

THE NEWSCAST

FOREIGN MINISTER: EGYPT IS KEEN TO ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry welcomed Emi Bob, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, as part of the UN official's visit to Egypt.

Ambassador Sameh Shoukry, the Foreign Minister, expressed appreciation for the fruitful and extended cooperation with the organization, looking forward to enhancing it to ensure comprehensive migration management that contributes to achieving sustainable development in line with the principles and objectives outlined in the International Migration Covenant. He emphasized the importance of crystallizing the organization's work priorities in consultation with the governments of developing countries that bear significant burdens in migration governance.

Minister Shoukry stated that Egypt is keen to adopt a comprehensive approach to migration governance, not only focusing on security aspects but also addressing its developmental aspects and tackling the root causes leading to irregular migration.

The Foreign Minister also praised the ongoing cooperation with the organization in enhancing legal pathways for labor migration and addressing existing gaps in labor markets, to serve the interests of countries of origin, destination, and migrants alike.



THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND MINYA GOVERNORATE ARE DISCUSSING EXPANDING COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

AL-QADI: MINYA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION TO CONFRONT THE PHENOMENON OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Governor Osama Al-Qadi of Minya met with Ambassador Naela Gabr, head of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, to discuss avenues of mutual cooperation to expand the implementation of projects and awareness programs to counteract these phenomena and spread awareness among various segments of society to achieve comprehensive development goals.

The governor commended the leading and vital role of the National Coordinating Committee in implementing campaigns and awareness programs across the republic to raise awareness about the risks of illegal migration and its economic and social impacts, through a national team comprising executive agencies and civil society organizations.

He emphasized that Minya continues to provide support and cooperation with all relevant state institutions to confront the phenomenon of illegal migration and human trafficking and achieve development plans, as well as support programs, initiatives, and social and economic projects aimed at improving opportunities and expanding alternatives for youth, raising community awareness of the risks and effects of illegal migration on individuals and communities, and respecting human rights and adhering to laws in addressing the issue.

Ambassador Naela Gabr praised the efforts of the Minya governor and his support in facilitating the establishment of various projects, including "Your Project," the Local Development Fund, and the Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises Development Agency, which play a significant role in combating unemployment and illegal migration by providing real job opportunities for youth, ensuring them a stable income and decent living, as well as supporting vocational schools and handicrafts and heritage, striving to reduce dropout rates from education, and supporting youth, women, and families economically and morally.

On the sidelines of the visit, awareness sessions and workshops were held with youth and families on the risks of illegal migration and available alternatives, and two workshops were organized to build the capacities of workers in directorates and influential departments to familiarize them with human rights and its core principles and the national strategy for human rights.



TUNISIA: 7 BODIES RECOVERED AND 862 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS ARRESTED



The Tunisian National Guard announced the recovery of 7 bodies, including that of a baby, and the apprehension of 862 migrants in illegal migration operations originating from the central coasts, particularly in the province of Sfax, last Sunday, with an additional 38 migrants being apprehended the previous Saturday.

Security authorities also arrested 24 individuals involved in human trafficking and smuggling, and seized a sea vessel along with 24 maritime engines used in illegal migration operations.

The National Guard announced the implementation of daily maritime reconnaissance operations along Tunisian coasts, which serve as a major platform for migrants flowing towards nearby Italian shores.

It's worth noting that a memorandum of understanding was signed between Tunisia and the European Union in July last year aimed at combating illegal migration.

In a related context, the official spokesperson for the Tunisian National Guard, Housseem Eddine Jbabli, affirmed that Tunisia will not act harshly against illegal migrants, out of respect for their humanity and rights, in addition to its commitment to international charters and treaties concerning human rights.

Jbabli stated that the situation in the Amira region in Sfax is under the control of security units following the influx of thousands of illegal migrants to the province, emphasizing that Tunisia faces both security, legislative, and humanitarian approaches in dealing with the issue of illegal migrants.

19 illegal immigrants from Romania and Ecuador arrived in Britain...Friday



British Virgin Islands police arrested nineteen illegal migrants in Tortola last Friday. According to a statement from the British police, they received information that the migrants were hiding in the Cox Heath community on April 19th and moved to apprehend them.

The police clarified that the illegal migrants included ten Romanians, seven Haitians, and minors from Ecuador and Honduras.

The migrants were handed over to immigration authorities for processing and repatriation after assistance from residents in locating them and contacting the police. Immigration officials expressed gratitude to residents for providing information that led the police to find the migrants.

BRITAIN CLOSING THE DOOR ON THE CONTROVERSY OVER "THE DEPORTATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RWANDA" - THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT APPROVES...AND THE LAW AWAITS THE KING'S APPROVAL

Britain has closed the door on the controversy surrounding the deportation of asylum seekers who arrived illegally to Rwanda after the British Parliament approved the bill last Monday, which will come into effect once the king signs it. Members of the House of Lords agreed not to introduce any additional amendments to the text after the House of Commons repeatedly amended the bill.

Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister and leader of the ruling Conservative Party, sought to pass a provision considering Rwanda a safe country, compelling judges to deem Rwanda, located in East Africa, as a third safe country to receive refugees.

The British Prime Minister pledged to reduce the number of refugees in Britain, as his government faces increasing pressure to reduce record numbers of asylum seekers crossing the English Channel from French shores aboard small boats.

The new legislation grants ministers the authority to disregard parts of international law and British human rights law. Sunak pushed for the passage of this legislation in response to a ruling issued by the Supreme Court last year, which deemed sending asylum seekers to Rwanda as contrary to international law.

It is worth mentioning that estimates from the National Audit Office indicate that deporting the first 300 migrants will cost the United Kingdom £540 million (USD 665 million), equivalent to approximately £2 million per person.

Sunak confirmed that the government has prepared an airport and booked chartered commercial flights for the first flight. The Prime Minister pledged that the government would organize regular flights to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda during the summer and beyond, "until the boats" carrying asylum seekers cease arriving in the United Kingdom. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stated that everything is "ready" to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda "no matter what happens," accusing Labour Party members of obstructing the Rwanda bill, stating "enough is enough." He confirmed that since the bill was passed, the government will begin the deportation process for individuals identified for the first flight. The government has prepared facilities to receive individuals before deportation, and the judiciary has prepared dedicated courtrooms and 150 judges to handle lawsuits against deportation.

The first flights will depart within 10 to 12 weeks, as around 30,000 asylum seekers crossed the English Channel from northern France aboard makeshift boats last year.



"EGYPT IS CALLING YOU," A SYMPOSIUM IN MENOUFIA TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DANGER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The Directorate of Labor in Menoufia Governorate organized an awareness seminar on combating illegal migration at the Batanoun Youth Center, attended by a number of residents from the center and nearby villages, as well as executive leaders from the governorate. This comes within the framework of cooperation and coordination with Menoufia University and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency.

A lecture titled "Egypt is Calling You" was presented, emphasizing the importance of preserving the country's sons and daughters, as Egypt opens its arms to all its children with real job opportunities and investment prospects in various fields. The lecture also highlighted the support provided to them, reflecting the efforts of the Directorate in serving the youth of the governorate and its residents in all areas, including employment, providing job opportunities in private sector establishments, free vocational training in professions needed by the domestic and international job market, field inspections to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Labor Law No. 12 of 2003.

Saad Abdel-Hamid, the Director of the Labor Directorate in Menoufia, explained in a report to the Ministry that these efforts are in line with the directives of the Minister of Labor, Hassan Shihata, to focus on youth of both genders and provide them with all means of support, including real and decent job opportunities, as well as free training courses in professions required by the job market. This aims to equip them with the necessary skills to enter the job market or start their own small and medium-sized projects, intensifying awareness of the risks of illegal migration and its impact on youth and society.

During the seminar, opportunities for available jobs were presented, along with various avenues, fields, feasibility studies, and facilities aimed at helping youth and contributing to reducing this phenomenon, as well as shedding light on the risks faced by young people during their illegal migration.



AL GHARBIA HONORS THE WINNERS OF THE ARTISTIC COMPETITION TO COMBAT AND PREVENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION



The Directorate of Education in Gharbia honored the students and supervisors who won first place nationwide in the artistic competition to combat and prevent illegal migration and human trafficking for the academic year 2023/2024.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to the students Salma Mohamed Majed El-Halou, second year secondary, Al-Sadat Secondary Girls' School in Basmunoud, Basma Hatem Abu Ghuseiba, second year secondary, Al-Sadat Secondary Girls' School in Basmunoud, and Jana Mohamed El-Saeed El-Hawary, third preparatory year, Omar El-Dik Preparatory Girls' School in Basmunoud. Certificates of appreciation were also presented to Dr. Sahar Hosni El-Saqa, Head of the Environmental, Population, and Health Education Department at the Directorate and the General Supervisor of the competition, as well as the supervisors of the competition at the Samnoud Educational Administration.

The number of immigrants arriving to Yemen decreased by 666% compared to last year

The number of African migrants entering Yemen in the first quarter of the current year 2024 dropped to the lowest level in the past six years, almost equaling the same period in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The International Organization for Migration stated in its monthly report that 5,411 African migrants entered Yemen between January and March 2024, which is approximately the same as the number of arrivals during the same period in 2021, which recorded only 5,113 migrants.

Data indicates that migrant arrivals in the first three months of the current year represent the lowest rate compared to the same period in the past four years, except for 2021, which saw a significant decrease in the number of African migrants entering Yemen due to travel restrictions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of migrant arrivals in the first quarter of this year represents a decrease of 666% compared to the same period in 2023, when 41,453 migrants entered, and by 263% compared to 2022, which saw 19,652 African migrants arriving. This represents a 417% decrease compared to 2020, when 27,948 migrants entered, and a 586% decrease compared to 2019, which recorded 37,109 migrant arrivals in Yemen.

The International Organization for Migration attributed the recent decline in migrant arrivals to the joint security campaign against migrant smugglers, which began in August 2023 with the aim of curbing their entry into the country towards Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. The campaign focused on the coast of Lahij Governorate, which is a significant entry point for many migrants, leading to a continuous decrease in their flow through this coast until it completely stopped over the past five months, except for one incident in mid-December last year, involving a boat carrying 110 migrants.

It is worth mentioning that Yemen received around 97,000 African migrants last year, especially from Ethiopia and Somalia, many of whom live in extremely dire conditions due to the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in the country, prompting many of them to embark on risky return journeys or be deported by boats to their home countries.



INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION WARNS OF INFLUXES OF NIGERIEN MIGRANTS TO ALGERIA AND LIBYA

A recent report by the International Organization for Migration warned of new waves of migration from Niger, resulting from the military junta's repeal of the law criminalizing human smuggling across borders. It is expected that large numbers of irregular migrants will cross into Algeria and Libya from the city of Agadez in central-north Niger.

The report indicated that the route from North Africa across the central Mediterranean to Italy was the most congested migration route in Europe during 2023, with most migrants coming from North Africa's sub-Saharan countries. By mid-December, over 152,000 migrants had arrived in Italy via this route compared to 105,000 in 2022.

It is known that Nigerien migrants, who enter Algeria in the thousands annually, mainly plan to travel to Spain after a period of residency there as a precursor to "buying the route" to Europe. Those who reach Libya aim to reach Italy. In both cases, many of them seek to earn money by working in construction sites and affluent family homes before resuming their adventure.

It's worth noting that in 2015, a law criminalizing migration was launched in Niger, funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa worth 5 billion euros. However, after the military coup, the law was repealed, causing a rift in the already troubled diplomatic relations between Niger and the EU, which demanded the return of President Mohamed Bazoum to power. Between 2014 and 2020, over a billion euros were allocated from the Fund to Niger.

The Algerian Ministry of Interior, in its periodic reports on illegal migration, states that migrants entering Algeria come from 44 African countries, with noticeable presence of Nigerien citizens due to geographical proximity.



AN ALGERIAN-TUNISIAN-LIBYAN AGREEMENT TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya's presidents, Kais Saied, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, and Mohammed Al-Manfi, have agreed to enhance economic cooperation between the three countries and coordinate efforts to protect border security from the risks of irregular migration and organized crime.

According to the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the tripartite summit held Monday in the Tunisian capital, the leaders of Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya emphasized the need to establish major joint projects and investments, especially in grain production and seawater desalination.

The presidents discussed a range of key issues that formed the basis of their mutual discussions, including the phenomenon of irregular migration affecting the three countries. They agreed to unify positions and approaches in dealing with various countries affected by irregular migration in the North Mediterranean and countries south of the Sahara.

Furthermore, the leaders agreed to establish joint task forces tasked with coordinating efforts to protect shared border security from the risks and consequences of irregular migration and other forms of organized crime, based on a collaborative approach.

It's worth noting that this is the first meeting between the three presidents, who agreed to hold consultative meetings every three months to enhance relations between their countries at all levels, and to coordinate partnership and cooperation frameworks. The first meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of the three countries, as well as political, military, and security advisors.



THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS ALLOCATES \$2.3 MILLION TO ADDRESS THE MIGRATION CRISIS AT THE US-MEXICO BORDER



Texas Governor Chris Sonono has allocated nearly \$2.3 million to address what he calls the crisis of illegal immigration on two fronts. The first involves \$1.4 million to establish a law enforcement task force along the state's 58-mile border with Canada, while the second involves \$850,000 to deploy 15 National Guard members this month.

Illegal immigration is a key issue in the American political landscape. In a voter poll last month, nearly 43% of participants expressed being "very" or "somewhat" concerned about illegal immigrants consuming state resources and taxpayer money, as well as committing crimes.

In Granite Staters, 43% of respondents included in the survey said that illegal immigration is either a "very serious" or "somewhat serious" problem in New Hampshire. This percentage jumped to 83% when asked about illegal immigration into the United States, with respondents citing the draining of resources from Americans, taxpayer costs, and crime as their top concerns about people living in the country illegally.

It's worth noting that there have been reported 9.64 million encounters with U.S. immigration and asylum authorities, with 8 million of them occurring on the southern border. These figures include individuals who may qualify for asylum, with a foreign affairs official stating that 70 to 80% of asylum seekers overcome the first hurdle, convincing a border patrol officer that they have genuine fears of death, torture, violence, or persecution based on their race, religion, or beliefs. About 40% of these individuals eventually obtain asylum through the courts.

International organizations accuse the former Frontex head of torturing migrants

Former director of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency "Frontex," Fabrice Leggeri, faces accusations of complicity in committing crimes against humanity and torture against migrants, particularly during their attempts to reach Greece or escape from Libya.

These accusations come as part of a complaint filed by human rights group "Utopia 56" before the judicial court in Paris. Leggeri announced his affiliation with the far-right French party "Rassemblement National" led by Marine Le Pen last February, ranking third on the party's list of candidates for the upcoming European elections scheduled for June.

The associations assert that Leggeri, who headed the European agency from 2015 to 2022, played a "key role in committing crimes against humanity" in the Mediterranean Sea. They argue that he pursued a policy "aimed at obstructing migrants' entry into EU countries, regardless of the cost in lives, in particular."

The organizations claim that Leggeri "allowed criminal acts" which, according to them, he was aware of. Multiple testimonies have revealed violent practices by Greek and Libyan authorities to prevent migrants from reaching Europe. Under EU and international law, forcibly returning individuals without allowing them to seek asylum or assessing their situations and files is illegal and violates the international obligations of the concerned countries.

In response to these accusations, Leggeri denounced in press statements the "untrue allegations" stemming from "political maneuvers" aimed at "tarnishing the reputation of the National Rally party list."

Facing these accusations, the National Rally party, which leads in opinion polls before the European elections, rushed to express its support for its candidate. Marine Le Pen stated on the "X" platform that "left-wing extremist associations, supporters of migration and colluding with smugglers, want to silence those who advocate for border control principles."

On the other hand, the head of the National Rally party list, Jordan Bardella, condemned the allegations, considering that "his only crime is refusing to drown the European continent with migrants."

Fabrice Leggeri resigned in April 2022 from the agency after a disciplinary investigation was launched by the European Anti-Fraud Office "OLAF," revealing that "the Frontex management was aware of human rights violations and deliberately avoided reporting them in March 2022," as announced by Eric Marquardt, the German legislator from the Green Party.

