

THE NEWSCAST

RAISING AWARENESS AMONG 200 YOUNG PEOPLE IN KAFR EL-SHEIKH ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION

The governorate of Kafr El-Sheikh discussed the issue of illegal migration, where the Youth Administration of Metoubes in Kafr El-Sheikh, in cooperation with the National Center for Human Rights and the Directorate of Labor in the governorate, organized a dialogue meeting at the Metoubes Sports Club with the participation of 200 young men and women.

The Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports in Kafr El-Sheikh emphasized that the ministry is keen on raising awareness among youth about the dangers of illegal migration, utilizing youth potential, and enlightening minds about the opportunities provided by the state for youth, including training opportunities and launching major national projects aimed at improving the lives of Egyptian citizens.

Dr. Hazem Ali Hassan, the Deputy Minister of Labor in Kafr El-Sheikh, spoke about the general concept of illegal migration, its history, and the reasons that led to its spread in the governorates of the republic, pointing out the risks faced by migrants financially, psychologically, and morally, which may lead to loss of lives.

Meanwhile, Counselor Walaa Monessi, the Secretary-General of the National Center for Human Rights in Kafr El-Sheikh, explained the state's efforts to confront illegal migration through the enactment of necessary laws and regulations, providing alternatives and job opportunities for youth, and facilitating the necessary procedures. She also emphasized the importance of awareness among youth, avoiding blind imitation and jealousy, and striving to make money through illegitimate means that negatively affect the security and stability of individuals and society, as well as providing an opportunity to combat human trafficking.



MATROUH DISCUSSES THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF MIGRATION

Matrouh Governorate, in collaboration with the General Authority for Information, organized a conference under the title "Media and Awareness of the Dangers of Illegal Migration." The conference was attended by Major General Khaled Shaheeb, Governor of Matrouh; Dr. Ahmed Yahia, Head of the Internal Media Sector at the General Authority for Information; Mayor Abdel Karim Younis, Chairman of the Municipal Council and Sheikhs of Matrouh; Dr. Om El-Azz Bareek, Director of the Central Administration for Media in Matrouh and Alexandria.

Among the speakers were Major General Nasr Salem, former Head of Intelligence and a consultant at the Higher Nasser Military Academy, and journalist Ahmed El-Sersawi, a journalist and fellow at the Higher Nasser Military Academy.

The Governor of Matrouh stated that the conference is an extension of a series of collaborative efforts between Matrouh Governorate and the General Authority for Information, believing in the strength and role of media in awareness-raising and reaching all areas. He emphasized the importance of media participation and social responsibility in maintaining social security and stability, and supporting the state's efforts in comprehensive development, centered around human development, in all fields, aiming to achieve a decent life for all.

He pointed out that illegal migration is a multifaceted and interrelated problem, "socially, economically, politically, and in terms of security," posing a threat to society's security and stability. He highlighted the risks faced by youth that could lead to their demise and loss of lives. He stressed the need for honest awareness among our youth, who are in no need of illegal migration, especially with Egypt regaining its international and regional status, and the unprecedented national and developmental projects launched by the Egyptian state, requiring more manpower.

He warned youth against illegal migration, emphasizing it as an unsafe refuge exploited by human traffickers to destroy the future of many under the pretext of improving material and living conditions.

The Governor of Matrouh praised the efforts of the state through its ministries and institutions in curbing illegal migration, as well as the role of various media outlets, awareness seminars, conferences, and workshops held in collaboration with many entities in the governorate in portraying the true picture of the dangers of illegal migration.



ALEXANDRIA DISCUSSES THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO CURB MIGRATION



The Alexandria Customs Media Complex, in collaboration with the Customs District, organized a seminar titled "State Efforts to Combat Illegal Migration" as part of the campaign launched by the Internal Media Sector to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal migration.

Speakers at the seminar included Noha Khalifa, Head of the Customs District, and Dr. Hoda El-Saati, a member of the Journalists Syndicate, along with several employees from the Customs District.

The media seminar was inaugurated by Amani Saryh, the director of the complex, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness about the phenomenon of illegal migration. She underscored that despite the state's significant efforts to control it, there are still illegal methods used by traffickers to facilitate youth migration through Matrouh Governorate and onwards to Libya.

Greece: Recovery of one body and rescue of 45 irregular migrants in two days



The Greek coastguard announced that rescue teams found 10 migrants in a rocky area on the island of Samos on Sunday evening, following the recovery of one migrant's body and the rescue of 25 others whose boat had capsized.

Authorities confirmed that search and rescue operations were ongoing while they began investigating the incident.

In a separate incident, the coastguard found a speedboat carrying migrants off the coast of the island of Chios on Saturday. Greek authorities found 20 migrants, including two children, who had arrived on the island.

TRAINING AFRICAN SECURITY PERSONNEL IN COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION AT THE POLICE ACADEMY

The Police Academy organized an inaugural workshop for the second phase of the training program, which includes the implementation of six training courses during the years 2024-2025, aimed at training African security personnel in combating organized crime and irregular migration. This comes in accordance with the security cooperation protocol signed between the Egyptian Police Academy and the General Directorate of Public Security of the Italian Ministry of the Interior.

During the workshop, the Assistant Minister of Interior, who is also the head of the Police Academy, welcomed Giampaolo Corta, Deputy Commander of the Italian Police, as well as leaders of African security agencies concerned with combating organized crime. Representatives from international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as representatives from the European Union, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) also participated in the event. The Assistant Minister conveyed the regards of the Minister of Interior to them.

He emphasized the full attention given to the distinguished security cooperation framework between the Egyptian and Italian police forces, especially after the successful completion of the first phase of the training program in previous years. During this phase, 305 security personnel from 20 African countries were trained, aiming to enhance their capabilities in combating organized crime and dealing with irregular migration. The program also aimed to unify the operational mechanisms of African and European security agencies and to support channels of communication between them to combat these criminal phenomena in accordance with common objectives.

This comes in light of the historical strong relations between Egypt and Italy and the joint communication and coordination efforts between the two countries.



20,000 MIGRANTS HAVE BEEN IN THE TUNISIAN CAMPS NORTH OF SFAX SINCE SEPTEMBER

Thousands of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa spend their days in olive fields near Sfax in Tunisia, cooking chicken meat and residing under plastic sheds, awaiting perilous sea journeys to Europe. These migrants spend their nights on worn-out mats in groups of five to ten individuals.

At least 20,000 people are dispersed across approximately 15 temporary camps near the towns of Amira and Jebeniana in northern Sfax Governorate, central Tunisia. They began constructing huts from tree branches since mid-September after being expelled and transported by buses from downtown Sfax.

The migrants are divided into three groups: French speakers in one location, Arabic speakers in another, and English speakers in the third. While predominantly men, there are also women and children who have come from countries such as Guinea, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and others.

These migrants live in hope of seizing the right opportunity to board rickety boats and sail irregularly towards the Italian shores of Europe.

Ibrahim (a pseudonym) is one of these migrants. He left Guinea over a year ago to migrate to Europe in order to "provide for his sick mother and younger brother." He arrived in Tunisia via the Algerian border and reached the olive fields three months ago, amidst winter, after walking for 20 days.

Seventeen-year-old Ibrahim, a university student, says, "The situation here is extremely difficult, even in terms of shopping. We move clandestinely. We can go out to search for work, but at the end of the month when we have to pay the rent, they contact the police."

In 2023, tens of thousands embarked on the sea, risking their lives, departing from Sfax, the departure point for these journeys in Tunisia. Ibrahim asserts, "We are only kilometers away from Europe," referring to the Italian shores that are less than 150 kilometers away.

Ramadan Ben Omar, spokesperson for the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, asserts that Tunisia "is turning into a real detention center due to border control agreements with the European Union."

A source in the Sfax Governorate confirms, "Every day, a migrant child is born at Jebeniana Hospital, and many pregnant women receive no medical follow-up."

The health situation threatens to worsen with the onset of hot summer. Seventeen-year-old Salima says, "I'm here to cross with my four-month-old daughter. There is no food, water, or diapers for the child. We put plastic under her buttocks." Despite everything, she is determined to "wait until the smugglers open the departure gates."

Despite tensions and precarious conditions, none of the migrants wish to return to their countries. They assert that they left their homeland in search of better opportunities, endured the journey to Tunisia, and will not stop attempting to reach Europe.



AFTER ANNOUNCING HIS WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS, THE MAYOR OF KANSAS CITY, USA, FACES SEVERE CRITICISM



The mayor of Kansas City, USA, Quinton Lucas, announced his intention to attract undocumented immigrants to the state of Missouri, as sanctuary cities like New York City and Denver are currently overwhelmed with undocumented immigrants, and there is a shortage of labor in Kansas City.

However, Lucas's statements have faced severe criticism, with Missouri Attorney General Andrew Reilly issuing a letter criticizing Mayor Lucas.

The Attorney General said, "In light of the influx of millions of undocumented immigrants to our borders, the disruption of the social safety net in major American cities, and in some cases the commission of violent crimes against our citizens, Mayor Lucas is encouraging them to come to our city."

Ambassador Nimirah Najm: Forced displacement in Gaza does not respect the principle of non-refoulement for asylum seekers, and she confirms: The return of migrants without their rehabilitation to reintegrate into their reality will not yield results... and they will try to escape again

Dr. Nimeira Najm, a lawyer, expert in international law, and director of the African Migration Observatory, expressed her concern about the respect for the rules of international law in the future, given the continued violations of international law, starting with the genocide in Gaza, which caused a catastrophe of forced displacement for more than two million people, witnessed by the world without any real action being taken, and without respecting the principle of non-refoulement for asylum seekers according to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

She expressed regret for the effectiveness of studying international law in the absence of compliance with its rules, in some Western countries where laws are violated legally and humanely. She noted the collective movement of global conscience among student movements in protests and sit-ins at universities in America, France, Australia, and others, which requires us to pause when discussing migration rules and protecting the rights of migrants. Migration management must be balanced with the loss experienced by the countries of origin, which Africa needs for development.

This came during the ambassador's participation in a session titled "Migration Agenda between the European Union and Africa: Achieving Equal Partnership," held for two days in Brussels, Belgium, organized by the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), the European Think Tanks Group (ETTG), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London, in cooperation with the North Africa Institute in Sweden.

Ambassador Najm pointed out in her discussion that within the framework of relations between the African Union and the European Union on migration issues, there are contentious matters, notably the protection and rescue of migrants, respect for human rights, asylum rules, and non-refoulement without verifying whether asylum seekers deserve such status according to international law. However, there are other issues we agree on, such as the necessity to increase organized migration routes and the importance of directing more resources to economic development in Africa to improve the living standards of African citizens, which will undoubtedly reduce attempts by African youth to undertake the horrors of irregular migration.

Najm emphasized that migrants returning after being rescued from the death journey on boats in the Mediterranean will return to relive the same experience, reflecting the degree of despair associated with the absence of opportunities due to the lack of development. The issue of migrant return and reintegration must be dealt with comprehensively within the framework of comprehensive development programs. Assuming that migrants' return without rehabilitation for reintegration into their new reality will not yield results, but they will try to escape again. Therefore, rehabilitation programs must consider the conditions and psychological state of these migrants and involve their communities in accepting their return.

The ambassador noted that reintegration issues are obstacles because some of those who took the irregular migration path obtained travel funds and paid smuggling costs through borrowing from relatives and neighbors to meet the smuggler's requirements. Therefore, their return without achieving anything is considered a defeat, and the person will necessarily try to relive the experience. She clarified that migration should not lead to brain drain in African countries, as Africa deals with migration as an opportunity while Europe views it as a problem. We are not doing enough to curb irregular migration, so raising awareness of the dangers faced by irregular migrants and the risks to their lives is crucial.

Najm stressed that reducing migration is necessarily linked to achieving development in Africa at the grassroots level, not just among the elites. Digital migration and avoiding irregular migration routes and their impact on the lives of African minds and African migrants are important. It is important to distinguish between refugees and migrants. Climate migration is a priority for the African Migration Observatory and the African Union in general.

