

THE NEWSCAST

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ANNOUNCES A ONE BILLION EURO AID PACKAGE TO SUPPORT LEBANON AND ENHANCE EFFORTS TO COMBAT IRREGULAR MIGRATION

During her visit to Beirut, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, unveiled a one billion euro aid package to support stability in Lebanon and combat irregular migration. Von der Leyen emphasized the importance of cooperation in combating refugee smuggling operations from the Lebanese coast. Meanwhile, Cyprus is witnessing an increasing influx of irregular Syrian migrants coming from Lebanon, amidst the region's precarious political and security situation. Cypriot authorities are seeking to control this flow and return some boats to Lebanon under bilateral agreements.

This move comes amid deteriorating economic and social conditions in Lebanon, where about a third of the population lives below the poverty line, and hundreds of thousands of Syrians are forced to seek refuge in Lebanon due to the ongoing Syrian crisis for years.

On another note, migrants seeking a better life head to European countries via boats often departing from northern Lebanon, with Cyprus being one of their preferred destinations.



MIGRATION AND OBSESSION: STORIES OF ARAB YOUTH WITH DELUSIONAL PERSECUTION DISORDER IN GERMANY

When Arab youth in Germany speak about their experiences, astonishing stories that surpass imagination often come to mind, provoking astonishment and amazement. They recount tales of losses and sacrifices they endured in their homelands, only to find themselves grappling with a mysterious illness taking the form of delusional persecution disorder upon reaching German soil.

These young individuals, who aspired to build a future in Germany, find themselves trapped in thoughts that make them doubt everything and fear others. They describe strange sensations that make them feel hunted, with increasing anxiety that someone might be planning to harm them.

Many stories manifest symptoms of delusional persecution disorder, wherein the afflicted imagine there is a network plotting to assassinate them, leading them to isolate themselves and fear interaction with others. These youth suffer from physical and psychological symptoms such as severe anxiety, social isolation, and constant suspicion of others' intentions.

When we look at specific cases, we find Kareem, the ambitious young man who dreamed of studying pharmacy but found himself battling a mental disorder that cost him friends and deprived him of his studies. Similarly, Samira feels targeted, leading her to immerse herself in a world of depression and fear.

Psychological analysts point out several reasons for the spread of this disorder among Arab migrants in Germany, including the challenging cultural, social, and economic backgrounds they came from. They also warn of the danger of untreated illness, which could lead to a deterioration in mental health and possibly even suicidal incidents.

Therefore, familial support and psychological therapy remain essential to help these young people overcome their illness and regain their normal lives in the new society they live in.



RESCUING 66 MIGRANTS ALONG THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AND BRITISH PLANS TO DEPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RWANDA



French authorities announced that they have managed to rescue 66 irregular migrants, including women and children, during their attempt to cross the English Channel in a bid to reach Britain. The French Maritime Directorate explained that they received a signal on Thursday indicating the presence of a migrant boat off the coast of Dieppe, where a coastguard auxiliary boat managed to assist and rescue the migrants, including women and children.

In a related context, the British government revealed plans to deport a group of asylum seekers to Rwanda, totaling around 5700 individuals, by the end of the year. This comes in the wake of the adoption of a controversial law aimed at preventing illegal crossings of the English Channel.

120 irregular migrants were apprehended in Al-Kufra: Emergency Room announces the operation



The Joint Security Emergency Room in the southeastern region, affiliated with the "General Command" forces, announced on Tuesday that it had apprehended 120 irregular migrants in the city of Al-Kufra. The campaign comes as part of the room's strategy to enhance security in the area, with ongoing stop operations in the city.

On the other hand, around 10,000 migrants flow through departure trips from the city of Agadez in Niger to Libya monthly, according to data from international organizations.

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

Today, the International Organization for Migration released the Global Migration Report for 2024, shedding light on significant changes in global migration patterns, including an unprecedented increase in the number of displaced persons and a substantial rise in international financial remittances.

The report was officially launched in Bangladesh, in the presence of the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, Amy Pope, who emphasized the importance of understanding the complexities of human mobility through data and evidence-based analysis. She pointed out that comprehending migration dynamics is essential for making informed decisions and developing effective policy responses.

The report showed that international migration continues to significantly contribute to human development and economic growth, with international financial remittances increasing by over 650% from 2000 to 2022, reaching \$831 billion USD, with this increase continuing despite expectations of decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the other hand, the report demonstrated an increase in the number of displaced individuals due to conflicts, violence, and disasters to record levels, reaching 117 million displaced persons.

Regarding the report's launch from Dhaka, Bangladesh, it reflects the country's significant role in supporting migrants and enhancing regular migration pathways, reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment to addressing migration issues and protecting migrants' rights.

The Global Migration Report for 2024 aims to provide accurate analytical insights and dispel myths about migration, while promoting international cooperation in human mobility as a driver of global development and prosperity.



EUROPE STRENGTHENS COOPERATION WITH NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES RELATED TO ILLEGAL MIGRATION

As the European parliamentary elections draw near, Europe seeks to intensify cooperation efforts with North African countries to control the influx of illegal migrants. Some view these efforts as prioritizing the security of the old continent, but they impose heavy burdens on countries lacking the resources or infrastructure necessary to manage large numbers of migrants.

The diplomatic machinery in Brussels is actively working to reach new agreements with North African countries such as Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, aiming to halt the flow of irregular migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean amidst the current tension and chaos in some African countries.

In this context, the European Union is working to enhance its policy of extending its maritime borders to Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Morocco, where authorities in these countries play a crucial role in managing the migration file based on controversial agreements.

European diplomatic efforts in this context have not ceased, as the Italian Prime Minister, along with the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Culture, visited Tunisia in one week, attempting to alleviate local concerns about "plans to settle irregular migrants" and emphasizing the necessity of international cooperation in migrant deportation operations.

European efforts also focus on reaching an agreement with Egypt to curb the influx of irregular migrants, especially with the country's stability as a haven for hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing conflicts in Sudan.

These efforts have succeeded in reaching agreements worth 7.4 billion euros between Brussels and Cairo, including investments and cooperation in combating illegal migration and terrorism.



ARREST OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS IN BENGHAZI AND A SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR DISCUSSES THE REPERCUSSIONS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN LIBYA



"Two illegal migrants were apprehended at the Aslant Police Station under the jurisdiction of the Benghazi Security Directorate, according to a statement issued by the directorate. The center conducted necessary analyses of the detainees and referred them to the branch of the Illegal Immigration Combat Unit.

In a related context, the Ministry of State for Illegal Immigration Affairs in the Libyan government, in cooperation with the Center for African Studies and Research, organized a scientific seminar. The seminar aims to address the issue of illegal migration and its repercussions in preparation for the African-European Conference on Migration scheduled to be held in Benghazi at the end of this month.

The seminar was organized under the title "Illegal Migration between Security and Development Approaches in the Mediterranean," where several scientific papers were presented with the aim of providing recommendations to ensure the success of the migration governance project. The seminar concluded by presenting recommendations that include the necessity of providing basic health and educational services to migrants, and activating the international agreements previously signed by Libya by implementing legislation that specifies the rules for implementing these agreements to protect human rights."

Houthi militia targets African migrants in Yemen: 11 wounded in mortar shelling

The terrorist Houthi militia targeted African migrants in northern Saada province in Yemen with mortar shells, resulting in the injury of 11 migrants, most of whom were from Ethiopia. According to human rights sources, the attack targeted a gathering of migrants in the "Shada" district of the same province.

Sources reported that the attack caused serious injuries among the migrants after the Houthi militia shelled the gathering with mortar shells. The militia continues its assaults on migrants, especially those who refuse to join its ranks, aiming to exploit them to manipulate local and international public opinion, especially human rights organizations.

It is worth noting that hundreds of African migrants were killed and injured in March 2021 in an incident where a detention center in Sanaa was set on fire by the Houthi militia backed by Iran. Migrants were forcibly used to fight in the ranks of the militia, and the deaths of dozens of them were announced in funeral ceremonies broadcasted through media outlets.

Thousands of illegal migrants from Africa arrive in Yemen monthly, enduring a challenging journey through several provinces to the border directorates controlled by the Houthi militia in Saada, a province bordering Saudi Arabia. Yemen serves as a transit point for migrants on their journey to Gulf countries, with many of them involved in drug smuggling operations run by Houthi leaders in exchange for financial rewards, in dangerous operations that threaten their lives.



COOPERATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL MIGRATION: THE PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IMPLEMENTS PROJECTS IN SEVERAL GOVERNORATES

The Projects Development Authority in Egypt, in cooperation with the European Union, is implementing a variety of projects within the framework of the agreement to address the root causes of irregular migration in several affected governorates. Basil Rahmi, the CEO of the authority, emphasized the importance of these projects in improving living conditions for citizens and providing basic services such as health and education. As part of the implementation, the authority has signed a new contract with the Sharqia Governorate worth 4 million Egyptian pounds for the renovation and maintenance of the health unit and youth center in the village of Bani Saleh.

These projects are expected to provide employment opportunities for 5,000 people and improve health and youth services for 10,000 citizens and youth. Infrastructure projects in Sharqia have been funded with 238.4 million Egyptian pounds, providing employment opportunities for irregular labor.



THE LIBYAN SECURITY FORCES HAVE LIBERATED 107 MIGRANTS FROM A HIDEOUT FOR ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN SOUTHEAST LIBYA

"The General Administration of Criminal Investigation in Benghazi announced the liberation of at least 107 migrants, including women and children, from captivity in a town in southeast Libya. The administration's spokesperson, Walid Al-Arfi, stated that the migrants reported being held captive for periods of up to seven months, expressing their desire to migrate to Europe.

Al-Arfi confirmed that the migrants are of various nationalities, with most of them from Somalia, and that they were found in a hideout for illegal migration in the city of Kufra, where signs of torture were found on their bodies, with some suffering from gunshot wounds.

Al-Arfi indicated that the migrants were handed over to the Illegal Immigration Agency to take appropriate legal action, along with the release of video clips showing the liberation operations and the removal of the house where they were held captive, in addition to footage showing the condition of the migrants and relief efforts to transport them for treatment due to their poor health condition."



POSTPONEMENT OF EVACUATING MIGRANT CAMPS IN TUNISIA AND RELOCATING THEM TO THE BORDER WITH ALGERIA: FEARS OF ESTABLISHING A DETENTION CENTER FOR THEM



Tunisian authorities on Friday relocated hundreds of migrants from camps near the headquarters of the United Nations Refugee Agency and the International Organization for Migration in the capital, transferring them to unspecified areas on the border with Algeria. Estimates suggest the deportation of between 500 and 700 migrants. The migrants were dispersed across three points near the refugee agency and migration organization.

A statement from the Ministry of Interior indicated the implementation of security operations to counter assaults, with videos posted showing the removal of migrants and the demolition of their tents. The operation follows the president's statements regarding a "conspiracy to alter the demographic composition."

Most migrants were transported to the Algerian border, raising concerns about the establishment of a detention center for them. Authorities are using a dispersal policy against migrants to create public sentiment against them, amid fears of establishing a detention center. The Tunisian Ministry of Interior announced that the meeting, which included interior ministers from Italy, Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria, aimed to unify perspectives and adopt a comprehensive approach to combat irregular migration.

Tunisian Pain: Families Weep the Loss of Their Sons in an Irregular Migration Journey by Sea

Tunisian families are living in a state of sadness and pain after losing their sons in an irregular migration journey across the sea. About forty young men from the Tunisian coast set off at the beginning of the current year in an attempt to reach "paradise" in Europe, but news about them suddenly stopped, leaving their families desperately searching for any information to bring them back home. The scant information gathered from the families suggests that their sons set off from the shores of Sfax Governorate on the night between January 10th and 11th, when the sea was rough.

The majority of the boat's passengers were young men aged between 17 and 30, hailing from the Hencha region, a rural town located north of Sfax about 40 kilometers away. The journey also included a mother and her four-month-old child. The families feel sorrow and despair, as they had no idea about their sons' plans. Many of the young men on the journey shared an uncertain hope of improving their situation in Europe, which is believed to be the feeling that drove them to leave.

As the families endure pain and grief, they plead with the authorities for help in searching for their sons and call for more job opportunities in their region to prevent such incidents from recurring.

