

# THE NEWSCAST

## THE ROYAL MOROCCAN NAVY INTERCEPTS MIGRANT BOATS NEAR TAN-TAN AND RESCUES MORE THAN A HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THREE INDIVIDUALS

A unit belonging to the Royal Moroccan Navy intercepted a rubber boat 85 kilometers southwest of the city of Tan-Tan, where 52 people were on board attempting illegal migration via maritime routes. Among the rescued individuals were 29 citizens from sub-Saharan countries, 17 Moroccans, and 6 Asians. Additionally, two other attempts to migrate illegally were thwarted southwest of the coast of Tan-Tan by members of the Moroccan Armed Forces tasked with coastal monitoring. These attempts involved the participation of 77 individuals from sub-Saharan countries, Asians, and Moroccans. According to a statement issued by the General Command of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces, the 133 individuals apprehended received first aid before being handed over to the competent security authorities in Morocco to take the necessary administrative measures.



## REPORT: CALIFORNIA BEACHES BECOME A GATEWAY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, AUTHORITIES CALL FOR BORDER SECURITY REINFORCEMENT

A report from The Wall Street Journal reveals that California beaches have become a new gateway for illegal immigration to the United States, causing concern and anger among authorities and American citizens. The report notes that migrants attempting to avoid the Mexican border are arriving in the country via boats departing from La Jolla Shores Beach in San Diego, California, with maritime smuggling incidents seeing a significant rise in recent years, particularly in Southern California. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the number of undocumented migrants who entered California illegally rose from 308 individuals in 2020 to 736 migrants in 2023.

The report highlights that the landing operations of migrant boats have exacerbated chaos in San Diego, where the area has become the most active along the border for illegal immigration. Federal authorities have recorded over 220,000 apprehensions since the beginning of last October, making this fiscal year the busiest in decades. The influx of migrants has far exceeded the capacity of Border Patrol facilities, leading authorities to release over 100,000 individuals since October.

In response to this challenge, a spokesperson for California Governor Gavin Newsom called on the U.S. Congress to take action to enhance border security and improve the asylum system, noting that local authorities are still able to collaborate with their federal partners on immigration cases involving serious criminals.



## THE ARREST OF ONE OF THE BIGGEST HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUSPECTS IN IRAQ



A government official in Iraqi Kurdistan reported that Barzan Majid, one of the biggest suspects in human trafficking to Europe, was arrested in the region on Sunday morning. Majid and his gang are suspected of forcefully trafficking humans across the English Channel using boats and trucks for years. BBC traced Majid, also known as "The Scorpion," to the city of Sulaymaniyah, where he is said to have transported thousands of migrants across the English Channel. The National Crime Agency in the United Kingdom confirmed Majid's arrest, and the Public Prosecutor in Belgium welcomed the development, stating that it provides an opportunity to see justice served.

## The Tunisian Parliament proposes amendments to the Foreign Residence Law to combat illegal migration



Members of the Tunisian Parliament propose amendments to the Foreign Residence Law to combat illegal migration. The proposals include imprisonment of up to 3 years for foreigners entering Tunisia illegally. Deputy Mohamed Amin Al-Wargui emphasizes the need to amend the law to confront networks aiding in migrant smuggling. The amendments include penalties for those assisting foreigners in entering or exiting the country illegally. Tunisian parliamentarians attribute the amendment to the increase in illegal migrants, leading to tension in some cities.



## **TUNISIA STRENGTHENS IMMIGRATION LAWS: THE PARLIAMENT PROPOSES STRICT PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL MIGRANTS**

Members of the Tunisian Parliament have launched a proposal to amend the Foreign Residence Law, which includes a penalty of up to three years imprisonment to combat illegal migration. In a statement to the Arab World News Agency, Deputy Mohamed Amin Al-Wargui highlighted the necessity of amending the law to meet current challenges, in response to calls from citizens and civil society. Al-Wargui affirmed that networks aiming to transport migrants to Tunisia necessitated the revision of laws. The proposal indicates strict penalties for foreigners who violate residency conditions, as Tunisia seeks to address the challenges of illegal migrant inflows amidst European pressures. In a related context, the Tunisian judiciary has opened an investigation into mocking statements regarding illegal migration, sparking widespread controversy.



### **THE TRIAL OF 16 DEFENDANTS IN A CASE OF SMUGGLING MIGRANTS FROM EGYPT TO THE UNITED STATES ILLEGALLY IS TAKING PLACE IN CAIRO'S COURT**

The Cairo Criminal Court in New Cairo's Fifth Settlement began a trial session today for 16 defendants in a case of smuggling migrants from Egypt to the United States illegally. The session is chaired by Judge Medbouli Helmi Kasab, the court's president, with members including Judges Abdelazim Mohamed El-Ashry, Ahmed Maher El-Gendy, Amir Adel Ramzi, and Secretary Mohamed Gabr, and Islam Ashour.

Information provided upon referring the defendants to the Criminal Court reveals that they, earlier, before the report's date, established, along with others unknown, an organized criminal group aiming to smuggle migrants. These individuals operate according to a specific organization structure that focuses on managing the group, assigning tasks, recruiting migrants, and issuing instructions to other members, with the aim of gaining direct financial benefits from each migrant.

They committed the crime of migrant smuggling, including those holding non-national status, through the organized criminal group, which directed its efforts towards organizing the migration of migrants via air travel from Egypt to the United States illegally. This action posed a threat to the migrants' lives and subjected them to degrading and inhuman treatment.



### **PANAMA ANNOUNCES ITS INTENTION TO DEPORT MIGRANTS ARRIVING THROUGH THE DARIEN GAP REGION**



Panama's President-elect, José Raúl Mulino, announced his country's intention to deport migrants heading to the United States who entered the country through the dangerous forest area known as the Darien Gap. Mulino affirmed, in statements reported by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) today, Friday, that the deportation process will be carried out in full compliance with the rights of the individuals being deported. It is worth noting that the Darien Gap region, located on the border with Colombia, has become a major transit route for migrants coming from South America through Central America and Mexico, as they aspire to reach the United States in search of a better life there.

## **Interception of attempts of illegal migration off the coast of Morocco**

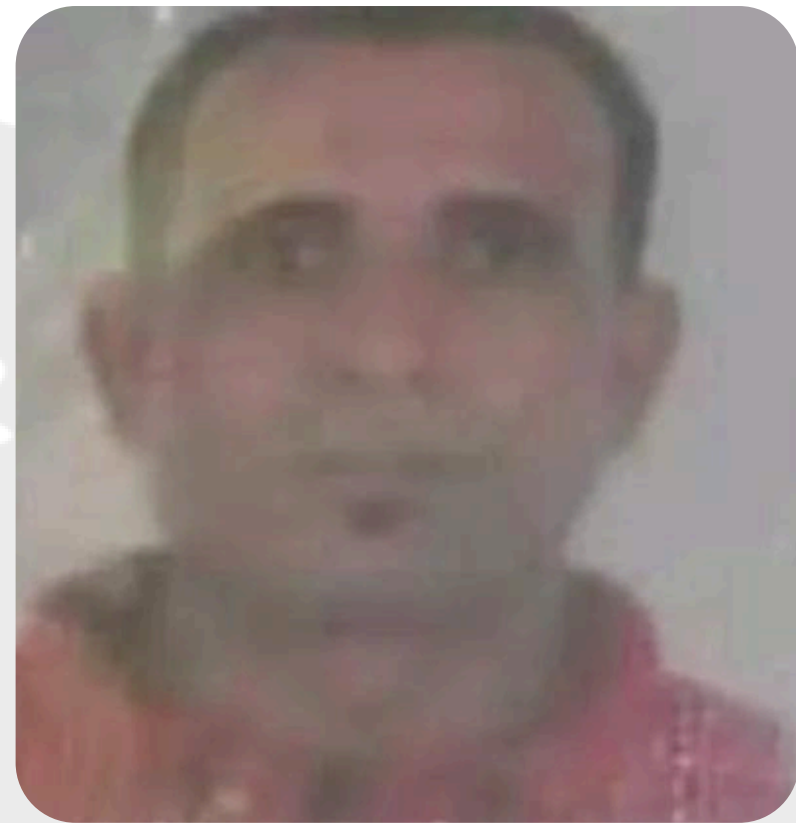
A rubber boat was intercepted by a naval unit belonging to the Royal Moroccan Navy 85 kilometers southwest of the city of Tan-Tan. The boat was carrying 52 individuals attempting illegal migration via maritime routes. Among them were 29 individuals from sub-Saharan countries, 17 Moroccans, and 6 Asians. A statement issued by the Moroccan Armed Forces added that two other attempts of illegal migration southwest of the Tan-Tan coast were thwarted, involving 77 individuals from sub-Saharan countries, Asians, and Moroccans. After their interception, initial medical assistance was provided to the migrants before handing them over to Moroccan security authorities for necessary actions.





## **THE KILLING OF A YOUNG EGYPTIAN MAN BY A SMUGGLING GANG WHILE HE WAS TRAVELING TO LIBYA ILLEGALLY**

Activists on Facebook circulated a photo of a young man from Tameya Center in the Faiyum Governorate named Mohamed Abdullah Raf Allah Hamidah, who was killed by a smuggling gang while traveling illegally to Libya. The activists urged for the rapid dissemination of the news in Faiyum groups, especially in Tameya Center, so that his family could receive his body before it is buried in Libya after they did not receive any news about this matter. The activists warned young people against the adventure of traveling to Italy through illegal routes, due to the danger of such operations, which often lead to tragic outcomes such as death at the hands of smuggling gangs or drowning in the sea. Many Facebook followers expressed their support for the grieving family and shared the post to help deliver the news to them and provide assistance in these difficult circumstances.



### **CHINA RESUMES COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES IN RESETTLING CHINESE IMMIGRANTS AFTER IT WAS HALTED DUE TO PELOSI'S VISIT TO TAIWAN**

According to a report by the American Press Agency on Thursday, China quietly resumed cooperation with the United States in resettling Chinese immigrants who were illegally stranded in the United States.

Cooperation between the United States and China in resettlement resumed amid increasing flow of Chinese immigrants across the southern borders of the United States.

China had suspended this cooperation in August 2022 as part of retaliatory measures due to Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, who was the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives at the time.

This move comes as the United States has seen an increase in the number of Chinese immigrants entering illegally from Mexico.

China reconsidered this cooperation after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced in April high-level talks on this issue.



### **KAZAKHSTAN TIGHTENING ITS CONTROL OVER MIGRANT WORKERS FROM CENTRAL ASIA AFTER THE TERRORIST INCIDENT IN MOSCOW**



After the terrorist incident in Moscow in March, Kazakhstan has tightened its control over migrant workers from Central Asia, especially the Tajiks, which has sparked protests due to mass arrests and deportations. The repression resembles the treatment faced by Tajik migrant workers in Russia since the attack on the Crocus City Hall, which led to the death of more than 140 people. Reports indicate that Kazakh police are conducting widespread inspection campaigns targeting migrants, with 16 Tajiks and Uzbeks being reported arrested in the Oulitau region. Security measures also include inspections in commercial centers, markets, and educational institutions to ensure their readiness to face potential terrorist attacks.

## **Escalation of migrant interceptions off the coast of Tunisia by 22.5% in four months**

Tunisian security authorities showed an increase in interceptions of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea towards the Italian coast during the first four months of the current year, with these operations rising by 22.5% compared to the same period in 2023. From January 1st to April 30th, the Tunisian coastguards conducted 756 interception operations, resulting in the rescue or interception of 21,545 individuals, compared to 17,576 in the same period last year.

According to a statement from the authorities, 291 bodies were recovered from boats that sank during the same period, most of whom were migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, whereas 572 bodies were found during the same period in 2023.

The authorities indicated that 21,462 people were prevented from entering Tunisian territory through the borders with Algeria and Libya, compared to 5,256 people in the previous year.

The governorate of Sfax witnessed an increase in illegal migration operations, with authorities preventing 19,457 migrants from crossing, an increase from 15,468 cases in the previous year. After Tunisian President Kais Saied delivered a speech in February 2023 condemning the arrival of "hordes of illegal migrants," migrants living in Tunisia face difficult living conditions, with many being evicted from their homes and jobs.

According to an agreement sponsored by Italy, the European Union signed an agreement with Tunisia last summer to provide financial assistance in exchange for strengthening efforts to reduce illegal departure operations.

