

THE NEWSCAST

THE NATIONAL ANTI-MIGRATION AUTHORITY TRAINS JUDGES ON THE USE OF THE DIGITAL GUIDE

The National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking organized a training workshop for chief judges of appellate courts titled 'The Use of the Digital Guide in the Crimes of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.' The workshop was held in collaboration with the National Center for Judicial Studies in Cairo.

The workshop is part of the implementation of the project 'Enhancing Migration Governance through Institutional Support,' in line with the national strategy to combat and prevent illegal migration.

The training workshop covered topics related to the national legal frameworks for combating the crimes of migrant smuggling and human trafficking. It provided a comprehensive definition of the digital guide in national legislations, highlighted the admissibility of the digital guide in criminal courts, and discussed the challenges of relying on the digital guide in cases of migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Practical applications were presented to illustrate the importance of using the digital guide in these crimes, emphasizing the connection between cybercrimes and organized crimes on a national level.



LIBYA IS DEPORTING 78 EGYPTIAN MIGRANTS, INCLUDING THOSE INFECTED WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Libyan authorities transferred 78 Egyptians to the Emssaid land border crossing in preparation for their repatriation to Egypt. This was part of a series of deportations due to migrants being infected with contagious diseases such as AIDS and viral hepatitis.

The Anti-Illegal Immigration Department in Benghazi announced the relocation of approximately 78 illegal Egyptian migrants from the "Qanfouda" shelter and deportation center to the Emssaid land border crossing, in preparation for their deportation to their homeland. The department added that among them were two individuals confirmed to be infected with infectious diseases such as AIDS and viral hepatitis.

Additionally, authorities announced the deportation of 27 illegal migrants who entered Libyan territory through illegal means, including 14 Egyptians. They were deported through the Emssaid land border crossing, along with 13 Sudanese and Chadian migrants who were handed over to the Qanfouda shelter for deportation to their respective countries.

Libyan authorities revealed that the Anti-Illegal Immigration Branch in Al Wahat deported 87 individuals infected with hepatitis and AIDS, including 17 Sudanese, 62 Chadians, 2 Bangladeshis, and 4 Ethiopians.

The Libyan Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency in Tripoli disclosed at that time that authorities had decided to deport 600 Egyptian migrants to their country through the Emssaid border crossing. In July of the previous year, Libyan authorities thwarted hundreds of illegal migrants attempting to travel to Italy via the Libyan coast, including 25 Egyptian children aged between 11 and 17 years.

Authorities reported that hundreds of migrants were detained in a shelter in the city of Tobruk before their journey to Italy, with 25 of them being children, mostly from a village in the northern Egyptian governorate of Al-Sharqiya.



GERMANY RECORDS 351.9 THOUSAND ASYLUM APPLICATIONS IN 2023, WITH SYRIANS BEING THE MOST NUMEROUS APPLICANTS



The German government has announced an increase in the number of asylum applications in 2023 compared to 2022, placing pressure on the government to fulfill its promises to curb illegal migration. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Germany reported 351,915 asylum applications in Germany in 2023, an increase of 51% from 2022. The center-left coalition government in Germany has maintained a firm stance on migration, even as its popularity wanes in opinion polls behind right-wing parties. The top nationalities applying for asylum were Syria (104,651), followed by Turkey (62,624), Afghanistan (53,582), Iraq (12,360), Iran (10,206), Georgia (9,399), and Russia (9,028).

The office stated that protection status was granted in 52% of cases for which decisions were made.

The Ministry of Migration combats 'Illegal Immigration' through informative videos



The Ministry of State for Migration and Egyptians Abroad has released an awareness video as part of a comprehensive campaign to combat the phenomenon of illegal migration. The video was shared on the ministry's official social media pages.

This initiative is part of the presidential project 'Lifeboats' aimed at reducing the occurrence of illegal migration. It also focuses on empowering and supporting creative youth. The video includes a series of messages about the risks of illegal migration, featuring the participation of the artists Aarfa Abdel Rasoul and Amir Salah El-Din.

The video project was produced by six students from the Faculty of Media at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport (Smart Village branch). The students involved are Salma Mustafa Salem Ahmed Salem, Salma Mohamed Hassan Abdel Gawad, Jana Mohamed Sami Mohamed Hekal, Dalia Ashraf Mohamed Abdel Wahab, Rana Hassan Ibrahim Ahmed Mohamed, and Mayar Mohamed Mustafa Abdel Gawad. The 'Lifeboats' initiative was launched in 2019 for societal awareness about the risks of illegal migration and safe migration alternatives. It provides positive alternatives through training, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship for youth in provinces where the phenomenon of illegal migration is prevalent, totaling 14 provinces.

Ambassador Sahar Gendy, the Minister of Migration, expressed her satisfaction with the creative ideas of the young women who chose one of the most challenging issues faced by many countries worldwide. They executed a campaign through TV and radio announcements, praising the messages conveyed in the advertisements and their efforts to ensure simplicity in reaching the audience.

CALIFORNIA BEGINS INCLUDING UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN THE 'MEDI-CAL' HEALTHCARE PROJECT

The healthcare coverage law for undocumented immigrants went into effect in January of this year in the state of California, making it the first state to implement the 'Medi-Cal' program. The program aims to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage funded by taxpayer dollars to all low-income undocumented individuals, regardless of age.

In 2015, then-Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill making undocumented individuals under the age of 18 eligible for the 'Medi-Cal' program. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill expanding healthcare coverage for immigrants up to the age of 25. In 2021, undocumented immigrants over the age of 50 became eligible for the program.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, eligibility for healthcare coverage was further expanded, and the project has been implemented since January 2024, despite a budget deficit of up to \$68 billion.

According to the latest cost study, undocumented immigrants contribute \$30.9 billion in taxes in California. However, the governor of California continues to welcome immigrants, stating that addressing the deficit involves tapping into the state's rainy-day fund. He has also suggested cutting housing and climate support programs in favor of healthcare coverage for immigrants.



U.S. BILL TO PREVENT PROVIDING HEALTHCARE TO IMMIGRANTS FROM TAXPAYER FUNDS

As part of the ongoing American rejection of immigrants, U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy has introduced a legal bill aimed at stopping the use of federal tax funds to support healthcare for undocumented immigrants.

Cassidy, a Republican senator from the state of Louisiana, stated that liberal states like California should not force American citizens to support state programs that provide benefits to undocumented immigrants. He emphasized that providing healthcare to them acts as an attraction for more immigrants.

Cassidy called for greater healthcare for Americans, stating that attempting to provide healthcare for everyone cannot be sustained. He urged states that provide healthcare to undocumented immigrants to spend on them from their own budgets, without relying on federal tax funds collected from residents of all states.

He mentioned that the state of California, where 700,000 undocumented immigrants reside, receives \$3.1 billion in healthcare coverage, while California is committed to providing healthcare to immigrants.

The bill presented by Cassidy, titled the 'Protection Act,' is supported by several members of Congress, including Marsha Blackburn, John Barrasso, and Roger Wicker.

The law ensures that the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services prepares a report on states funding healthcare for undocumented immigrants and the methods of financing state programs that provide health benefits to non-citizens ineligible for medical assistance due to their immigration status.

The U.S. Border Patrol had indicated an increase in the number of immigrants, with estimates reaching up to 300,000 in 2023, costing the country \$451 billion.

INDIA ARRESTS A CRIMINAL GANG INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING MIGRANTS TO EUROPE



Delhi Police in India have arrested 9 individuals, including 4 Bangladeshi nationals, on charges of organizing an international network for illegal migration to Europe through the forgery of documents and identity papers.

Investigations have confirmed that the suspects utilized the notorious 'donkey route,' involving the purchase of fake work permits. Migrants paid up to a thousand rupees for these permits. The police commissioner stated that the criminal gang comprises young individuals starting from the age of twenty. Among those apprehended were Mohammed Anwar Kazi (22 years old), Mohammed Khalilur Rahman (22 years old), Ali Akbar, Mohammed Ibrahim, Mohammed Muddathir Khan, Barindra Arya, Diraj Bishnoi, Gaurav Golaithi, and Mohammed Yunus.



Migrant calls cost America \$180,000 daily

The Subcommittee on the Judiciary in the U.S. House of Representatives announced that immigration at the southern border has broken records, costing the states billions of dollars.

Participants in the hearing stated that 10% of the 9,000 calls received by the firefighting administration in Eagle Pass were related to migrants. These calls cost the administration between \$150,000 to \$180,000 in additional expenses daily, covering additional costs for personnel and new ambulances dedicated to the border. Firefighters respond to medical emergencies and drowning incidents in the Rio Grande.

Manuel Mireles, the chief of the Eagle Pass Fire Department, stated, 'We are overwhelmed with emergency medical service calls and refugee recovery operations, involving individuals aged from two months to 15 years.'

In a related context, the Mayor of New York City revealed that the city spent \$1.5 billion in 2023 on providing food, shelter, and other services to asylum seekers. Additionally, 3,500 students from James Madison High School in Brooklyn were transferred to remote learning to use the school building as a shelter for migrants. It is expected that spending rates will reach \$12 billion from 2023 to 2025. Despite the anti-immigrant sentiment in America, immigrants contribute \$7 billion annually in sales and indirect taxes, along with \$3.6 billion in property taxes and \$1.1 billion in income tax.

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal from Washington emphasizes that immigrants do not harm the economy. She argues that outdated laws requiring the detention of asylum seekers and arbitrary waiting periods are problematic. With work permits, refugees can support themselves.

The federal government announced the apprehension of 2.5 million immigrants crossing illegally. In September alone, 270,000 migrants were apprehended during their entry into the United States.



THE EUROPEAN UNION APPROVES THE NEW MIGRATION PACT. THE PARLIAMENTARY STATE MINISTER FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION WARNS AGAINST THE AUTOMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BASED ON 'QUOTAS' AND EMPHASIZES THAT COUNTRIES UNWILLING TO RECEIVE THEM MUST PAY 20,000 EUROS FOR EACH MIGRANT

The European Union has approved the new migration pact, according to Benes Ritevari, the Parliamentary State Minister at the Ministry of Interior. While some European countries experienced violence related to illegal migration on New Year's Eve, the migration agreement was passed in Brussels in the final days of the year.

The Parliamentary State Minister warned that the automatic distribution of illegal migrants based on quotas acts as a "magnet for migrants." He stated that countries unwilling to receive them must pay 8 million Hungarian forints (20,000 euros) for each migrant. In a crisis situation, a second allocation will be provided, and accepting migrants will become mandatory.

Riots occurred on New Year's Eve in Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium, where migrants set fire to cars and attacked police officers. The Minister highlighted aggressive incidents on the Hungarian border, with 18 attacks on border guards and 125 attacks on their vehicles in 2023, along with 44 cases of damaging border barriers.

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, reported the entry of 355,300 people into Europe in 2023, a 17% increase from 2022, and 80% of deportation attempts failed.

It's worth mentioning that in 2023, the reimposition of internal border controls in the Schengen Area affected Europe's economy. Serbia implemented strong security measures, easing pressure on the Hungarian and Romanian borders but prompting migrants to attempt entry into Croatia and Romania.

The number of intercepted illegal migrants in Hungary reached 173,298, with 1,000 human traffickers arrested. The majority of migrants were Syrians, Afghans, Turks, Indians, and Pakistanis, while traffickers were primarily Romanians, Ukrainians, Serbs, and Moldovans.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) ANNOUNCES THE DEATH OF 3,711 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS IN 2023. A SPANISH ORGANIZATION CONFIRMS THE DEATH OF 6,618 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS ON ITS COASTS

The International Organization for Migration has announced the death of 3,711 irregular migrants and the arrival of 268,000 irregular migrants in the European Union in 2023. Italy received 55% of the arrivals, totaling 157,652 migrants, followed by Spain with 56,852 (19.8%), then Greece with 46,635 (16%), and Bulgaria with 18,008 (6.3%).

Regarding the nationalities of irregular migrants, the organization mentioned that the largest numbers come from Syrians (30,075), Guineans (20,036), Ivorians (17,281), Tunisians (15,601), Afghans (14,524), and Moroccans (13,733), while 29,506 individuals could not be identified.

The International Organization for Migration recorded a total of 3,711 deaths among migrants who died while attempting to reach another EU country illegally.

At the same time, the Spanish non-governmental organization, Caminando Fronteras, reported that the number of deaths reached 6,618, with 6,007 deaths occurring off the coasts of the Canary Islands, including 363 women and 384 boys and girls. Additionally, 84 boats disappeared with all persons on board.

The Spanish Ministry of Migration indicates an increase in the flow of irregular migrants, reaching 56,852 migrants, an 82.1% increase in 2023 compared to 31,219 irregular arrivals in 2022. This increase is attributed to the record number of irregular arrivals to the Canary Islands, with 39,910 migrants, a 154.5% increase from 15,682 in 2022. For the Canary Islands alone, 15,435 migrants arrived in 2023, a 19.1% increase from 2022 when 12,995 irregular migrants arrived.



CYPRUS CALLS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION TO CLASSIFY SYRIA AS A "SAFE COUNTRY" SO THAT IT CAN REPATRIATE ITS MIGRANTS TO IT



The Minister of Interior of Cyprus, Constantinos Yiannou, urged the European Union authorities to classify Syria as a "safe country," making it difficult for Syrians to obtain international protection. The Interior Minister emphasized that Cyprus is facing a large influx of irregular migrants, and if Syria is reclassified as a safe country, Cyprus would be able to repatriate migrants to Syria again. The Cypriot Minister of Interior believes that this classification would put an end to irregular migration and allow the country to provide a haven for those in need of protection.

10,000 Germans reject the "Deportation of Migrants" plan

10,000 German citizens protested against a collective deportation plan proposed by the far-right "Alternative for Germany" party. The demonstration took place in the outskirts of Berlin and included participation from Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the Social Democratic Party and the Green Party-affiliated Foreign Minister. They marched through the streets of Potsdam in the suburbs of the German capital, where thousands gathered at Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, according to the police. Similar marches were organized in other German cities.

The protest was organized following revelations from the Correctiv investigative website that officials from the Alternative for Germany party participated in a meeting with Martin Sellner, a leader in the far-right Austrian Identitarian movement. The meeting aimed to activate a plan for the mass deportation of migrants and asylum seekers from Germany.



THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR OF TUNISIA DENIES DEPORTING MIGRANTS TO THE LIBYAN BORDER AND CONFIRMS THE PRESENCE OF 80,000 MIGRANTS ON ITS TERRITORY

The Tunisian Minister of Interior, Kamal Elfakhfakh, denied the existence of deportation actions for migrants from sub-Saharan African countries to the Tunisian-Libyan border by the authorities. Tunisia is facing strong criticism from human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, regarding the deportation of migrants to remote desert areas on the Libyan border.

The International Organization for Migration and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees called on the Tunisian authorities to carry out urgent rescue operations for deported migrants on the border. The Tunisian Minister of Interior refuted the accusations of international organizations, affirming that they lack accuracy and amount to misinformation. He stated that the Tunisian state is committed to human rights principles and that dealing with this issue is in accordance with Tunisian law and international treaties.

The Minister of Interior pointed out that 80,000 migrants from sub-Saharan African countries are living in Tunisia, with around 17,000 in the city of Sfax. Additionally, 15,000 migrants were rescued at sea during the first half of 2023, with the Coast Guard recovering over 900 bodies. The Tunisian National Guard recently reported retrieving 4 bodies of drowned migrants and intercepting 176 migrants attempting to cross to Italy.



TUNISIA: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF CRACKDOWN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST MIGRANTS

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights accused the government of conducting a crackdown campaign against migrants at the expense of humanitarian concerns, "to appease European pressure and ensure a continuous flow of financial and logistical support."

The non-governmental organization stated that migrants in Sfax, located 188 kilometers from the Italian island of Lampedusa, are regularly subjected to arbitrary arrests and violence. Many of them had their properties destroyed, and this treatment was not limited to migrants entering Tunisia without permits but extended to refugees, students, and workers.

The organization affirmed that deportation operations of migrants to the desert occurred without considering weather conditions, the war atmosphere in Libya, and the conditions of detention centers managed by armed groups.

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights urged the government to put an end to deportation operations, provide a safe haven for migrants, and update laws to allow those without documents to obtain some form of legal status.

In 2023, 97,000 migrants crossed from Tunisia to Italy, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Tunisian authorities receive financial assistance from Europe to support border police. An agreement was reached, allocating one billion euros to Tunisia, with 105 million euros earmarked for migration.



THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT IS DISCUSSING THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION



The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Migration in Tunisia held a meeting involving representatives from various ministries and national structures responsible for migration to discuss the mechanism for strengthening the national action plan in the field of migration and Tunisians abroad.

There was an agreement to enhance cooperation among state entities in the field of migration with the aim of countering misconceptions about Tunisia. It was also agreed to strengthen coordination through regular meetings between the involved parties under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, the importance of continuing efforts to activate the national migration strategy was emphasized.

Participants stressed the need to address the root causes of this phenomenon and not reduce it to the security dimension, avoiding considering Tunisia merely as a transit platform or a resettlement destination.

Greece rescues 117 asylum seekers



The Greek coast guard rescued 117 asylum seekers who arrived from Libya, in addition to arresting 3 of them suspected of being smugglers, who arrived aboard a 10-meter-long boat. The coast guard stated that among the asylum seekers were 84 men, 2 women, and 31 minors, departing from the Libyan city of Tobruk heading to Italy. Greece received 45,000 asylum seekers in 2023, with the majority arriving from the Turkish coast. Greece is facing 40 lawsuits from migrants who survived a shipwreck off its coast, accusing it of failing to take rescue measures.