

THE NEWSCAST

SEVENTY SEPARATING WALLS WERE BUILT OVER 30 YEARS TO PREVENT THE ENTRY OF MIGRANTS.

THE WAR ON MIGRATION HAS BEEN EXPLOITED BY EUROPE TO 'REVITALIZE THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY.'

Reuters published a study by anthropologists specializing in migration issues, Robert Anderson and David Keen, titled "Collective Migration Weapons: How States Exploit the Failure of Migration Policies." The study emphasizes the failure of European countries in addressing the migration crisis.

The study points to the failure of European political initiatives and plans to address the migration crisis, describing it as a "complex crime" where alleged errors and cover-up operations are systematic. It highlights the harmful consequences of the war on smuggling, including the deaths of thousands at borders, the escalation of political brinkmanship, and the professionalization of human trafficking itself. These results are seen not as isolated incidents but as continuous policy failures that need to be examined in terms of both "what went wrong" and "what went right" – and who benefits from the wreckage.

The report elaborates on the complexity of the war on irregular migration, criticizing the "war on everything" approach for its perpetual lack of victory and often disastrous outcomes. It seeks to answer specific questions: Why do politicians continue to declare war on irregular migration, and why do such interventions and disastrous policies persist? What makes them acceptable, and why do we seem to never learn from them?

The study begins in 2010 when anthropologist Robert Anderson initiated research into the reasons for the arrival of 30,000 African migrants on the Spanish Canary Islands. The study reveals that various actors, including academics, organizations, European navies, and some politicians, profit from the misery of migrants. It also discusses the involvement of Senegalese politicians in benefiting from Spanish aid funds for deportation operations and border patrols.

The study highlights the role of the late Libyan Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in raising the issue of irregular migration, threatening that Europe would turn black unless more services were provided to his country. The overthrow of Gaddafi and the subsequent violent conflict led to a series of displacements and migrations, intensifying political brinkmanship.

The report emphasizes that various warlords in Libya, following Gaddafi's legacy, both fight against and profit from migration simultaneously. For example, "Al-Bija," a leader of militias in the Libyan city of Zawiya, runs the smuggling market.

The study also points out how Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan uses the "migration" issue as a winning card, threatening to open the migration floodgates as a tactic to extract promises from the European Union.

Migrants have become a geopolitical tool, turning migration into a "collective weapon" for less powerful countries to exert pressure on stronger counterparts. The study notes the transformation of borders into fortresses against unwanted migration, with over 70 walls built in three decades to keep people away.

In the context of the war on migration and border protection, the "defense industry" in Europe has been revitalized. Technologies such as advanced radars, satellite surveillance, ground sensors, and online monitoring have been developed. Despite the escalating investments in border security, the massive spending on border security goes hand in hand with significant growth in illegal migration.

In summary, the study sheds light on the complexities and failures of migration policies, the exploitation of crises by various actors, and the geopolitical dimensions of the war on irregular migration.

TEXAS GOVERNOR SIGNS LAW ALLOWING STATE AUTHORITIES TO ARREST AND DEPORT MIGRANTS

"The Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, Signs Law Allowing State Police to Arrest and Deport Illegal Immigrants from Mexico, Defying U.S. Policies."

Governor Abbott of Texas has signed a law permitting state police to arrest and deport migrants who enter the United States illegally from Mexico, challenging U.S. policies. Abbott accused President Joe Biden of not doing enough to stop illegal immigration, stating that deliberate inaction had led to the unlawful entry of eight million people into the country since Biden took office in January 2021.

Abbott defends the new law as constitutional, claiming that Texas is left to "defend itself." The law makes illegal entry from a foreign country into Texas a criminal offense, punishable by up to 20 years in prison. It provides a mechanism for authorities to order an undocumented immigrant to return to the foreign country of entry. The law allows any executive officer in Texas to arrest individuals suspected of entering the country illegally. Once detained, they can either agree to an order issued by a Texas judge to leave the United States or face trial on charges related to illegal entry. Those who do not comply with the arrest order may face more serious criminal charges.

The expected law, set to take effect in March, is likely to face legal challenges from the Biden administration and civil liberties groups. It represents the latest point of contention between the Republican governor and federal authorities.

Civil society experts anticipate a potential legal conflict with the federal government, which generally establishes and enforces immigration laws. Opponents argue that the law may lead to unlawful arrests of American citizens and legally present immigrants in the country, aside from entrenching racial profiling. They believe it will make victims of migrant crimes fear contacting the police.

Opponents of the law view it as the most dramatic attempt by a state to control immigration since Arizona's law in 2010, largely nullified by the U.S. Supreme Court. The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit seeking the removal of a floating barrier erected by Texas authorities in the Rio Grande River to prevent migrants from crossing from Mexico. Thirty former U.S. immigration judges, who served under Republican and Democratic administrations, recently condemned the action as unconstitutional.

The Mexican government criticized the Texas government's actions, warning that the law would lead to family separations and racial profiling. Texas had previously started agreements with private landowners along its border with Mexico, allowing the arrest of migrants who crossed their properties on charges of trespassing rather than "illegal immigration." Governor Abbott's law is one of three recently signed initiatives aimed at funding his ongoing efforts to deter illegal immigration across the Texas-Mexico border for the past three years.



ROME AND LONDON AGREE TO FUND A PROJECT TO REPATRIATE MIGRANTS IN TUNISIA TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES



Britain and Italy have jointly announced their collaboration in funding the return journey for migrants stranded in Tunisia, according to statements from both countries. However, they did not specify the amount of funds to be provided. The prime ministers of both nations pledged to halt the flow of migrant boats on their shores.

The prime ministers of the UK and Italy, Rishi Sunak and Giorgia Meloni, along with Albania's Edi Rama, met in the Italian capital, Rome. They agreed to intensify efforts to combat human traffickers and committed to participating in funding a project to enhance and support the voluntary return of migrants from Tunisia to their home countries.

Italy's Prime Minister's office stated that they "committed to participating in funding a project to enhance and support the voluntary return of migrants from Tunisia to their home countries," confirming alignment with existing UN projects. Meloni emphasized that efforts to combat irregular migration are a battle against human traffickers.

UK's Prime Minister stated, "If we don't address this issue, the numbers will increase. Our countries and our ability to help those who really need our help will be genuinely undermined." Sunak praised the approach of Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in tackling irregular migration, likening her to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, stating that a degree of the "iron lady" approach is needed to address irregular migration.

The Prime Minister of Albania expressed the importance of the agreement between Italy and Albania to open processing centers for migrants in his country.

Both the Italian and British prime ministers have faced strong criticism for their policies, ranging from Sunak's plans to send asylum seekers to Rwanda to Meloni's efforts to limit the activities of charitable rescue ships in the Mediterranean Sea.

Lebanon Rescues 50 Syrian Migrants off Its Coast

The Lebanese army announced the rescue of more than 50 individuals, mostly Syrians, following the sinking of a migrant boat off the northern coast of the country. The Lebanese army stated in a press release that a boat had capsized off the coast of Tripoli, Lebanon, while being used for the illegal smuggling of individuals. The naval forces were able to rescue 51 people, including two Palestinians and 49 Syrians.

Migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees leaving Lebanon by boat seek a better life in Europe, often heading towards the island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean, approximately 200 kilometers away from the Lebanese shores. Lebanon hosts around two million Syrians, according to authorities, with 800,000 registered with the United Nations. However, with the Lebanese economic collapse in 2019, Lebanon has become a departure point for migrants via the sea.



AN INTERNATIONAL REPORT CONDEMNS ARBITRARY DETENTIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN TUNISIA

The International Organization Against Torture denounced arbitrary arrests, forced displacement, and illegal expulsion of undocumented immigrants towards the borders with Libya and Algeria in Tunisia. The report, titled "Paths of Torture," revealed violations of international agreements signed by Tunisia, leading to the displacement of over a thousand individuals to desert areas along the borders with Libya and Algeria. The organization accused Tunisian authorities of daily institutional violence against migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, citing direct testimonies and reports from non-governmental organizations. The report highlighted the increasing human rights violations following a speech by President Kais Saied in February, condemning the arrival of "hordes of undocumented migrants" to Tunisia. It pointed to forced and illegal evacuations, deportation operations, and expulsion processes in Algeria and Libya, resulting in the expulsion of at least 5,500 migrants to Libya and over 3,000 to Algeria, with around a hundred deaths reported on the Tunisian-Libyan border. The organization expressed concern about the inhumane living conditions faced by migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in rural Tunisia, potentially leading to torture and mistreatment. It raised alarms about the Tunisian authorities' inability to protect thousands of migrants, highlighting the harsh living conditions without access to basic services, employment opportunities, and sources of income.



DEMONSTRATIONS IN INDONESIA FOLLOWED THE ARRIVAL OF 1500 ROHINGYA

More than 200 people protested in Indonesia against the continued arrival of Rohingya refugees by boats to this Asian country. Over 1,500 Rohingya, who fled violent attacks in Myanmar and camps in neighboring Bangladesh in search of a better life, arrived on Aceh Island, Indonesia, off the coast of Sumatra last month. The protesters, many of them residents and students, called on the authorities and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to remove all Rohingya refugees from the island of Weh.

Indonesia had appealed to the international community to provide assistance to Rohingya refugees, given the continuous influx of women and children fleeing Myanmar. The latest arrivals included 139 migrants in a week, as Indonesia allows them entry unlike Malaysia. The Indonesian government faces popular rejection of the increasing number of refugees, and President Joko Widodo announced that the government suspects that the increase in human trafficking is the reason behind the rise in the number of Rohingya arrivals.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees urgently called on neighboring countries to "deploy all search and rescue capabilities quickly in response to the two stranded ships reported to carry hundreds of Rohingya at risk of death, drifting in the Andaman Sea," which overlooks the coasts of Myanmar, Indonesia, and Thailand. The commission indicates that over 3,500 Rohingya attempted the perilous journey to Southeast Asian countries in 2022, with about 350 of them losing their lives or going missing last year in an attempt to cross the sea.



THE DEATH OF 61 MIGRANTS OFF THE COAST OF LIBYA



The International Organization for Migration stated that 61 migrants lost their lives in a tragic incident off the coast of Libya, bringing the total number of casualties in irregular migration in the central Mediterranean passage since the beginning of 2023 to 1,700 people. The boat departed from the coastal city of Zuwara, located west of the capital Tripoli, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Tunisian border, carrying approximately 86 people. In its statement, the organization added that the central Mediterranean remains one of the most dangerous migration routes globally, witnessing the sinking of a boat off the Greek coast with nearly 750 irregular migrants on board. The organization also pointed out that the number of migrant deaths worldwide has reached 2,200 since the beginning of this year, with 1,727 deaths or disappearances along the central Mediterranean route. It noted that 22,400 deaths have been recorded on this route since 2014. The organization emphasizes the increase in the number of irregular migrants to Italy from Tunisia and Libya in 2023, reaching 153,000 people. Until December 9, the Libyan coast guard intercepted hundreds of boats carrying more than 15,300 people, returning them to the North African country, which human rights organizations consider "unsafe."

Canada launches a comprehensive program allowing immigrants to obtain permanent residency. And aims to attract 500,000 immigrants by 2025

Currently, the Canadian government is planning a comprehensive program that allows immigrants to apply for permanent residency, settling their status and obtaining Canadian citizenship. The Canadian government aims to attract 500,000 immigrants by 2025, with the goal of increasing economic growth.

According to statements from the Canadian Minister of Immigration, there are between 300,000 to 600,000 people living in Canada without official documents, and many of them are at risk of deportation.

Mark Miller, the Canadian Minister of Immigration, states that the new program will include individuals who entered legally, such as temporary workers or international students, and then stayed after the expiration of their visas. The Canadian Minister of Immigration is expected to present the proposal to the Cabinet in March.

It was announced by the Canadian government that it will stop increasing the number of immigrants as of 2026. Canada aims to target 465,000 new residents this year, 485,000 in 2024, before reaching 500,000 in 2025, a level it aims to maintain in 2026.



ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY, THE MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION PRESENTS A REPORT ON ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MIGRATION

On the occasion of International Migrants Day, the Ministry of State for Immigration and Egyptians Abroad presented a report on its efforts to combat illegal migration. Ambassador Sahar Gendy, the Minister of Immigration, stated that they are keen to review some of the ministry's efforts in confronting illegal migration and caring for Egyptians abroad.

She added, "As we celebrate International Migrants Day, we affirm our continued efforts to serve our compatriots in the governorates, combat illegal migration, and contribute to the political leadership's efforts in nation-building. This is done in cooperation with various ministries and state institutions, ensuring the fulfillment of all requests, needs, and incentives allocated for Egyptians abroad."

The Minister mentioned that migration can be a fundamental pillar in sustainable development, prosperity, and progress if managed properly. The Ministry of Immigration provided approximately 341 awareness courses in 19 governorates, benefiting 8,656 young men and women, along with training 3,334 trainers to raise awareness among youth in governorates that are most prone to illegal migration. Moreover, 257 training courses were offered to young people in various crafts, benefiting over 6,000 youths in 18 governorates.

The Ministry also conducted awareness campaigns for around 2 million people in collaboration with the National Women's Council as part of door-to-door campaigns to confront illegal migration. These campaigns targeted 183 villages known for illegal migration in 11 governorates. Additionally, the Ministry organized 31 public meetings with the participation of about 20,000 people, where representatives from the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency discussed project financing strategies and presented successful youth projects to encourage others to work and strive within the country.

The presidential initiative "Rescue Boats" included 31 medical convoys in 16 governorates, treating 6,291 citizens during these initiatives.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONDEMN THE NEW LEGISLATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING MIGRATION AND AFFIRM: THE SYSTEM IS POORLY PERFORMING, COSTLY, AND HARSH

Non-governmental human rights organizations have condemned the new legislation by the European Union regarding the reform of the migration policy in the bloc in its current form, considering it a tool that undermines human rights. The organizations stated in a joint statement that the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum could exacerbate existing problems in Europe's handling of irregular migration instead of reforming it, according to a group of human rights defenders. Dozens of NGOs concerned with human and migrant rights signed a letter addressed to the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, and the Spanish Presidency expressing their concerns about the new legislation. They argued that it "will reflect the failed approach of the past and exacerbate the failed approach that has been taken in the past." The controversial part of the proposed new legislation is the Crisis Regulation, which defines exceptional rules that would apply only if a member state is under massive migration pressure. In such cases, the legislation allows member states to apply stricter measures, including extending the detention period for rejected applicants from 12 to 20 weeks. According to human rights and migrant defenders, the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, if adopted in its current form, would lead to "an inefficient, costly, and harsh system that collapses upon implementation and leaves critical issues unaddressed." The NGOs, including Amnesty International, Save the Children, ActionAid International, European Lawyers for Democracy, and other organizations, argue that the new legislation "will normalize arbitrary detention of migrants, including children and families, increase racial profiling, and use 'crisis' measures to enable pushbacks and returns to so-called 'safe third countries,' where individuals face the risk of violence, torture, and arbitrary imprisonment." The organizations accused some EU member states of engaging in illegal pushback operations, as in Greece, and attempting to return individuals to so-called "safe third countries," which are not safe at all, as is the case in Italy. The NGOs emphasized in their statement that the EU's approach to combating irregular migration "betrays the spirit of the current EU work" by focusing on building walls rather than finding solutions for receiving and welcoming migrants. The letter stated, "Instead of directing funding towards more camps, walls, and surveillance, resources should be directed towards providing effective, protection-oriented, and assistance-based solutions, similar to those provided to individuals fleeing Ukraine." The organizations called for strengthening reception and asylum systems, not undermining them, and providing mechanisms for fair responsibility-sharing among European countries. They warned that the final decision on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum should be a political decision, but it must not compromise human rights. The NGOs wrote, "When they are undermined, there are consequences for all of us."

CAIRO CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCES 5 DEFENDANTS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING



The Criminal Court in Cairo, located in the Fifth Settlement, sentenced 5 defendants, including 3 employees from a government entity, to imprisonment ranging from 7 to 10 years. The accused employees were also fined 200,000 Egyptian pounds each. They were charged with human trafficking and forging official documents. The case dates back to the period between September 2018 and April 2022. During this time, an employee of a government entity established a organized criminal group, managing it with the intention of committing the crime of trafficking immigrants, according to the Criminal Court. The criminal group included public employees who collaborated in forging official documents, specifically "a job status statement in a government entity," to facilitate the travel procedures of illegal immigrants. The prosecution stated that the accused, who were public employees, conspired and assisted a public employee with malicious intent, working in the Passport Department, in forging official documents, making the process easier for the travel of illegal immigrants.

