

THE NEWSCAST

FLORIDA BANS "IDENTITY CARDS" FOR IMMIGRANTS

SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL ASSERT THAT CRIME RATES ARE INCREASING... AND OPPONENTS SAY THAT IT "STRIPS IMMIGRANTS OF THEIR HUMANITY."

The Florida House of Representatives has passed legislation prohibiting undocumented immigrants from obtaining any form of identification in the state.

The legislation was introduced to combat community identification programs, which allowed immigrants to obtain a form of identification they could use with law enforcement authorities and apply for government jobs.

Opponents of immigration argue that ID cards serve as a magnet for attracting those in the country illegally, which they believe will lead to increased crime rates, linking undocumented immigrants' presence to rising murder rates.

Republican Representative Jeff Holcomb, a sponsor of the bill, sees allowing illegal immigrants into certain American counties as part of a political game, increasing voter support for the government in some areas.

Critics of the bill argue that limiting recognition of community ID cards sends a message of exclusion and distrust, creating an environment of immigrant segregation that will make Florida residents less safe.

Florida had passed a comprehensive package against immigrants last year, and the ID law is a continuation of those efforts, stripping immigrants in Florida of their humanity despite their roots in the country as a whole.



77 DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS CRITICIZE THE US PRESIDENT'S "OPEN BORDERS" POLICY

77 Democratic lawmakers have criticized President Joe Biden's open borders policies by sending a letter to the American President. The letter criticized the influx of immigrants into American cities, especially given the struggles these cities face in meeting their budgets. They argue that they cannot continue to provide the same services to their lawful constituents while also spending significant amounts to support illegal immigrants.

The legislators criticized the spending of taxpayer money on paying bills and debit cards for illegal immigrants, citing Biden's increase in funding for processing centers, flights, and buses to transport illegal immigrants by 700%. Additionally, Biden's executive order ending all penalties for those who sneak into the country was condemned.

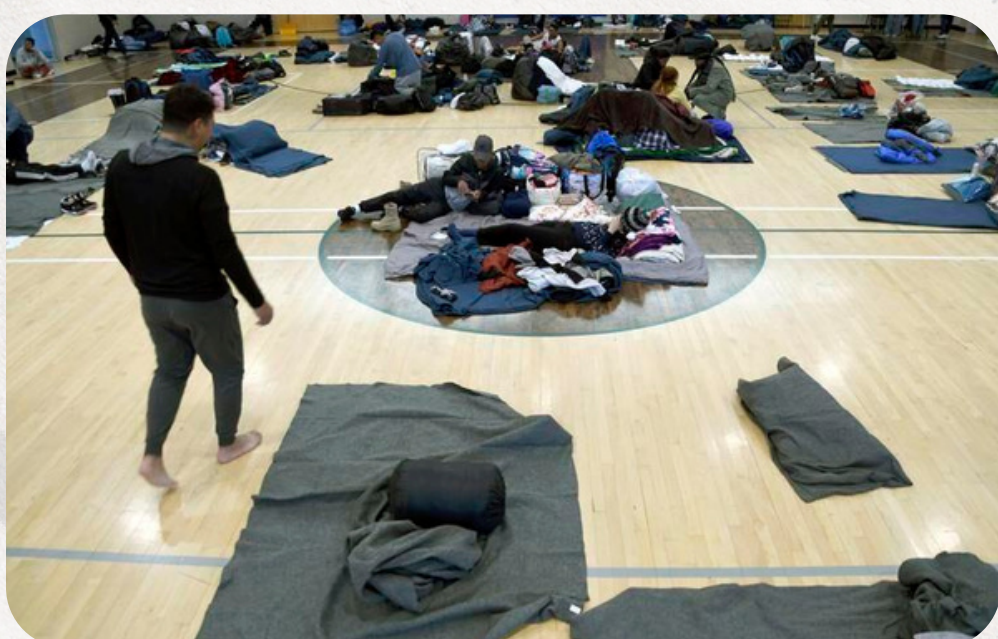
Furthermore, the lawmakers disapproved of Biden's use of the term "irregular migration" instead of "illegal immigration" and criticized the release of detained illegal immigrants after providing fingerprints, granting them the right to move freely.

In their letter, the lawmakers accused Biden of redistributing taxpayers' wealth to the open borders, with over \$140 million spent so far, while Americans face overcrowded classrooms, housing shortages, and increasing violence.

For instance, New York was spending \$8 million a day to care for immigrants, including housing around 3,000 families in hotels for hundreds of dollars per night. Similarly, cities in Massachusetts like Boston and Cambridge announced spending millions of taxpayer dollars to expand shelter systems for housing illegal immigrants.

Mayor of New York City, Eric Adams, complained that the city was being "destroyed by the immigrant crisis," blaming Biden for "betraying" the city and demanding federal assistance to cover the costs of this crisis.

Furthermore, the US Customs and Border Protection announced the arrest of 1,142 illegal aliens convicted of assault, battery, or domestic violence, along with 1,614 convicted of driving under the influence, and 2,239 convicted of drug possession and trafficking. Additionally, Customs and Border Protection arrested 62 illegal aliens convicted of murder and manslaughter, and 365 convicted of sexual crimes and human trafficking.



TRUMP MOCKS IMMIGRANTS



During his campaign tours, the American presidential candidate Donald Trump visited Texas, a state known for its hostility towards illegal immigration. Trump inspected the ongoing construction of the border wall between the United States and Mexico, where a number of immigrants were present on the Mexican side during his visit, chanting his name.

Despite Trump's criticism of President Joe Biden's immigration policy and his accusations of increasing the number of illegal immigrants, Trump began gesturing to the immigrants, mocking them, and said to one of his companions, "They love Trump... can you believe it?"

In a related context, a judge in Austin, Texas, rejected a new law for the Texas police that allowed them to arrest individuals suspected of illegally crossing the US-Mexico border. The law was supposed to be implemented in Texas, but there is still an ongoing legal battle between the federal government and immigration advocacy organizations against the state of Texas.

The judge wrote in his ruling: "The dispute with the federal government's immigration department does not justify the violations... and I have not seen any military invasion or state of war experienced by the state of Texas."

A British investigative journalist has uncovered Russian plans to control the flow of migrants to Europe. Russia is allegedly enlisting Libyan militias to control migration, raising concerns about its manipulation of European elections.



The British newspaper "Telegraph" has revealed that it obtained intelligence documents outlining Russian plans to establish a "strong border police force of 15,000 men," consisting of former militias in Libya, to control the flow of migrants to Europe.

The investigation confirms that if Russia were to gain control of European borders, it could potentially open the floodgates to large numbers of migrants into European countries and effectively influence elections by restricting or inundating specific areas with migrants to sway public opinion at crucial times. The investigation underscores the significance of disclosing Russian intelligence documents at a time when the issue of migration is considered a key issue in England, France, and Italy.

It points out that the United Kingdom's inability to control the influx of illegal immigrants is a significant weakness for the government, while there are suspicions that Russian President Vladimir Putin may exploit the summer period to increase migrant flows, as confirmed by the European Border Agency "Frontex," which sees Russia using migration as a tool in a larger game of influence and pressure.

The agency warned that Putin's choice to move migrants to Europe's doorstep, whether along Russia's eastern borders or through proxies in the south, including in Africa, poses a significant security threat in 2024.

The investigative journalism reveals that the Russian private military group "Wagner" is fueling migration to Europe by increasing instability and violence in parts of Africa under their control and by physically transporting migrants to borders and supporting smugglers.

Italian Deputy Prime Minister, Antonio Tajani, accused the Russian Wagner group of being responsible for the increased number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

ENGLAND IS INVESTIGATING THE DROWNING OF A YOUNG GIRL DURING AN ILLEGAL MIGRATION JOURNEY

A seven-year-old girl drowned during an illegal migration journey from France to England through the English Channel, after four days of attempting to cross the Channel. England is currently investigating the case, with the organizers of the journey being charged with manslaughter, causing unintentional harm, and forming a criminal gang aiding in the entry of illegal migrants, thereby endangering their lives.

The boat, carrying 16 migrants including 10 children aged between 7 and 13, capsized after 30 kilometers off the coast, causing all passengers to fall into the water. Upon receiving a call from a passerby, rescue teams rushed to the scene, but the girl died shortly after arriving at the hospital. She was accompanied by her parents and three siblings.

Human rights associations have accused border policies of killing migrants. It's worth noting that the drowning incident of the girl is the third incident in 2024 across the English Channel, with a 22-year-old Turkish man dying and two other migrants going missing. In 2023, 12 migrants died attempting to cross the English Channel, while 29,437 migrants arrived illegally on English shores, compared to 45,774 migrants in 2022.



THE MOST DEADLY YEAR IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN SINCE 2017 WAS 2023

The Saudi Ministry of Interior apprehended 14,955 violators of residency, labor, and border security regulations within one week, specifically from February 22nd to February 28th of last year. Among these, 9,080 were found violating residency laws, 3,088 for border security violations, and 2,787 for labor law violations. Security forces also managed to intercept 849 individuals attempting to cross the borders illegally, most of whom were of Yemeni and Ethiopian nationalities.

The Ministry of Interior emphasized in a statement the implementation of strict penalties, including imprisonment for up to 15 years, fines of up to one million Saudi riyals, and the confiscation of transportation and housing used for accommodation purposes, aimed at deterring any infractions and maintaining public order. The ministry urged citizens and residents to report any violations, highlighting the importance of cooperation between authorities and the community in preserving security and order.



قبل رمضان الأمن السعودي يعلن القبض على أكثر من 14 ألف وافد مخالف ويشدد حملاته هذا الأسبوع على هذه المناطق إنتبه تراهم شادين الشرطة

AN GERMAN INSTITUTION ACCUSES THE LIBYAN COAST GUARD OF PREVENTING IT FROM RESCUING MIGRANTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA



The German charity organization "Sea-Eye" accused the Libyan coast guard of threatening its crew members during their attempt to rescue migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, leading to the drowning of at least one migrant.

The organization stated that the Libyan coast guard used violence and fired live ammunition into the water at the crew. Many migrants who were aboard three unseaworthy boats on their way to Europe were forced to jump into the water. While the ship "Humanity 1" managed to rescue 77 migrants, many others were forced onto a boat belonging to the Libyan coast guard, leading to the separation of six individuals from their families.

Sea-Eye mentioned that at least one migrant drowned as a result of the Libyan coast guard's actions, which threatened the crew members of the search and rescue ships and endangered the lives of people in need of protection, constituting a blatant violation of international law. It is worth noting that the European Union has been funding the Libyan coast guard since 2015 as part of efforts to stem the flow of migrants escaping from the North African country to the Italian shores.

According to the "Missing Migrants Project," a project by the International Organization for Migration, at least 962 migrants lost their lives, and 1,563 others went missing off the coast of Libya in 2023. Approximately 17,200 migrants were intercepted and returned to Libya, where they were detained in government-run detention centers.

Deportation of 144 irregular migrants from Libya to Bangladesh

The International Organization for Migration announced the deportation of 144 irregular migrants from Libya to Bangladesh, within the framework of the voluntary return program sponsored by the United Nations.

The International Organization stated that the migrants were deported from Benghazi to Dhaka with the support of the voluntary humanitarian return assistance program operated by the International Organization for Migration in Libya.

The organization noted that the returnees "will continue to receive assistance for reintegration upon their return to Dhaka."

This year, the organization has repatriated over 9,300 migrants to their home countries through the "Voluntary Humanitarian Return Flights" program, which aims to reduce irregular migration.

A study in Bangladesh revealed that at least 70,000 individuals from the Asian country have reached Europe after entering Libya over the past 14 years.

Abdul Monem Al-Hurr, the head of the National Organization for Human Rights in Libya, believes that voluntary return flights are conducted only for detainees in official centers. Libya has 29 detention centers managed by authorities, with fluctuating numbers of migrants apprehended and deported daily. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates the total number of migrants in Libya to be around 700,000, with 51,700 migrants reaching the Italian shores from Libya alone.



A JOURNALISTIC INVESTIGATION REVEALS THE NUMBERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS FROM EGYPT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION OVER FIVE YEARS. 38,000 MIGRANTS HAVE ARRIVED IN ITALY SINCE 2019, WITH THE CONFIRMED DEATHS OF 280 EGYPTIANS CROSSING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

The Egyptian newspaper "Al-Masry Al-Youm" published an investigative report titled "The Gamble of Departure: Egyptian Youth Between Drowning and European Paradise," revealing the numbers of irregular Egyptian migrants from 2019 until July 2023. The investigation constitutes the first database on irregular migration in Egypt, built using open-source data from Facebook, the archive of "Migrant News," semi-monthly reports from the Italian Ministry of Interior on migrant landings, displacement matrices to Libya, reports from the Ministries of Interior and Migration in Malta, Greece, and Cyprus, in addition to reports from the International Organization for Migration, the Missing Migrants Project, the Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, and the European Border Agency "Frontex."

The investigation documented the arrival of 37,948 Egyptians to Italy alone via the central Mediterranean route from 2019 to July 2023, with the confirmed deaths of 280 Egyptians during the same period.

Starting from monitoring the numbers of Egyptian migrants to Libya, interceptions and returns at sea, the investigation continued with communication with the Geo Barents ship responsible for rescuing those in distress at sea, which confirmed the presence of Egyptians in the drowning incidents. It also tracked the semi-monthly landing movements in Italy recorded by the Italian Ministry of Interior, considering it a destination country for Egyptians.

Since the central Mediterranean route ends in Greece, Cyprus, Malta, and Italy, the investigation observed the influx of Egyptians based on official sources, asylum requests submitted by them, and what was accepted or rejected during 2023.

The report concluded by documenting the number of deaths of Egyptians recorded in the Missing Migrants Project, comparing it with the numbers of missing and unidentified deaths, linking them to the deaths recorded in the incident of the shipwreck off the Greek coast in June 2023.

The investigation concluded by presenting a treatment plan from the Egyptian government's perspective and international solutions necessary to combat irregular migration and reduce deaths along the most dangerous route for irregular migration worldwide.



KAFR EL-SHEIKH UNIVERSITY ADDRESSES IRREGULAR MIGRATION WITH A "MEDICAL CONVOY"

Kafr El-Sheikh University organized a campaign to combat irregular migration, in addition to a comprehensive medical convoy to the villages of Green Island and Al-Azabah, affiliated with the Metoubes Center, under the patronage of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Republic, and under the supervision of Dr. Abdel Razek Desouki, President of Kafr El-Sheikh University, and Dr. Amani Shaker, Vice President of the University for Community Service and Environmental Development.

This comes within the framework of the "Decent Life" presidential initiative for the development of the Egyptian countryside, in collaboration with the Decent Life Foundation, the Fund for Combating and Treating Addiction in Kafr El-Sheikh, and as a continuation of the series of convoys launched by the university in the villages across the governorate.

This initiative aligns with the university's role in contributing to the implementation of the state's plan and the political leadership's directives to build capable generations capable of keeping pace with the serious steps of the Egyptian state in building the modern state and contributing to achieving its goals in accordance with the vision 2030. It also reflects the university's belief in its role in serving the community within the villages of Kafr El-Sheikh governorate as part of the presidential initiative.

The medical convoy witnessed a great turnout from the locals, where medical examinations were conducted on 1045 cases from the residents of Green Island village and neighboring villages. In addition, informative seminars were held in the village addressing irregular migration and the damages caused to the community as a result of this negative phenomenon. Workshops were also conducted to develop handicraft industries such as leatherwork, textile printing, jewelry production, and accessories, providing training and introduction to fabric types and techniques used in clothing manufacturing. Furthermore, a workshop was held on the development of the fish wealth, aiming to understand fish farming, the main components, nutrition, required nutritional elements for cultivated fish, different feeding methods, and factors affecting them.



LIBYA REPATRIATES 10,000 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS IN 2023.



The Minister of Interior in the Government of National Unity, Imad Al-Tarabulsi, stated that Libya repatriated 10,069 irregular migrants last year in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), expressing hope that this number would double during the current year. He revealed the granting of residency permits to around 400,000 foreign workers of various nationalities, noting that the labor markets in Libya lack organization, hence the formation of a committee from the ministries of interior and labor to regulate them. He added, "We do not allow anyone to enter Libya without legal procedures." He further stated, "We deal with the issue of migration with attention and caution, launching security campaigns to combat human trafficking gangs and activating electronic surveillance towers to secure the borders. We call for the development of the performance of border guards and combating illegal migration agencies in a manner that respects human rights." He emphasized that Libya needs support to implement its vision of securing borders and monitoring migration routes, while continuing to facilitate the voluntary return of those willing to do so in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration.

The Ministry of Labor launches a program to raise awareness about the risks of illegal migration

The Directorate of Labor in Cairo Governorate, through the Marg Office, organized an educational seminar to discuss the provisions of Labor Law No. 12 of 2003, women's work and gender equality, the law on the rights of persons with disabilities, Law No. 64 of 2010 to combat human trafficking, as well as the provisions of the Child Law and the discussion of Decision No. 215 of 2021, defining prohibited professions for child labor, held at the premises of the Abdullah Rifa'i Al-Azhar Institute.

The seminar covered an explanation of the texts of labor law, as well as the rights and duties of workers and employers, the provisions and articles of the Child Law, as well as Decision No. 215 of 2021, defining the appropriate age for child labor, prohibited professions that endanger the lives of children, and the risks of illegal migration.

Ahmed Azaz, Director of the Labor Directorate in Cairo, stated that this seminar comes in light of the directives of the Minister of Labor, Hassan Shehata, to the labor directorates in the governorates to intensify awareness-raising campaigns about the provisions of labor law, rights and duties, risks of child labor, and illegal migration, aiming to enhance labor relations between workers and employers to provide a safe and stable working environment that increases productivity and drives the national economy.

