

# THE NEWSCAST

## THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE STATE OF IDAHO DEMANDS THE IMPEACHMENT OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT

Members of the legislative body of the American state of Idaho have called for the removal of President Joe Biden due to his policies regarding illegal immigration. This call comes after 8 million people crossed the US-Mexico border, spreading across most American states.

The city's legislative body had previously demanded Biden's impeachment, citing the strongest immigration proposal ever, according to House Resolution 2, concerning the maintenance of the Safe Borders Act of 2023.

The legislative body erected a memorial expressing opposition to "illegal immigration." A news report stated that establishment Republicans joined Democrats in voting against the only immigration memorial with real teeth.

The report pointed out that the first legislation directly addressing this issue was Joint Senate Memorial 101 - Idaho State Legislature, in 2023, which aimed to warm the hearts of immigration activists.

Estimates indicate that as of 2018, there were 11.4 million people in the United States without legal status, with current estimates suggesting that 2.4 million work in agriculture. The vast majority of these individuals have jobs, work hard, pay taxes, and are essential for the economic output of local businesses. Moreover, it would be impractical to uniformly detain or deport a group of people without considering their circumstances.



### OKLAHOMA IS FOLLOWING IN TEXAS'S FOOTSTEPS AND PREPARING TO LAUNCH A BILL REGARDING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Despite the American rejection of the Texas law, which considers "illegal immigrants" as lawbreakers, the state of Oklahoma has begun to follow suit. The governor of Texas had issued a law granting local law enforcement officers the authority to arrest and deport suspected illegal immigrants, which faced significant opposition. The US Federal Court is reviewing its legality, while the federal government, the Mexican government, and various civil rights groups have challenged the law, citing US Supreme Court rulings stating that states do not have the authority to enforce immigration laws except as permitted by the federal government.

However, the state of Oklahoma is currently considering introducing a bill inspired by the Texas law, allowing actions against illegal immigrants. The leader of the state's House of Representatives announced that the bill would be completed within a week, confirming that it would introduce legislation based on Texas's approach. The state is now considered a "border state" due to the federal government's ineffective implementation of immigration laws.

The legislators in Oklahoma have worked on "rephrasing" the language of the Texas law to ensure that any law passed in Oklahoma would be constitutional. Opponents of the Texas law believe that the state should not have the authority to issue orders for people to leave the country. They also express concerns that this could harm relations with Mexico, a vital partner of the United States in addressing border security issues. Opponents also argue that granting local officers the authority to detain suspected illegal immigrants could encourage racial profiling.

However, the leader of the House of Representatives states that immigrants in the state should not feel threatened. Oklahoma simply aims to intervene where the federal government has failed to enforce existing laws. These law projects are not only about what is happening on the southern border; they also concern foreign gangs operating in Oklahoma and engaging in illegal activities in the state.

He said, "We want immigration to Oklahoma, but we want legal immigration. We must ensure the safety of all our citizens, and we will ensure that those who immigrated to this country and to Oklahoma legally, and the process they went through, will not be diminished by those who want to cut corners and come here illegally."

### TUNISIA: 31 ILLEGAL MIGRATION ATTEMPTS THWARTED



The Tunisian authorities have announced the thwarting of 31 illegal migration attempts, during which 1335 illegal migrants were rescued from drowning in the Mediterranean Sea. The Tunisian National Guard stated in a press release that its units managed to thwart dozens of attempts of illegal migration along the eastern coasts of the country, close to Italy, noting that the majority of the rescued individuals hold nationalities from sub-Saharan African countries.

In a related context, security forces in the province of Sfax, in the south of the country, arrested eight organizers of illegal trips and seized 14 iron boats and 23 maritime engines used in these trips. It is worth noting that the Tunisian and Libyan coasts have witnessed, for years, a large influx of illegal migrants seeking to reach the southern shores of European Union countries. These operations have resulted in the drowning of thousands, according to statistics from the International Organization for Migration.

### Morocco: 8 migrants drown during their journey to Spain



Eight irregular migrants died after their rubber boat sank off the coast of Nador, northern Morocco, as they attempted to cross to Spain last Wednesday.

The local authorities of the Nador region stated that "eight people drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting irregular migration," adding that the search operation is ongoing "to reach other possible missing individuals." Nine people were rescued, and their nationalities have not been specified.

The authorities mentioned that the migrants departed from the Beni Chiker area in the Nador region aboard a rubber boat, which capsized due to adverse weather conditions, strong winds, and rough waves. A judicial investigation is underway "to reveal all the circumstances and details surrounding this incident."

The northern Moroccan coast is a traditional departure point for boats of irregular migrants heading towards southern Spain, whether they are Moroccans or from other African countries. These migrants attempt to reach the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean through perilous routes starting from the coast of West Africa.

The Royal Moroccan Navy has announced intercepting or rescuing dozens of migrants in various operations at sea south of Morocco during the past period, intercepting around 87,000 irregular migrants last year.

Meanwhile, Spain has seen an increase in the number of irregular migrants entering the country by 82.1% last year compared to 2022, totaling 56,852 individuals.

## **AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF 600 ILLEGAL MIGRANTS, THE CYPRIOT PRESIDENT CALLS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION TO TAKE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE INFLUX OF MIGRANTS**

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades stated that the situation has become "extremely worrying" in recent weeks after more than 600 irregular migrants arrived from Lebanon in just two days. Syrian migrants left Lebanon for Cyprus, fleeing the ongoing severe economic crisis in the country, in addition to improved weather conditions facilitating navigation in the Mediterranean.

After meeting with the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, the Cypriot President said, "I fully understand the challenges facing Lebanon, but exporting migrants to Cyprus should not be the solution and cannot be accepted."

He added that Lebanon should not "export" its migration problem. He mentioned having a phone conversation with the caretaker Prime Minister of Lebanon, Najib Mikati, regarding this issue. Interior Minister Constantinos Ioannou said, "The situation is deteriorating gradually, as we have seen an influx of makeshift boats and refugees risking their lives," confirming that human traffickers "only give them a compass set to 285 degrees, food, and water for one day, then they set off."

Ioannou pointed out that "all indicators suggest that the flow of migrants will continue," but it worsens due to the Lebanese authorities' declining focus on stopping migration from its coasts in recent months amid escalation on the Lebanese-Israeli border. Ioannou stated that Cyprus also wants EU aid to Lebanon to be conditioned on stopping the flow of migrants.

Cyprus is only 160 kilometers away from Lebanon, and around 2,004 migrants arrived in Cyprus by sea in the first three months of this year, compared to only 78 in the same period in 2023, according to official data. Interviews with refugees revealed that human traffickers charge \$3,000 for a single person's journey to Cyprus, compared to \$7,000 to Italy.

Cyprus demands that the European Union consider Syria a safe country so that Syrian migrants can be returned there.



## **A FORMER ALGERIAN OFFICIAL WARNS AGAINST THE "KHALERGI PLAN"**

A former official at the Algerian Ministry of the Interior warned of a destructive plan called "Khalergi," aimed at transferring African migrants to his country to make the indigenous population a minority, similar to what happened in southern Libya.

Security expert and migration specialist in Algeria, Hassan Qasimi, in a post on Facebook titled "Niger: Kingdom of Migrant Trafficking and Human Trafficking," revealed that Niger authorities intentionally turned the city of Agadez into a migration hub, through which more than 500,000 migrants pass annually to travel to Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia.

The Algerian official revealed a plan called "Khalergi," which aims to transfer eight million migrants from the Sahel to Algeria. He stated that this plan aims to "make Algeria a haven for new races from the Sahel, making the population in the south of the country a minority, where, as happened in Sudan, Libya, and Mali, there will be bloody racial and ethnic conflicts."

He reminded that the transitional authorities in Niger repealed a law in 2015 that criminalized migrant trafficking, considering "this action a violation of the 2000 Palermo International Convention, including its additional protocols to combat migrant trafficking and human trafficking."

He added that these illegal measures also target Europe by increasing the number of migrants heading to Italy through Tunisia and Libya. He pointed out that the most dangerous thing is that Niger organizes with smuggling networks the process of directing and accompanying migrants from the Sahel countries and the Economic Community of West African States to Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Europe.

Revenues from migrant trafficking and human trafficking networks in Africa exceed one billion dollars annually, explaining the tactical alliance between armed groups, terrorist organizations, arms and drug trafficking networks, mine workers, drug addicts, and some influential authorities in Sahel countries behind this trade.

The International Organization for Migration had observed a 50% increase in new migration waves from Niger to Libyan territories since last December, directly as a result of the military council in Niamey repealing the law criminalizing people smuggling across borders.



## **CRISIS BETWEEN NIGER AND ALGERIA DUE TO "DEPORTING IMMIGRANTS"**



The Foreign Ministry in Niger summoned the Algerian ambassador to convey its protest over what it described as the improper manner in which Algerian authorities handled their citizens during the deportation of illegal migrants in recent weeks.

There has been a strained relationship between Niger and Algeria since July 2023, after Algeria condemned the military coup against the President of Nigeria. Algeria attempted to mediate in the crisis, proposing a six-month transitional period.

Despite Algerian President's affirmation that Algeria does not seek to impose itself on neighboring countries, especially Niger and Mali, and is ready to assist them in finding solutions to economic, security, and political crises.

In Niamey, Niger, the Algerian Foreign Minister was summoned to inform the Algerian authorities about the circumstances of deporting Nigerien migrants in recent weeks from Tamanrasset, the southernmost city of Algeria, in conditions deemed inappropriate, affecting the dignity and safety of Nigerian citizens. However, there has been no official response from Algerian authorities.

Although there are undocumented migrants in Algeria, there are no specific statistics on the number of African migrants. However, estimates from non-governmental organizations indicate that there are over a hundred thousand undocumented migrants, especially in major cities in the north of the country such as Oran, Annaba, Constantine, Setif, Blida, and Algiers.

Algerian authorities have noted that the number of migrants entering through the southern borders with Niger, Mali, Libya, and Mauritania exceeds ten thousand monthly.

Both governments signed a special agreement in 2014 to combat illegal migration. Algeria rejected ECOWAS sanctions on Niger and condemned non-African interventions in crises in the Sahelian desert region.

## **Russia deports 100 migrants since the beginning of the year**

Russian authorities in Smolensk Oblast, on the border with Belarus, have deported more than 100 irregular migrants from Morocco, India, Pakistan, and other countries to their homelands due to their violation of immigration laws in the Russian Federation.

The immigration and asylum department in the Russian oblast stated that the deportees were convicted of violating the regulations governing residency in Russian territory and were sentenced to forced deportation to their countries of origin. It emphasized that the authorities had initiated deportation procedures overseen by border service officers at border checkpoints in the region.

The same sources clarified that deported irregular migrants would face criminal trials before the Russian judiciary if they attempted to re-enter Russian territory illegally and outside the established regulations in this regard.

It is worth noting that the recent terrorist attack targeting a music hall in the capital Moscow, claimed by the ISIS Khorasan organization, reopened debates within the Russian parliament about the necessity of amending immigration rules and labor movement in Russia. The Kremlin previously stated that Moscow is reconsidering immigration systems after warnings from the Orthodox Church in the country about what it called "threats to the identity of the Russian state."



## SWITZERLAND FIGHTS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WITH A "PARTY INITIATIVE" TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS

The Swiss People's Party has submitted 114,600 signatures to the Federal Chancellery in Bern, calling for the addition of a new provision regarding "sustainable population development" to the Federal Constitution.

The signatures were collected for an initiative aimed at combating immigration to Switzerland. According to the initiative, the population residing permanently in the country should not exceed ten million by 2050. Otherwise, the government would be required to limit it based on the birth rate. If the population reaches 9.5 million before 2050, the federal government and parliament would need to take measures accordingly.

The party's proposal also states that if the population exceeds ten million, temporarily accepted individuals would not be able to obtain permanent residence permits. Restrictions would also be imposed on family reunification, and renegotiation of international agreements containing exceptions or protections would be necessary. If all of this is not sufficient, the agreement on the freedom of movement of persons with the European Union would need to be terminated.

According to a statement issued by the party, the high level of support for this initiative "demonstrates the urgent demand of the population for sustainable and independently managed immigration to Switzerland."

Marcel Dettling, the newly elected party president who replaced Marco Chiesa, confirmed that the Swiss People's Party initiative shows "how immigration can be managed independently" and explained, "Today, many foreigners, including unwanted ones, come to Switzerland. We want controlled immigration that benefits our country and its inhabitants."



## DUE TO THE VIOLENCE IN THE EVICTIONS, 150 IMMIGRANTS DEMONSTRATED IN PARIS

About 150 people spent their night in front of the town hall in the fourth district of the French capital, Paris, without tents or protection from the rainy weather. Dozens of families with young children spent the night outdoors in front of Paris City Hall in a move supported by local associations, which condemned the state's failure to provide housing solutions for exhausted immigrants.

The "Utopia 56" association states that these families no longer wish to hide as they are exhausted, while the state remains silent. Among these families, there are approximately 20 unaccompanied minors, including infants as young as three months old, and seven others who have not yet reached their first birthday, along with 16 children under the age of three.

Activists from the association spent the night with the families and shared tweets accompanied by photos showing families lying on the ground, commenting, "It's raining, and there are more than 50 children here, including those who will go to school tomorrow."

Fatima, a child, said she couldn't go to school and had to miss class for two days, while her baby sister spent the night crying continuously.

The families are protesting because they have been unable to obtain housing. Among them are new arrivals, refugees, and individuals without residency papers and asylum seekers with fingerprints registered in other European countries.

The association indicates that these families were staying in a shelter in the 20th district, obtained through a real estate company for three months until it was forced to close yesterday morning.

The association considered the temporary location "a practical and civil response to street violence, allowing hundreds of women, men, and children to feel less fearful, less cold, and less lonely." However, after its closure, solutions for these families could not be secured, as associations usually distribute families as part of the "solidarity housing" initiative, which welcomes citizens of families in need to fill the gap.

Over the past three months, French police have dismantled four camps in the Paris area, the latest on March 20, targeting a camp housing about 150 unaccompanied migrant minors without providing solutions, according to associations. However, authorities justified this by stating it was to maintain security.

With the upcoming Olympic Games in July, activists warn of the impact of hosting the sporting event on the capital, speaking out against the policies pursued by French authorities, which they say entail "social exclusion and mistreatment of people on the streets."

French police used tear gas last week to clear a migrant camp in northern Paris, while a report published by several associations in November 2023 revealed the verbal and physical violence migrants face during evictions from their camps. Since 2015, associations have documented 448 reports of police violence, 88% of which resulted from "evictions and dispersal of migrants in public places."

## IN A SYMPOSIUM ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: EGYPT IS A RECEIVING AND EXPORTING COUNTRY OF IMMIGRATION



The Media Center of East Alexandria organized an event titled "State Efforts in Combating Human Trafficking... Irregular Migration as a Model." Participants emphasized that Egypt suffers from irregular migration on several levels, as it is both a destination country for a large number of irregular migrants and a transit point for many irregular migrants heading to European countries.

This came during the activities of the campaign launched by the Internal Media Sector at the General Authority for Information, to address the serious problem of irregular migration and work on raising awareness of the importance of promoting a culture of belonging and citizenship, as well as raising awareness of the social, health, psychological, and legal risks of exacerbating the phenomenon of human trafficking and irregular migration.

Dr. Ehab Abdelkhalek, a professor at the Higher Institute of Social Service at Alexandria University, stated that the Egyptian state, with all its institutions and political leadership, is focusing on the phenomenon of irregular migration due to its serious negative effects on all sectors of the state.

He discussed the definition of irregular migration by the United Nations organization and how the international organization considers it an organized crime transcending borders. He also mentioned the various reasons for irregular migration, including social, political, and economic factors, as well as the lack of job opportunities, the dream of quick wealth, increased feelings of frustration, and internal alienation among young people.

He also talked about the forms of political, religious, and economic awareness, and the dangers of the absence of awareness leading to the decline of public taste, the prevalence of indifference, the decline of moral values, the absence of national interest, the threat to national security, the lack of trust, and the absence of citizenship.



## Al-Ghali : Illegal migration is one of the most pressing crises facing the countries of the Arab Maghreb

Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghali, a professor of political science, said that illegal migration is one of the most pressing crises facing the countries of the Arab Maghreb. Al-Ghali stated that the reason for the increase in illegal migration is the instability in these countries. He mentioned that in 2023, 1300 illegal migrants drowned off the coast of Tunisia, indicating that Morocco thwarted 400,000 attempts of illegal migration. Additionally, he added that the Algerian army apprehended 1551 illegal migrants within one week, which poses a danger to Algerian security and the Maghreb countries as a whole.

