

THE NEWSCAST

"THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL" WELCOMES TRAINEES OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM, AND THE ORGANIZATION'S PRESIDENT NOTES THAT THE MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS ARE WOMEN

The Independent Organization International has commenced the second phase of its workshop program, which marks the first initiative dedicated to combating irregular migration through economic empowerment of informal labor. The foundation welcomed two groups of new participants on Wednesday and Thursday to familiarize them with the program, training journey, organization activities, and key focal points. The training will include entrepreneurship and essential crafts, with sessions scheduled for the second phase of the program that began in January 2024.

The workshop program encompasses training in entrepreneurship, handicrafts, and professional exercises, in addition to various post-training services for all trainees, such as marketing, product photography, exhibition support, legal consultations, all provided free of charge.

Basma Fouad, the founder and president of the board of trustees of The Independent International Foundation, stated that the second phase will introduce new handicrafts and target several governorates in Upper Egypt. Additionally, a number of Sudanese women will join the program. She added that the majority of participants are women who aspire to learn new crafts and start their own projects that meet their life's needs and requirements.



BRITAIN EXPECTS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS IN 2024, WITH THE ARRIVAL OF 30,000 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS IN 2023. OUT OF THESE, 24,000 MIGRANTS HAVE BEEN DEPORTED

Lucy Moreton, a representative of the British Border Force Union, anticipated an increase in the number of migrants arriving in Britain via small boats in 2024. She affirmed that the decrease in the numbers of regular migrants crossing the English Channel was due to adverse weather conditions. The last boat to reach Britain was on December 16th, carrying 55 people from France.

Moreton pointed out that the total arrivals in Britain in 2023 reached 30,000 cases, a decrease of more than a third compared to 2022, where the number was 45,774 migrants according to government data. The British Home Office announced the deportation of 24,000 irregular migrants in 2023, including 5,500 Albanians.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak declared "stopping the boats" as one of his top five priorities and is currently working on reviving a plan, previously hindered by the judiciary, to send illegal migrants to Britain to Rwanda.

Britain currently spends over three billion pounds annually on dealing with asylum applications, and the cost of accommodating migrants awaiting decisions in hotels and other accommodations is around eight million pounds daily.

The accumulated asylum applications awaiting decisions have reached an unprecedented level, with 134,000 applicants in 2023, the highest number in nearly 20 years. The government reported resolving 92,000 accumulated asylum cases by the end of 2023 and is currently working on 112,000 cases in 2023, with a grant rate of 67%, lower than the 2022 level of 76%.

The UK Home Office revealed that Afghanistan is the top country sending irregular migrants to the UK in 2023, accounting for 20% of arrivals, followed by Iranians (12%), Turks (11%), Eritreans (9%), and Iraqis (9%). The number of irregular Albanian migrants, who were the highest in 2022 with 12,658 migrants, decreased by more than 90%.

The UK plans to deport illegally arrived migrants to Rwanda, a proposal initially banned by the Supreme Court but later reached a new agreement with Rwanda.

In 2022, the number of migrants in Britain reached its highest, with 745,000 people, and London pledged to reduce this number by 300,000 in the coming years.



SPAIN ANNOUNCES THE DEATH OF 3 MIGRANTS AND THE RESCUE OF 15 OTHERS OFF THE CANARY ISLANDS



The Spanish Emergency Services announced the discovery of 3 migrants who had lost their lives off the Canary Islands, while 15 others were rescued. The survivors, found on a boat approximately 314 kilometers south of El Hierro Island, were transported for medical treatment. Some of them were suffering from hunger and low body temperature. They were airlifted to El Hierro by helicopter.

The Spanish archipelago is facing its worst migration crisis this year since 2006. Since November 15th, 32,436 migrants have arrived at the Canary Islands, marking an increase of 118% compared to the same period last year, according to the Spanish Ministry of the Interior.

Tunisia... Thwarting 13 illegal migration attempts



The Tunisian National Guard announced the thwarting of 13 illegal migration attempts across maritime borders and the rescue of 188 illegal migrants. The National Guard's region in Sfax reported the apprehension of 5 individuals involved in organizing illegal migration operations and acting as intermediaries. Additionally, 10 iron boats and 8 marine engines were seized. Furthermore, an illegal migration attempt across maritime borders was foiled, rescuing 13 migrants, including a foreign girl.

THE MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES INTERCEPT THE ROUTE OF 1000 MIGRANTS

The Moroccan authorities intercepted the journeys of 1000 migrants who were on their way to migrate to Spain through the only land borders of the European Union in Africa. Border control units reported the expulsion of over a thousand individuals en route to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, including nationals from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Ceuta and Melilla are Spanish enclaves located on the northern coast of Morocco, serving as the only land borders of the European Union in Africa. They regularly face attempts by migrants, with the migration route to the Canary Islands being another gateway to Europe in the Atlantic Ocean, especially from the Moroccan coast and the disputed Western Sahara region.

In a related context, a frigate belonging to the Royal Navy intervened 118 kilometers from the military port of Dakhla to rescue a boat heading to the Canary Islands. Onboard were 67 candidates for illegal migration originating from sub-Saharan African countries, including a woman and four minors.

Additionally, the court renewed the detention of a suspect accused of laundering 20 million pounds, the proceeds of fraud, for 15 days on charges of participating with others in criminal activities related to illegal migration. The suspect accumulated funds through criminal activities, attempted to launder the money by establishing businesses and purchasing cars, and deposited some of the funds in his and his family's bank accounts to conceal the illicit source. The total embezzled amount reached approximately 20 million pounds.

Moroccan authorities also announced the arrest of 10 individuals on charges of belonging to a criminal network operating scams on those aspiring to engage in illegal migration in the city of Tangier. The arrested individuals, aged between 17 and 33 years, are suspected of being linked to a criminal network engaged in fraud, deceit, abduction, and robbery using violence against those seeking illegal migration.



DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY: WHAT IS HAPPENING IN GAZA CANNOT BE IGNORED, AND AFRICA WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE FORCED DISPLACEMENT TAKING PLACE THERE

Dr. Namera Najm, the Director of the African Migration Observatory, stated that Africa will be significantly affected by the current events in Gaza, and the forced displacement happening there cannot be ignored.

She added that there are 1.9 million internally displaced Palestinians in Gaza within Africa, and they did not move willingly from their places of residence. However, conflict forces them to fight and relocate.

These remarks were made during her seminar titled "Forced Displacement and Development Challenges in Africa," where she mentioned that forced displacement means there are compelling reasons that led people to flee. She emphasized that there is both internal and international forced displacement alongside voluntary migration.

Dr. Najm continued, saying that in international law, the term used is "irregular migration" rather than "illegal migration" because the international law guarantees the right to movement and migration for everyone.

She stated that the use of the term "illegal migration" negates and violates the fundamental covenants of human rights. Dr. Najm explained that 80% of displaced people in the world are internal, not crossing borders. Wars and conflicts are the primary causes of forced displacement.

Regarding current areas of forced displacement in Africa, she mentioned Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and Burkina Faso. Dr. Najm noted that the entire African coastal region is experiencing internal and cross-border movements between neighboring countries.

Discussing the reasons for displacement, she said that political instability, resource poverty, climate changes, and terrorism are the main causes. The majority of large cities in Africa are surrounded by a circle of internally displaced people living in unqualified areas without services and under dire health conditions. These people migrate from villages to cities seeking livelihoods and employment due to climate change, resulting in floods and unprecedented droughts, making the lands of these displaced people unsuitable for agriculture.

Dr. Najm added that rising sea levels affect fishing habitats, leading to erosion on coasts and land degradation. This means that human lives on land are being consumed as they move from coasts to cities, unqualified for life.

She emphasized that a fundamental part of establishing the African Migration Observatory is monitoring migration-related figures. Currently, all migration-related numbers and statistics come from outside the continent. Eighty percent of movers within the continent move inside Africa, with 60% moving and displacing within their own countries. Those moving outside the continent constitute only 20% of irregular migration worldwide, and they are the ones focused on by the West, particularly in terms of migration from Africa rather than Asia.

Dr. Najm concluded by pointing out that irregular migrants from Asia are more numerous than those from Africa, mainly because Africa has the youngest population globally, and it will remain so for a long time. She highlighted that some countries trade in migration issues within the European Union to obtain money. Italy is one of the major recipient countries for irregular migration, with many irregular migrants working as cheap labor in construction within Italy. When talking about networks of irregular migration and human trafficking present in Libya, those networks are the ones providing opportunities for migrants in Italy, where they find job opportunities in European countries as cheap labor.

THE BRITISH HOME OFFICE CONFIRMS THAT AFGHANS ARE THE NATIONALITY WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CROSSINGS INTO ITS TERRITORY



The UK Home Office revealed that Afghanistan is the country that sent the highest number of irregular migrants to the United Kingdom in 2023. According to the ministry's statement, as of November 29th, 20% of the irregular migrants who arrived on English shores are from Afghanistan, followed by Iranians (12%), Turks (11%), Eritreans (9%), and Iraqis (9%). The number of irregular Albanian migrants, who were the highest in crossing into English territory in 2022 (12,658 migrants), decreased by more than 90%.

Britain plans to deport irregular migrants who arrived in the UK illegally to Rwanda, a project banned by the Supreme Court. However, London has reached a new agreement with Rwanda.

The year 2022 saw the highest number of migrants in the UK, reaching 745,000 people. London pledged to reduce this number by 300,000 in the coming years.

The European Union approves 5 new regulations to deal with 'migration and asylum'



In the context of the current anti-migration policy of the European Union member states, the European Parliament has approved 5 new regulations related to the legal framework of the European Union concerning the handling of asylum and migration issues.

The Parliament, currently chaired by Spain, will discuss the five new regulations. These regulations cover all stages of managing asylum and migration, starting from the examination of illegal immigrants upon their arrival in the Union's countries, collecting biometric data, asylum application procedures and their handling, migration rules, determining the member state responsible for dealing with asylum requests, and cooperation and solidarity among member states. The regulations also address how to deal with crisis situations, including cases of migrant exploitation.

The aim of the new regulations is to make the European asylum system more effective and increase solidarity among member states by enabling them to share the burden, especially for those countries that receive the majority of migrants.

Spanish Minister of the Interior Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez believes that the new regulations will improve the asylum and migration system in the European Union. They provide a mechanism to address migration issues, which is considered the biggest challenge for the Union. He confirms the European Union's commitment to addressing the root causes of migration, working with origin and transit countries, and addressing the scourge of migrant smuggling.



DUE TO ILLEGAL MIGRATION, AN EGYPTIAN WAS ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO LAUNDER HIS EARNINGS FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING. THE PUBLIC FUNDS CRIMES UNIT STATED THAT THE ACCUSED COLLECTED 20 MILLION EGYPTIAN POUNDS FROM HIS UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES

The court has renewed its decision to detain a suspect, accused of laundering 20 million Egyptian pounds, for 15 days on charges of participating with others in criminal activities related to illegal migration. The suspect is alleged to have accumulated financial gains from his unlawful activities.

The Public Funds Crimes Unit and Organized Crime Sector arrested the owner of an advertising agency in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate for engaging with others in criminal activities related to illegal migration and accumulating financial gains from his unlawful activities, attempting to launder those funds.

The court has charged the suspect with engaging in criminal activities by participating with others in the field of illegal migration, accumulating financial gains from his unlawful activities, and attempting to launder those funds through establishing commercial activities, purchasing vehicles, and depositing some of the money in his and his family members' bank accounts, with the intention of concealing the source of the funds and legitimizing them, presenting them as if they were obtained from legitimate entities.



ISRAEL INITIATES ITS PLAN FOR THE FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF PALESTINIANS ISRAEL BEGINS TALKS WITH CONGO AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO RELOCATE GAZA RESIDENTS. THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRMS THAT GAZA IS PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND WILL REMAIN AS SUCH

A media report reveals that Israel has conducted secret talks with Congo and several other countries to accept thousands of migrants from the Gaza Strip. Israel had announced its intention to relocate Gaza residents outside the territory after forcing nearly two million people to leave their homes.

Intelligence Minister Gilad Gamliel stated in the Knesset that "the world should support the humanitarian migration from Gaza because that is the only solution I know." She added, "After the war, Hamas' rule will collapse, there will be no municipal authorities, and civilian populations will rely entirely on humanitarian aid. There will be no employment, and 60% of Gaza's agricultural lands will be turned into security buffer zones."

Gamliel further mentioned that more attacks on Israel would only be a matter of time, saying, "The Gaza problem is not ours alone. The world must support the humanitarian migration (from the sector), as this is the only solution I know."

On the other hand, the right-wing Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, argued that promoting a solution encouraging the migration of Gaza residents is necessary. He deemed it a correct, fair, ethical, and humane solution. He affirmed that the departure of Palestinians from Gaza "will also pave the way for the re-establishment of Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories."

Ben Gvir considered that "encouraging the migration of Gaza residents will allow the resettlement of populations in the border areas and (the bloc of) Gush Katif," the former settlement bloc in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called for the return of Jewish settlers to the Gaza Strip after the war, suggesting that Palestinians in the sector should be encouraged to migrate to other countries.

The United States condemned the statements of the Israeli ministers, with the U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller stating, "The United States rejects the recent statements of the ministers calling for the resettlement of Palestinians outside Gaza," considering these statements "inciteful and irresponsible." Miller emphasized that the U.S. government, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has repeatedly informed them that these statements do not reflect the position of the Israeli government. He reiterated that the United States considers "Gaza as Palestinian territory and will remain as such."

LIBYA ANNOUNCES THE DEPORTATION OF 342 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS TO GUINEA AND GAMBIA



Colonel Mohamed Breda, the assistant head of the Illegal Immigration Combat Agency branch in Tripoli, announced the deportation of 342 irregular migrants to Conakry, Guinea, and Gambia through Mitiga International Airport. Breda stated that 170 migrants left for Gambia, while another 172 were deported to Guinea yesterday.

Breda noted that the process of deporting irregular migrants to their countries continues almost daily. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) had previously announced that it repatriated 136 Bengali migrants from Libya to the capital, Dhaka, Bangladesh, through Benina International Airport in Benghazi last Friday. The organization stated in a press release that the migrants undertook the repatriation voluntarily, with 132 males and four females, including 41 individuals in need of medical care.

