

THE NEWSCAST

DISCOVERY OF 8 "CHINESE" BODIES ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER

Mexican authorities discovered the bodies of 8 Chinese nationals on the shores of Oaxaca, Mexico, after their boat capsized. The bodies were found on Friday along the route used by undocumented migrants attempting to reach the United States, including 7 women and 1 man. They had departed on a boat operated by a Mexican from the state of Chiapas on the border with Guatemala.

The Attorney General's Office in Oaxaca stated that the bodies were found near a beach in the town of Playa Vicente, confirming that an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the incident. The government is collaborating with the Chinese Embassy in Mexico to identify the victims.

It is worth mentioning that the US-Mexico border has seen an increase in the number of migrants in recent times, with over 6.3 million migrants entering the United States illegally since 2021. The numbers have been rising since 2018, largely due to Central American residents fleeing a series of complex crises, including gang violence, poverty, political repression, and natural disasters.

Regarding migrants from outside the Americas, the largest increase comes from China, as a growing number seek to escape the struggling economy and political repression at home. Over 37,000 Chinese nationals were detained at the US-Mexico border last year, which is about 50 times more than two years ago.



THE MAYOR OF DENVER REDUCES FLOWER PLANTING AND ANNOUNCES THE NEED FOR \$180 MILLION TO ADDRESS "ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION"

The city of Denver, the capital of the U.S. state of Colorado, has reduced the area of annual flower planting in parks throughout the city as part of a strategy to find millions to address the crisis of illegal immigration.

The city mayor has requested all city departments to find and implement at least a 10% reduction in the budget for major park landscaping. It is expected that Washington Park and City Park will lose the largest number of flowers this year, along with reducing the operating days of entertainment centers.

The city mayor warned that the immigration crisis in Denver could cost \$180 million, leading the city to close four of the ten immigrant shelters to reduce costs to \$120 million, with the city bearing \$55.5 million of that burden.

Despite the rejection of immigration flows by the U.S. state of Texas, both Texas and New York received \$6 out of every \$10 granted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help communities respond to the humanitarian crisis resulting from immigration waves. Texas received \$1.3 million, while New York received \$107.7 million, despite spending \$4 billion to support immigrants. In contrast, Colorado received only \$10.6 million, while spending \$60 million.

New York City had welcomed over 175,000 immigrants in the past two years, compared to about 40,000 immigrants who came to Denver.



THE CROSSING OF 1000 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS TO "DENVER, USA" IN ONE DAY



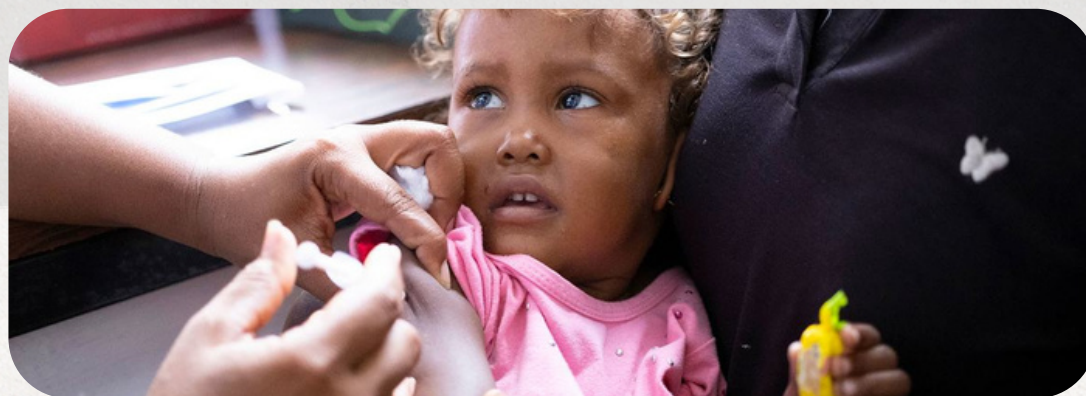
An American media outlet has reported the crossing of 1000 irregular migrants into the United States via the US-Mexico border in just one day.

Since the beginning of 2024, the US-Mexico border has witnessed a significant influx, with 761 migrants fleeing to the United States daily by cutting through the wire atop the border fence. This prompted Denver city official Andrés Carrera to urge migrants to head to other cities like Chicago and New York, warning that they would face difficulties if they continued to stay in Denver.

In a related context, an emergency shelter opened in Boston, USA, was filled to capacity just one week after its opening.

With the increase in illegal immigration flows, Democratic concerns about illegal immigration have risen from 14% to 27% among participants in a recent poll conducted by Gallup. Another survey conducted by The Associated Press showed that among those surveyed, 79% of Republicans, 54% of Democrats, and 56% of Independents support increasing the number of Border Patrol agents.

Chicago threatened by the spread of measles after cases were discovered in migrant shelters



The state of Chicago has announced the outbreak of measles in migrant shelters during the first three months of 2024. Authorities reported the discovery of 31 cases of measles, including 21 children under the age of five, most of whom are from Venezuela, despite the city providing 4,500 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines to migrants following the first case of measles infection in city shelters.

The city mayor stated that the disease is ongoing and that many migrant children residing in these shelters are enrolled in public schools in Chicago, posing a risk of spreading the disease to American school-aged children. There are approximately 10,400 migrants in the state, and as of September 2023, more than 2,000 undocumented foreigners have been enrolled in public schools in Chicago, with between 40 to 50 recorded in a single elementary school.

Border officials also raise health concerns stemming from the influx of undocumented migrants. Senior officials at Customs and Border Protection emphasize that their processing centers are not built for the unprecedented numbers of encounters spurred under the Biden administration.

AN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM REPORT ACCUSES THE FRENCH BORDER GUARDS OF USING AGGRESSIVE TACTICS AGAINST MIGRANTS AND REVEALS THAT THEY FORCE MIGRANTS TO RETURN TO THE SHORE USING "PEPPER SPRAY"

An investigative journalism report, based on leaked videos and documents, revealed that French border forces have employed "highly dangerous" aggressive tactics towards refugee and migrant boats that could result in "mass injuries" to these individuals.

The investigation stated that the French police, financially supported by the UK government, put the lives of migrants and asylum seekers at risk by intercepting their small boats in the English Channel using tactics that search and rescue experts say could lead to "mass injuries" for many people, by forcing them to retreat and withdraw.

The investigative report revealed that the aggressive tactics included circling around the weak migrant boat, causing these boats to be swamped by waves, as well as colliding with a boat carrying passengers, while threatening to spray them with pepper spray and puncture their boats, forcing migrants to swim back to the shore.

The investigative report stated that French authorities began using aggressive tactics since last summer, despite previously rejecting UK requests to conduct interception operations at sea.

The investigation presented a video of a police boat in the port of Dunkirk circling around a small boat carrying about 25 people, creating high waves that swamped the boat. Human rights activists considered it a clear case of forced return, similar to what was seen exactly in an operation off the Greek coast last June, which resulted in the deaths of nearly 500 undocumented migrants.



GREECE: COAST GUARD INTERCEPTS MIGRANT BOAT

A Greek coast guard patrol intercepted a speedboat carrying 24 migrants heading towards Greek shores in the southeastern maritime area of the island of Chios last Saturday.

The speedboat, carrying 11 men, 7 women, and six minors, had two individuals suspected of involvement in human trafficking among those on board.

Greek authorities announced that the migrants were transported to the port of Chios and then to a closed and supervised facility for registration and identification. At the same time, the alleged human traffickers were detained.

In March, the Greek coast guard rescued 151 migrants in the sea south of the island of Crete, where the number of migrants attempting to cross from Libya to Greece and the European Union is increasing.

100 UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS WERE APPREHENDED IN TUNISIA ON MONDAY



The security authorities in Tunisia announced the apprehension of around 100 migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa on the coast of Sfax before they attempted to migrate illegally to Italy last Monday.

The Tunisian National Guard stated that the operation to apprehend the irregular migrants took place during two separate sailings from Sfax, which is considered a major hub for illegal migration and human smuggling activities.

The region, along with other Tunisian cities, witnesses the presence of tens of thousands of migrants coming from Sub-Saharan African countries, seeking to cross to the northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Over the past two months, the Tunisian Navy has succeeded in reducing the flow of migrants to nearby Italian islands after their numbers reached record levels this year until last August, according to official data from the Italian Ministry of Interior.



And rescues 363 migrants ... on Tuesday

Tunisian authorities thwarted 9 illegal migration operations in the city of Sfax last Tuesday, rescuing 363 irregular migrants from drowning in the Mediterranean Sea, from Sub-Saharan African nationalities according to a statement from the General Directorate of the National Guard.

The Tunisian authorities stated that units of the National Guard in Sfax region managed to apprehend two individuals involved in organizing and brokering smuggling operations. Additionally, they seized an iron boat, two rubber dinghies, seven marine engines, and a quantity of fuel.

Necessary legal procedures were taken, indicating that the case was referred to the public prosecutor's office.

It's worth mentioning that the European Commission announced the allocation of 127 million euros in aid to Tunisia as part of a memorandum of understanding addressing various issues, including curbing the influx of irregular migrants.



ZIMBABWE REPATRIATES ILLEGAL MIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND MALAWI

The Zimbabwean authorities have deported hundreds of Chinese citizens in response to their demands to work for multinational Chinese companies involved in multi-billion-dollar projects within the country.

The Chief Director of Immigration revealed that Chinese migrants had been resorting to tactics to evade authorities and settle illegally in Zimbabwe by working on large-scale projects.

In a statement, the Immigration Department noted that Chinese citizens would disappear immediately after obtaining permission from the immigration authorities. This led the administration to tighten checks at major entry points since the beginning of the operation, resulting in the rejection of numerous foreign arrivals.

Zimbabwe has been grappling with influxes of Chinese immigrants claiming to be part of ongoing projects, exploiting the country's openness to business activities.

The Zimbabwean Ministry of Immigration stated that while the country welcomes legal migration, illegal migrants are repatriated to their countries, as is the case with migrants from Malawi, who are transported in "buses," with three buses sent in January and February.



THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION DISCUSSES COOPERATION IN THE FILE OF COMBATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

"The Minister of State for Immigration and Egyptians Abroad Affairs, Sahar Gendy, received on Monday, Deputy Wafaa El Tamami, a member of the Labor Force Committee of the House of Representatives, and the head of the Immigration and Economic Affairs Committee at the Egyptian Workers Union, to discuss mechanisms of cooperation in the file of combating illegal migration.

Ambassador Sahar Gendy emphasized her keenness to cooperate with all entities aiming to support and achieve the vision of the Egyptian state, highlighting the ministry's efforts within the framework of the presidential initiative 'Rescue Boats'. The initiative, launched under the patronage of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, aims to combat illegal migration and serve 72 villages in 14 governorates most affected by this phenomenon, working to provide alternative safe opportunities and mitigate it.

Ambassador Sahar Gendy stated that the Ministry of Immigration cooperates under the 'Rescue Boats' initiative with the National Council for Women to implement door-to-door awareness campaigns in several villages, in order to persuade family members to reconsider illegal migration decisions. Additionally, cooperation with the Ministry of Housing, the Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises Development Agency, civil society institutions, and relevant authorities is sought to provide training for safe work opportunities as part of the state's plan to eliminate unemployment and achieve sustainable development.

The minister also discussed the incentives allocated for Egyptians abroad, announcing the upcoming launch of a platform for renewing permits and vacations. The ministry is currently coordinating and working through a joint committee to issue an electronic application named 'Gateway for Egyptians Abroad Workers' under the Cabinet's decision. It will cover various services, including renewing foreign assignments and permits, licensing accompanying spouses, handling complaints, and more.

Moreover, the launch of an electronic application for Egyptians abroad, which includes incentives and dedicated services, and the establishment of a joint-stock company for investments of Egyptians abroad in various economic sectors were announced. This aims to attract investments from Egyptians abroad.

Deputy Wafaa El Tamami expressed her keenness to cooperate with the ministry on its initiatives and participate in raising awareness about the risks of illegal migration, emphasizing the significant role played by the Ministry of Immigration in confronting this global phenomenon."



LUXOR EDUCATION ANNOUNCES THE VICTORY OF TWO STUDENTS IN A DRAWING COMPETITION TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF MIGRATION



Rouaa Mustafa Mohamed, a student at the New Luxor Preparatory School for Girls, won first place in the preparatory stage in the fourth artistic competition for drawing to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal migration. Omar Abdel Rahman Arefa, a student at the Esna Secondary School for Boys, won first place in the secondary stage. The competition was organized by the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, chaired by Ambassador Naela Gabr. It is supervised by the Fine Arts Education Directorate under the supervision of Youssef Sameer, the general director, in coordination with the Sustainable Development Administration under the management of Mona Abdel Latif, affiliated with the General Directorate of Executive Affairs led by Hisham Abdel Sattar. The competition aims to select the best artistic work that embodies the dangers of illegal migration in order to raise awareness among the youth about these risks and to produce a generation that rejects this type of migration.

Switzerland: Popular vote rejects illegal immigrants

The Swiss Democratic Union, the most widespread party in Switzerland, has proposed a plan to conduct a popular vote entitled "No to Switzerland with 10 million inhabitants." The party has obtained 114,600 signatures, exceeding the required 100,000 signatures under the law, collected in half of the expected time.

Based on the referendum, the provisions to be voted on condemn the agreement on the freedom of movement of persons with the European Union and propose imposing more restrictions on entry into its territory, leading to its isolation.

The referendum proposes amending the constitution to limit the number of immigrants, with the permanent resident population in Switzerland not exceeding ten million people by 2050. If the number of permanent residents in Switzerland exceeds nine and a half million people by 2050, the government and parliament will take measures to limit their increase, especially concerning asylum and family reunification, to ensure compliance with the specified value.

