

THE NEWSCAST

ITALY: MIGRANT SUICIDE AND ARREST OF 14 OTHERS IN MIGRANT DETENTION CENTER

The Italian police arrested 14 people on Monday after riots broke out at the "Ponte Galeria" migrant detention center near Rome following the suicide of one of the detained migrants, a 21-year-old Guinean national.

A statement released by the Italian police reported that three police officers were injured in the riots, which occurred when detainees managed to break out and stormed a car park, setting fire to the grass.

Police deployed tear gas in an attempt to regain control of the detention center.

The organization "CILD - Alliance for Freedom and Civil Rights" stated that migrants detained in these centers are deprived of proper healthcare and legal rights. Police unions complained about insufficient security and expressed concerns about more serious consequences in the future.

Irregular migration is one of the challenges currently facing the Italian government. In 2023, 158,000 people arrived in Italy compared to 105,000 in 2022, according to statistics from the Italian Ministry of Interior.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is working on forging new partnerships with Africa to find solutions to the migration crisis. This includes new programs to make Italy a bridge between Europe and Africa by injecting significant investments into African countries to supply Europe with energy.

Meloni had pledged to halt the flow of illegal immigrants in 2016 and vowed to repatriate migrants to their countries. However, the influx of migrants continues, leading her to enter into numerous agreements, including one with Albania to establish a reception center for migrants rescued in Italian waters. This move prompted opposition to file a lawsuit against the agreement, but the Albanian Constitutional Court ruled that the agreement did not jeopardize Albania's territorial integrity.



HEAD OF "HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMBAT": WOMEN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROTECTING AGAINST ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Ambassador Naela Gabr, Chairperson of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, stated that women have an important role in protecting their children from illegal migration and its risks, which can lead to death and drowning.

She made these remarks during a workshop organized by the Dr. Nabil Samuel Forum for Civil Society Organizations, affiliated with the National Council for Women in cooperation with the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, on "Legal and Social Protection for Domestic Workers."

Ambassador Naela Gabr discussed the forms and causes of illegal migration within the framework of immigration law, emphasizing the importance of the role played by the National Council for Women in raising awareness among women and youth about the risks of dropping out of education, child marriage, and trafficking, in addition to its role in combating illegal migration.

Furthermore, Ambassador Naela Gabr provided a detailed explanation of the types of human trafficking, including organ trafficking, child labor, exploitation of homeless children, prostitution, and child marriage. She stressed the importance of reporting any case of human trafficking in all its forms through the hotline of the National Council for Women, the child helpline, or the hotline of the National Council for Human Rights.



LIBYA ANNOUNCES THE DEPORTATION OF 327 ILLEGAL EGYPTIAN MIGRANTS.



The Illegal Immigration Combat Agency in the Libyan city of Benghazi announced the deportation of 327 illegal Egyptian migrants.

An official statement stated that the Illegal Immigration Combat Agency in Benghazi deported 327 illegal migrants of Egyptian nationality, with 287 of them received from the agency's headquarters in Tripoli, and 40 migrants from the Ewah Center and Qanfouda Deportation Center, both affiliated with the branch. They were deported to the Emsaed land border crossing in preparation for their repatriation to their home country. Some of them were infected with contagious diseases such as hepatitis, and they were apprehended during daily raids, in addition to others who were under security restrictions and some who were beggars.

Tunisian National Guard: Recovery of 13 Bodies of Illegal Migrants off the Coast of Mahdia



The Tunisian National Guard announced the recovery of 13 bodies of illegal migrants after their boat sank off the coast of the Mahdia governorate.

The National Guard clarified in a statement that a boat carrying 29 African migrants, who embarked on a clandestine journey, capsized. They added that a coastal fishing boat managed to rescue two individuals, while National Guard units recovered 13 bodies, which were subsequently transferred to the Mahdia University Hospital.

The National Guard indicated that search operations for the missing individuals are still ongoing.

MOROCCAN COAST GUARDS THWARTED AN ATTEMPT OF 79 MIGRANTS FOR IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces responsible for coastal monitoring have thwarted an attempt of 79 African individuals for irregular migration.

A press release issued by the General Command of the Moroccan Armed Forces stated that military personnel intercepted 79 individuals attempting to migrate illegally through maritime routes near the port of Boujdour, Morocco. These individuals hail from sub-Saharan Africa.

Moroccan authorities provided necessary medical assistance before handing them over to the competent Moroccan security authorities to proceed with administrative procedures.

In a related context, a unit affiliated with the Royal Navy intercepted a boat 209 kilometers southwest of Dakhla on Sunday, carrying 59 candidates for irregular migration from sub-Saharan Africa. The boat was en route to the Canary Islands, Spain, having departed from the Senegalese coast on January 30th.

The forces rescued the boat's passengers, transporting them to the port of Dakhla and handing them over to the Royal Gendarmerie services.



TUNISIA ANNOUNCES THE ARREST OF 5,000 MIGRANTS WITHIN A WEEK

The Tunisian border guard announced the arrest of over 5,000 illegal migrants during the first week of January.

In a related context, the Tunisian National Guard announced that within one day, they had apprehended five individuals of various African nationalities who were preparing to illegally cross maritime borders towards Europe.

The National Guard stated in a press release that a joint security patrol succeeded in apprehending five African migrants in the Silyana region who were intending to travel to the Sfax governorate to participate in an illegal migration operation towards Europe. Necessary legal measures were taken against them.

On the same day, the Tunisian National Guard thwarted an attempt to cross maritime borders clandestinely and arrested 13 individuals from sub-Saharan African countries in the Sfax governorate as part of efforts to combat illegal migration. Additionally, security forces raided a house, apprehended two organizers of illegal migration operations, and seized 17 boat engines, a boat, and food supplies.



AFTER 37 TUNISIAN YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WENT MISSING: FAMILIES OF THE MISSING AT SEA ORGANIZE A PROTEST



The families of dozens of Tunisian youths who went missing in the depths of the sea during their attempt last year to reach Europe organized a protest in the city of Sfax, emphasizing the absence of a role by the Tunisian authorities in addressing this issue.

Thirty-seven Tunisians, including children and women, disappeared during their journey from Tunisia to European shores across the Mediterranean Sea, prompting their families to organize a protest coinciding with the "International Day Against Border Regimes and in Solidarity with Families of Missing Persons in Irregular Migration" to remind people of their children's case.

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights accused the European Union's policy in dealing with migration and visa systems, holding the Tunisian authorities responsible for not implementing a serious plan to confront maritime tragedies.

Due to Latin American migrants, the mayor of Kenner, USA, accuses illegal immigrants of forming gangs and committing crimes

Mayor Jeff Landry stated that Kenner city suffers from a criminal problem linked to illegal immigrants and gangs, citing statements from Kenner's police chief. However, Kenner's police chief, Keith Connolly, stated that there are gangs in the city composed of some individuals who entered the country illegally. He affirmed that the majority of migrants do not break the law, saying, "Ninety-five percent of them have intentions - they're working, they're good neighbors to the community - but there's a percentage of them that come here, break the laws, violate our communities, and they're being dealt with." However, he also emphasized that the criminal activity of illegal immigrants is not limited to Kenner alone, and Kenner's police are investigating multiple criminal charges, ranging from weapon possession and firing to property crimes, directed towards illegal immigrants. Connolly said, "It's a challenge for us because we can arrest immigrant gang kids, and they'll be back out the next day." "But with their increasing boldness, we fear it may be a long time before they kill a police officer." These accusations stem from the circulation of videos on social media showing a group of young people whom the police investigated. The investigations confirmed the ownership of weapons by two Latin American illegal immigrants, who were accused of recruiting young people of Latin origin to join their gang. The city's police officers linked videos of armed youths to incidents of gunfire, resulting in a teenager's death, as well as armed robbery incidents, with the illegal immigrant gang. Kenner Police are currently monitoring child recruitment operations into gangs.



THE SHIP "OCEAN VIKING" RESCUES 110 MIGRANTS OFF THE COAST OF LIBYA

The ship "Ocean Viking" rescued 110 migrants, including more than thirty unaccompanied minors, who were facing difficulties off the coast of Libya on Wednesday. The organization SOS Méditerranée has rescued more than 39,000 people in the Mediterranean since 2016. Since the beginning of 2023, 3,041 migrants have been reported missing after attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, according to the International Organization for Migration.

The organization SOS Méditerranée announced that its ship "Ocean Viking" rescued 110 people on Monday night off the coast of Libya on board a rubber boat overloaded beyond its capacity, including more than thirty unaccompanied minors.

According to the organization's statement, "The distressed boat was first reported through the alarm phone (a phone number called by migrants facing difficulties when crossing the Mediterranean Sea). Then, the crew of the 'Ocean Viking' managed to find the overloaded rubber boat (...) with 110 terrified people on board."

Among the individuals rescued during this "complex" operation were 11 women, including two pregnant women, and a one-year-old baby, as well as more than thirty unaccompanied minors, according to the Marseille-based non-governmental organization.

The organization clarified that "most of these individuals are from Ethiopia and Eritrea."

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IRELAND: ASYLUM SEEKER NUMBERS INCREASE TENFOLD IN 2023

The Irish Prime Minister stated that the government is not tightening immigration but rather intensifying efforts to address those who travel to Ireland illegally. Leo Varadkar said they target individuals attempting to "abuse the generosity" of the Irish system. The Irish government announced a tenfold increase in asylum seekers and international protection applicants, with the Prime Minister announcing strict measures against irregular migration. Ireland has witnessed protests inside buildings designated for housing asylum seekers, along with deliberate arson attacks on proposed accommodation places for international protection applicants. The Irish Prime Minister emphasized that discussing migration is challenging, stating, "We need to be better at learning the language and speaking about migration correctly and efficiently," describing Irish migration policy as "fair," welcoming more people all the time. He added that between 2000 and 3000 people apply for international protection every year, but during 2023, this number increased almost tenfold, emphasizing the need for quicker decision-making and granting protection to those who need it, while removing those deemed unacceptable.



LEBANON ANNOUNCES THE THWARTING OF AN ATTEMPT BY 194 SYRIAN MIGRANTS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.



The Lebanese military announced the thwarting of attempts of migration for 194 Syrian migrants during the months of November and December at the end of the year 2023, as they were on their way to the Cypriot shores. Despite the Lebanese government's declaration of efforts to control both land and sea borders, the capabilities of smuggling networks across the sea have increased. The army intercepted 47 Syrians attempting to infiltrate from the coast of Tripoli in November, in addition to 147 Syrians in December.

NEW AMERICAN AGREEMENT TO REGULATE ENTRY OF IRREGULAR IMMIGRANTS ACROSS THE MEXICAN BORDER

The right-wing and Republican parties have reached an agreement allowing immigrants to enter through official crossings and giving them the opportunity to apply for asylum. However, Trump has declared his rejection of the agreement.

Former U.S. President and presidential candidate Donald Trump, along with Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House, announced their rejection of the immigration agreement between the right-wing and Republican parties regarding the entry of 5,000 immigrants daily across the southern border.

Johnson expressed his rejection, considering the agreement with the Governor of Los Angeles as "insanity," stating, "This would be the equivalent of one million additional illegal immigrants to our country every year before we take corrective action."

An agreement was reached between the Republican and right-wing parties on February 4th, allowing for the release of immigrants into America while awaiting their hearings. Immigrants who attempt to cross the borders illegally will be immediately detained, and their asylum requests will be processed while in detention. They will be allowed to work after entering America, but those who fail in their initial asylum interviews at the border will be deported within 15 days.

