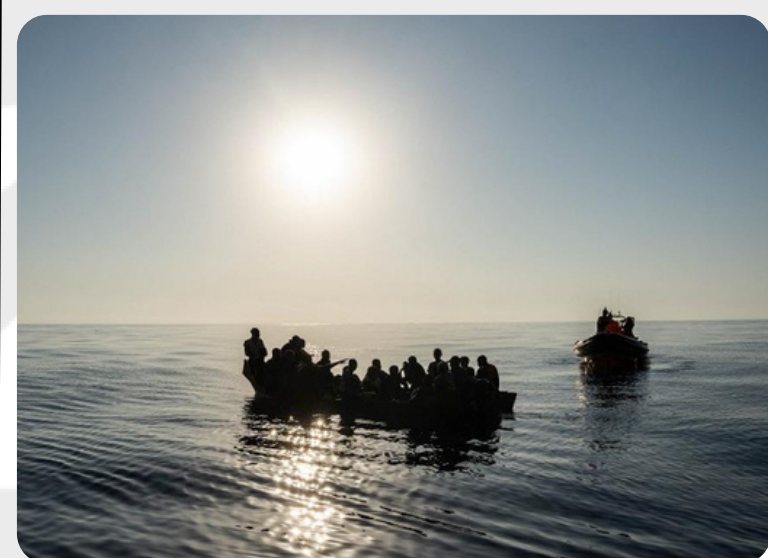
Tunisia and Libya are significant departure points to Italy for migrants seeking to reach Europe.

The Tunisian National Guard announced that the number of intercepted illegal migration attempts reached 69,963 individuals between January and November 2023, compared to 31,297 migrants in 2022. Among them were 54,224 citizens from sub-Saharan Africa and 15,739 Tunisians.

The National Guard reported that 82% of the interceptions of boats engaged in illegal migration occurred on the coast near the city of Sfax, approximately 150 kilometers away from the Italian island of Lampedusa.

The Tunisian government deported thousands of migrants from countries such as Ivory Coast and Guinea to their homelands after a Tunisian was killed by another migrant. UN organizations documented the expulsion of 5,500 migrants towards the Libyan border and 3,000 migrants towards the Algerian border, with more than 100 migrants losing their lives in the Tunisian-Libyan desert during the summer season.

SECURITY AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED 2,000 MIGRANTS ON LAND AND 305 MIGRANTS AT SEA IN A WEEK



Tunisian security authorities have announced the arrest of more than 2,300 individuals in a security campaign against illegal migration. Additionally, they rescued 45 people and recovered the body of a migrant following the sinking of a boat carrying them.

The authorities reported the apprehension of two thousand people attempting to cross the land borders and 305 others caught at sea between the 3rd and 9th of this month. Security forces also arrested 39 individuals involved in human trafficking, confiscated 9 makeshift boats prepared for illegal migration operations.

The Tunisian National Guard had previously detained 1,600 human traffickers, and this year has witnessed a significant influx of migrants, primarily from sub-Saharan African countries, heading to Italian islands departing from the Tunisian coasts.



The Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls for international cooperation to combat illegal migration

The Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nabil Ammar, called for greater international cooperation in the fight against illegal migration as pressure increases on Tunisia to curb waves of migration departing from its shores.

In a meeting with the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, António Vitorino, in Geneva, Ammar called for increased solidarity in combating illegal migration, considering it a shared responsibility that no single country can bear alone.

Tunisia faces European pressure to curb intense migration flows from its coasts to nearby Italian islands and, subsequently, to European Union countries. Tens of thousands are present on Tunisian soil, awaiting the opportunity to cross the Mediterranean with the assistance of human traffickers. Tragic incidents of boat sinkings with overcrowded migrants have been witnessed in 2023.

The Foreign Minister stated that Tunisian authorities are committed to protecting all migrants on their territory and respecting their rights.



THE MINISTER OF MIGRATION REVIEWS THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE "REGIONAL MIGRATION CENTER" FOR THE REHABILITATION OF YOUTH

Ambassador Saha Genidi, Minister of State for Migration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, discussed a proposal for a centralized mechanism to train and rehabilitate various cadres for work abroad, under the name "Regional Migration Center," during her meeting with Dr. Mustafa Madbouly, the Prime Minister.

The minister explained that the "Regional Migration Center" would be responsible for training and rehabilitating young people to enter the foreign job market through coordination with officials abroad. She also highlighted collaboration in this regard with authorities in Germany, Italy, and others.

In this context, the Prime Minister directed the quick convening of a meeting with the relevant ministries to discuss this proposal, which contributes to exporting Egyptian labor through a clear mechanism, in collaboration with international organizations after their training and qualification.

In a related context, Ambassador Saha Genidi, Minister of State for Migration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, received Tim Watts, the Australian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Migration, Dr. Axel Wabenhorst, the Australian Ambassador to Egypt, and their accompanying delegation. The discussions aimed at enhancing cooperation in various shared files, including providing safe job opportunities for youth and efforts of the Egyptian community in Australia.

Tim Watts, the Australian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, said, "We look forward to greater cooperation in many areas, and that's why we have had several meetings with Egyptian officials and ministers." Watts affirmed that Egypt is one of the politically and popularly influential countries, expressing his country's appreciation for Egypt's distinguished global and political role. He noted that his visit to Egypt today is to express gratitude to the Egyptian government for supporting the repatriation of Australians stranded in Gaza and, before that, in Sudan.



AFTER THE SUPREME COURT REJECTED THE DEPORTATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN BRITAIN TO RWANDA, THERE ARE CONCERNS ABOUT THE REJECTION OF THE RWANDA LAW PROJECT IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT, MAKING IT THE FIRST GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION TO BE REJECTED IN 37 YEARS

The UK Minister for Illegal Immigration stated that rejecting all legal challenges against deportation by individuals reaching the United Kingdom through irregular means would not be "something that the British should do." British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hosted a group of potential rebels against the "Deportation of Illegal Immigrants to Rwanda" agreement for breakfast last Tuesday. Sunak placed the Rwanda law project at the heart of his policy to prevent people from crossing the Channel in small boats, considering it one of the five priorities he outlined at the beginning of the year. The legislation aims to overcome concerns raised by the Supreme Court, which ruled last month that deporting illegal immigrants violates domestic and international law. Opposition voices in Parliament could frustrate the Rwanda law project, something that has not happened to any government legislation since 1986. One Conservative MP who met Sunak at the breakfast meeting stated that he still needs to decide whether to support the law project and requires a second opinion on the "legal technical aspects" from lawyers. Former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick said, "We don't want one or two symbolic flights carrying from five to ten people. We need to see fully loaded planes flying to Rwanda, and then, I hope, there will be other safe countries." Daniel Krouger, the acting chairman of the new Conservative Party, who attended the breakfast Tuesday morning, reiterated that he does not support the current form of the law project. Deputy Conservative Party leader Lee Anderson, who also attended the breakfast, called on the government to "ignore the law" and operate flights to Rwanda. Reflecting the magnitude of concerns about the repercussions of the law project among human rights activists and those working with refugees, more than 90 organizations, including Unison, Liberty, the Islamic Council of Britain, Freedom from Torture, and the Mental Health Center, signed a joint statement describing the law project as unethical and contrary to international law. They said, "This does nothing to properly address the concerns of the court about the Rwandan asylum system and removes the jurisdiction of our local courts to consider this issue. It exploits the role of Parliament." The UK Supreme Court had ruled that the plan was illegal due to the risk of harm to asylum seekers sent to Rwanda to their home countries, where they might face harm. In response, the government signed a new treaty with Rwanda to enhance the asylum process and proposed new British laws declaring Rwanda a safe country. Under the five-year agreement, first announced in April 2022, some asylum seekers arriving in the UK will be sent to Rwanda for processing. Upon arrival, they can be granted refugee status and allowed to stay. If not, they can apply for settlement there for other reasons or seek asylum in another "safe third country." The government stated that "anyone entering the United Kingdom illegally" after January 1, 2022, can be sent there, without restrictions on numbers. However, no actual asylum seekers have been sent yet, and the first flight was supposed to take off in June 2022 but was canceled after legal challenges.

THE RELEASE OF FIVE THOUSAND UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES EVERY DAY



A security official in the American state of Arizona confirmed that 670,000 people had crossed the US border in 2023, and legislators in the state were informed of the release of 5,000 undocumented migrants daily. The United States witnessed the organization of 2.4 million encounters with migrants, including 260,000 encounters in just the past September, with 440,000 encounters estimated for the next year, 2024.

Opponents of the current US President Biden's administration call for measures to secure the borders, especially in the border states with Mexico, such as Arizona, which is affected by illegal border crossings. With the Republican Party's rejection of Biden's immigration policy, the administration prevented aid to Ukraine due to their refusal to vote in favor of providing assistance to Ukraine.

