

THE NEWSCAST

"IN 2023, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MIGRANT DEATHS OCCURRED, WITH THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE BEING THE MOST PERILOUS."

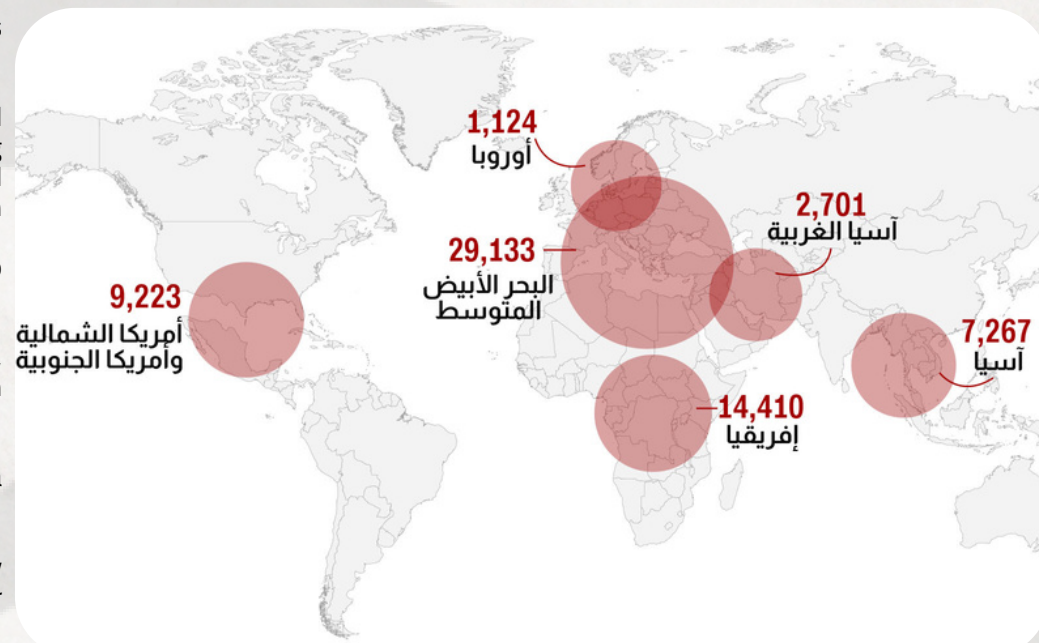
The International Organization for Migration stated that at least 8,565 people died on migration routes worldwide in 2023, making it the deadliest year ever, with a 20% increase compared to 2022.

The report issued by the organization indicates that the total number of migrant deaths and disappearances globally last year surpasses the record figures of 2016 when 8,084 people died during migration, making it the deadliest year since the Missing Migrants Project began in 2014. With safe and orderly migration routes still limited, thousands of people attempt migration every year through irregular routes and unsafe conditions. Slightly over half of the deaths were due to drowning, with 9% due to vehicle accidents and 7% due to violence.

According to the report, crossing the Mediterranean Sea remains the deadliest route for migrants ever, with at least 3,129 deaths and disappearances in 2023. This is the highest annual death toll recorded in the Mediterranean since 2017.

Regionally, unprecedented numbers of migrant deaths were recorded across Africa (1,866) and Asia (2,138) in 2023.

In Africa, most of these deaths occurred in the Sahara Desert and the sea route leading to the Canary Islands. In Asia, hundreds of deaths were recorded among Afghan refugees and Rohingya fleeing their home countries last year.



EGYPT: A GRANT OF 3 MILLION EGYPTIAN POUNDS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN FAYOUM

Bassel Rahmy, the CEO of the Project Development Authority, and Dr. Ahmed Al Ansari, the Governor of Fayoum, signed a work agreement for a project aimed at addressing the root causes of irregular migration, funded by a grant from the European Union amounting to 3 million Egyptian pounds.

Rahmy emphasized that this signing comes within the framework of the authority's plan to participate in various state efforts aimed at providing essential services to the most needy communities, especially in Upper Egypt and border areas. It aims to activate cooperation with various state institutions and donor agencies to implement integrated development programs aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens and enhancing these areas. Additionally, it aims to provide job opportunities to mitigate the real causes of irregular migration.

According to the new contract, the 6th of October School for Basic Education in Hashmet, located in the Atsa Center (Tatoon Village) in Fayoum Governorate, will be renovated and maintained at an estimated cost of about 3 million pounds. This will provide 4600 daily work opportunities for irregular labor in the governorate, benefiting approximately 55 thousand citizens.

Fayoum Governorate, in cooperation with the Project Development Authority and international donor entities, is expected to work on providing the necessary funding for programs addressing the root causes of irregular migration. It will also study the needs of youth in communities where this phenomenon is prevalent and work to meet them in order to reduce their attempts to leave these communities.

Fayoum Governorate has executed 27 contracts for infrastructure development projects in the governorate, with a total funding of 201.3 million pounds used in improving water and sanitation networks, maintaining public buildings, and more, providing about 2.8 million daily job opportunities for irregular labor in these areas.



SPAIN: TWO MIGRANTS DROWNED, AND 38 OTHERS WERE RESCUED.



The Spanish Maritime Rescue Agency announced the death of two individuals while attempting to reach the Spanish Canary Islands aboard a boat carrying 40 migrants, while four others in critical condition were airlifted to a hospital by helicopter.

The survivors' nationalities are from countries in sub-Saharan Africa, totaling 34 individuals, including 27 men and seven women, without providing details about the boat's departure location.

A commercial vessel witnessed the boat sinking on Monday evening and notified authorities on the island of Gran Canaria. Rescue teams dispatched helicopters to evacuate the injured and a ship to tow the boat to the port of Arguineguin in Gran Canaria, located 76 nautical miles (140 kilometers) north. They were received by Red Cross personnel and the police.

Data released by the Spanish Ministry of the Interior shows that the number of migrants boarding boats in an attempt to cross to the Canary Islands has increased more than sixfold so far this year compared to the same period in 2023.

The ministry explained that 11,932 illegal migrants arrived in the archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean from January 1st to February 29th, compared to 1,865 migrants who arrived in the same period in 2023.

The death of a Pakistani and the rescue of 46 other migrants off the coast of Italy.

Increase in irregular migration flows to Italy during the current week.



The Italian Coast Guard announced the rescue of 46 migrants who were on board a boat that departed from Libya off the coast of the island of Lampedusa, while one migrant, a 40-year-old Pakistani, died on the same boat after suffering a heart attack.

Italian police revealed that the journey cost each migrant between 4,000 to 6,000 euros, on a trip that originated from the Libyan city of Zuwara aboard a wooden boat measuring 10 meters in length.

The Ministry of the Interior had previously announced the disembarkation of 234 migrants in 5 separate operations on the island of Lampedusa just last Friday, including 52 Egyptian and Bangladeshi migrants who arrived the previous Thursday on a single boat, as well as 29 other migrants who were apprehended along the regional route.

Another boat arrived on March 7th, carrying 138 migrants, including Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Syrians, and Palestinians, including 12 women and 17 minors. They indicated that the vessel they were aboard was not seaworthy, and it departed from Sabratha in Libya, leaving with no destination in the Mediterranean Sea. All passengers were transported to the hotspot in the Empedocle area.

THE DEATH OF FIVE MIGRANTS OFF THE COAST OF TUNISIA.

The Tunisian National Guard announced the recovery of the bodies of five migrants who attempted to reach Europe off the coast of Tunisia, specifically near the coast of the "Jerjis" area in eastern-central Tunisia, not far from the border with Libya, last Saturday. An official statement indicated that 24 other migrants of various foreign nationalities were rescued, noting that they had set sail from one of the neighboring countries.

In another operation, the National Guard thwarted a "clandestine border crossing" operation off the coast of Mahdia (central Tunisia) and "rescued" 53 migrants of various foreign nationalities.

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, specializing in migration issues, stated that 1,300 migrants left the Tunisian coast to attempt to reach Europe by sea in 2023.

The country has witnessed a significant increase in irregular migration rates to Europe, particularly towards the coasts of Italy, against the backdrop of economic and political crises in the country and various countries in the region.

In September 2023, the European Commission announced the allocation of €127 million in aid to Tunisia, as part of the memorandum of understanding signed between Tunisia and the European Union, with part of it aimed at reducing the influx of irregular migrants.

In a related context, Tunisian Minister of the Interior Kamal al-Faqih emphasized the importance of studying ways to enhance security efforts in several areas, foremost among them combating illegal migration, affirming that the National Guard spares no effort in sacrifice, law enforcement, serving citizens, and defending the homeland's sanctity. He also emphasized the importance of strengthening bonds of harmony, coordination, and continuous work within the framework of unity among security institutions.

The Tunisian Minister of the Interior stressed the importance of employing modern technology and utilizing it in security work, as well as developing human resource capabilities and good planning during crises.



DUE TO THE INFLUX OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION, BRITAIN PLEDGES £1.3 MILLION TO LIBYA.

The United Kingdom has pledged £1 million as part of an agreement to repatriate Libyans to their homeland. The UK Home Office stated that this funding will assist in addressing illegal migration in Libya amid a record influx of migrants heading to Europe from North Africa. The Minister for Illegal Migration, Michael Tomlinson, announced the funding package after a visit to the country earlier this week.

The ministry stated in a statement that "this funding will support the protection of migrants in Libya and help prevent journeys to Europe by addressing the root causes of illegal migration and facilitating the voluntary return of migrants to their countries of origin." The ministry added that more than 150,000 migrants arrived in Italy by sea last year after crossing the Mediterranean, departing from Libyan shores.



AMBASSADOR NAELA GABR: ILLEGAL MIGRATION IS A SOCIAL PROBLEM.



Ambassador Naela Gabr, head of the National Coordination Committee, stated that illegal migration is a social problem that has cast a heavy shadow on Egyptian society in recent years. The state has made significant efforts to address the issue through various methods, attempting to completely prevent it while elucidating the risks associated with this phenomenon. The focus has been on providing job opportunities for youth within the country, empowering working women, and creating a market for small projects. Even if circumstances compel them to be abroad, the Egyptian state provides humane means for travel without subjecting them to the hardships of such a harsh experience.

40 young Moroccans drowned during an illegal migration journey to Spain in two months

A Moroccan human rights organization has reported an increase in the number of young migrants during the recent period. The Central Office of the Northern Observatory for Human Rights recorded the drowning of approximately 40 Moroccan irregular migrants during the months of January and February 2024 in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to reach southern Spain or the cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

The report also noted the successful arrival of over 700 irregular Moroccan migrants in the city of Ceuta, with a daily rate of attempts reaching up to 100, taking place between Fnideq-Ceuta or Belyounech-Ceuta.

Regarding the number of deaths, the organization revealed that 16 youths drowned while attempting to swim to the shores of Ceuta, 15 others went missing, and 9 individuals drowned when a boat capsized off the beaches of Nador-El-Driouch. It emphasized that most of the victims were aged between 16 and 30.

The Northern Observatory for Human Rights explained that it collected data and information after thorough examination and verification based on a network of relationships, direct communication with multiple parties, and monitoring of what is posted on social media networks.



THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT HAS BLOCKED TEXAS'S NEW LAW REGARDING THE ARREST OF IMMIGRANTS.

The United States Supreme Court has announced that it will continue to temporarily block Texas's new state law, which allows Texas police to arrest individuals suspected of crossing the border between Texas and Mexico illegally.

The decision came after the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a ruling allowing law enforcement to enforce Senate Bill 4 on March 9th. This ruling by the Fifth Circuit came just one day after U.S. District Judge David Ezra in Austin stated that the law "threatens the fundamental idea that immigration law should be uniform."

Governor Greg Abbott of Texas signed the law in December, permitting the arrest of anyone suspected of being an undocumented immigrant to the United States. It imposes a punishment of up to six months in jail for those crossing the US-Mexico border and may subject repeat offenders to a second-degree felony charge carrying a prison sentence ranging from two to 20 years. However, charges can be dropped if the migrant agrees to voluntarily return to Mexico.

In opposition to the Texas law, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the ACLU of Texas, and the Texas Civil Rights Project filed a lawsuit against Texas on behalf of El Paso County and two immigrant rights organizations - the Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center based in El Paso - in December.

Furthermore, the US Department of Justice filed a new lawsuit against the new law last month, prompting the US Supreme Court to consolidate the two cases.



CALIFORNIA IS PRESENTING A NEW PROJECT TO PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS. THE PROJECT'S CREATOR STATES THAT IT WOULD BE A STEP TOWARDS "RACIAL JUSTICE."

A human rights association in the state of California has introduced a new bill aimed at providing legal assistance to undocumented immigrants convicted of committing violent crimes, using taxpayer money. The project's initiator stated that it is "a step forward towards racial justice."

The bill focuses on fair and equitable treatment for all immigrants and removing restrictions on funds designated for providing services to convicted undocumented immigrants. The funds for the new project will be provided from the "One California" program, which allocates \$45 million to nonprofit organizations supporting immigrants and providing legal, educational, and awareness services in immigrant communities.

The law aims to help those unable to afford legal representation, including those facing deportation, applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), naturalization, and temporary protected status, but currently prohibits the use of these funds for convicted individuals.

The bill, presented by Assembly member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, would expand services to include immediate translation, social services, and litigation costs. Jones-Sawyer stated that the law would ensure equality in access to immigration services, emphasizing that "during my time in the legislature, I've worked to ensure that people are given a second chance and supported efforts to prevent treating people as second-class citizens."

He added that the new law would ensure racial justice and truly fair access to vital immigration services for all immigrants, not just some. The bill has received strong support from immigrant activist groups expressing their support for the legislation. However, it has also faced significant opposition from Republicans in the legislature, with Assembly member Kate Sanchez describing the bill as "completely unacceptable," questioning why they would prioritize immigrant offenders over anyone else.

AFTER ASSAULTING AN AMERICAN NURSE, AN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT FACES CHARGES IN 23 CASES.



A nurse in New York City was brutally assaulted by an undocumented immigrant at Jacobi Medical Center, suffering a corneal hematoma and post-traumatic stress disorder. The nurse said, "It's tough, to say the least... We wake up every morning or night, working 12 to 16 hours to help people help the most vulnerable in our society, help our sick patients in underserved communities, and we get hurt," adding, "These people need to be institutionalized if they are indeed mentally handicapped, not back on the streets."

The assailant, an undocumented immigrant, has been arrested 23 times and has a history of assaults. He is accused of assaulting medical personnel dating back to 2019, including an emergency room doctor in 2022, and also has a history in psychiatric care. The nurse stated, "I think these lax crime laws that are being enforced don't help us, like New York citizens, and don't help healthcare workers deal with these kinds of criminals."

A spokesperson for the Bronx District Attorney's Office, Darcel Clark, said Johnson's case is being presented to a grand jury to secure an indictment.



Elon Musk criticizes the Democratic Party in the United States over its policies on illegal immigration, stating: "The entry of illegal immigrants will turn America into a socialist state."

Elon Musk criticized the Democratic Party in the United States for its policies regarding allowing illegal immigrants to enter the country. Musk stated that Democrats tolerate illegal immigration because it helps expand their political power. He pointed out that the entry of illegal immigrants increases the Democratic Party's electoral strength, noting that with 10 million illegal immigrants, it changes the voting map in 13 congressional districts.

Musk stated, "A greater number of presidential and congressional votes will be allocated to newly arrived illegal immigrants allowed in by Biden compared to the population of 40 American states." He emphasized that increasing the number of illegal immigrants strengthens the Democrats' voting power, prompting them to recruit more.

He added, "If the Democrats win the presidency, the House, and the Senate, they will grant citizenship to all illegal immigrants, and America will become a one-party permanent state, a socialist state."

