

THE NEWSCAST

BRITAIN POSTPONES DEPORTING REFUGEES TO RWANDA UNTIL AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN JULY

Britain has announced that it will not deport refugees to Rwanda before holding the scheduled general elections on July 4th. This announcement came less than 24 hours after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's statement about holding early elections this summer.

Regarding the "Rwanda plan," which involves deporting undocumented immigrants who arrive in Britain to Rwanda, Sunak said, "If elected, flights to Rwanda will begin."

The Rwanda plan, which became law after being approved by the British Parliament earlier this month, has sparked widespread controversy over its feasibility and the deportation of asylum seekers to a third country. The plan faces legal and societal challenges, as well as high costs compared to the number of deportees.



THE ALEXANDRIA CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCES A DEFENDANT TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON AND A FINE OF 5 MILLION EGYPTIAN POUNDS FOR ORGANIZING ILLEGAL MIGRATION

The Alexandria Criminal Court, presided over by Counselor Mohamed Abdel Hamid El-Khouly, has issued a verdict sentencing a worker to 10 years in prison and a fine of 5 million Egyptian pounds on charges of organizing illegal migration. The verdict also includes obligating the defendant to cover the expenses of the victim's return and confiscating the means of transportation used, due to the bad intentions of their owners, and imposing criminal expenses on him.

The court panel consisted of Counselors Mohamed Sameh Abdel Karim, Tarek Hafez Heridy, Abdel Salam Nabeih Abdel Salam, and the court's secretary Ahmed El Fayoumi.

The case, registered under number 4194 for the year 2024 in the criminal court of Dikheila police station, dates back to the receipt of a notification by the security authorities of Alexandria Security Directorate from officers of the General Administration for Combating Illegal Immigration indicating the involvement of the accused in forming a criminal gang specialized in illegal immigration and seizing money through fraud.

The investigations revealed that the accused "A.R.M." is a worker from Dakahlia Governorate who founded and managed an organized criminal group aimed at smuggling migrants illegally, endangering their lives for financial gain. 15 other defendants joined this group, who organized transfers and recruited victims interested in illegal migration.

The investigations added that the victim "T.M.A.", a workshop owner, contacted the first accused to arrange his travel to Germany in exchange for a sum of money. The first accused sent an invitation to the victim to attend in Russia, and upon his arrival, he was handed over to an armed group who took him to a forest area, where they seized his money and took him to the Polish border before fleeing. The Polish authorities arrested the victim and deported him to Egypt.

A report on the incident was drawn up, and the prosecution initiated an investigation and referred the accused to the Alexandria Criminal Court, which issued its previous judgment.



TUNISIA LAUNCHES A CAMPAIGN TO FACILITATE THE VOLUNTARY RETURN OF MIGRANTS AMID ESCALATING TENSIONS IN SFAX



Houssam Eddine Jbali, the spokesperson for the Tunisian National Guard, revealed the implementation of a security campaign in collaboration with organizations concerned with undocumented migrants and the Tunisian Red Crescent, aimed at facilitating the voluntary return of migrants from sub-Saharan African countries to their home countries.

Jbali explained that this campaign included raising awareness among migrants in the regions of Jebeniana and El Amra in the Sfax governorate to alleviate pressure on the local population. Financial and logistical support was also provided to those willing to stay in Tunisia and accommodate them in temporary centers until solutions to the migration issue are found in coordination with the European Union.

Jbali pointed out that the campaign was a result of "clashes" between migrants and attacks on public property, which sparked outrage among residents and led them to launch distress calls.

In the same context, journalist Fakher El Habib Obaid highlighted the suffering of residents of the El Amra region due to the influx of thousands of migrants and the transgressions committed by some of them, affecting their daily lives. He explained that there is an exchange of violence between migrants, residents, and security forces, calling for urgent intervention. Sfax, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, is a major departure point for irregular migration boats. It is also an attractive area for migrants due to its operational capacities in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

In the context of combating irregular migration, Tunisian security forces have thwarted 171 migration attempts since the beginning of the year, preventing more than 6,000 migrants from reaching Italy. Additionally, 200 migrants have been reported missing and 26 deaths have been recorded on the Tunisian coasts, according to the Tunisian Economic Rights Forum.

Illegal migration in Britain declined over the past year: Analysis of the latest statistics



The British Office for National Statistics announced on Thursday a decline in illegal migration cases in Britain over the past year, following a record high in 2022 where the number of additional individuals reached 685,000. The office published updated data on illegal migration between March 2023 and 2024, where authorities detected the arrival of 38,546 illegal individuals to the United Kingdom, representing a decrease of 28% compared to the previous 12 months, with 81% of them arriving in the country via crossing the English Channel in small boats. However, the number of arrivals via these boats increased by 43% in the first three months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. In 2022, net migration rose to 764,000 individuals, and 1.22 million individuals arrived in the country in 2023, while 532,000 individuals left. The conservative government expressed satisfaction with the decrease in visa applications this year after imposing strict restrictions on relatives of foreign students and employees in the healthcare sector. Home Secretary James Cleverly affirmed the success of the plan to reduce legal migration to Britain, indicating the government's readiness to take further measures if necessary.

CONFERENCE ON "YOUTH DEVELOPMENT" EXPLORES ITS ROLE IN REDUCING ILLEGAL MIGRATION WITHIN THE EGYPTIAN YOUTH UNION ABROAD FORUM

The Egyptian Youth Union Abroad held a seminar titled "Youth Development and its Role in Combating Illegal Migration" on the sidelines of the union's first forum.

The seminar revolved around defining migration and its causes, highlighting the most prominent forms and motivations of illegal migration, in addition to the executive and legislative efforts made by Egypt to combat this phenomenon.

Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Masoud, the counselor, emphasized that migration itself is a legitimate social phenomenon known throughout history, but the danger lies in illegal migration, which has become a global phenomenon. He explained that determining the extent of illegal migration is complex due to the diversity of its forms, such as illegal entry, overstaying legal residence, and working illegally.

Dr. Masoud pointed out the various motivations for illegal migration, such as economic, psychological, social, and political reasons, and their connection to global financial crises. He explained that around 40 countries are exporters of illegal migrants, including countries in Central and South America, Asia (such as China and Pakistan), and Africa.

He added that illegal migration is a form of human trafficking, where illegal migrants are coerced due to debts and illegal status, making them vulnerable to exploitation in prostitution and forced labor. He emphasized the need for religious organizations and institutions to organize awareness seminars for youth, activate incentive programs from the Ministry of Investment to create real job opportunities, and expand the role of the media in addressing the issue.

On his part, Dr. Mohamed Zakaria, the media personality, praised the Egyptian Youth Union Abroad, affirming that this entity will be one of the effective tools with the Egyptian state in combating illegal migration. He pointed out that the Egyptian state has imposed control over its coasts, where not a single case of illegal migration has been recorded from its shores.

Dr. Zakaria emphasized the importance of raising awareness among youth and their families about the dangers of illegal migration, praising the efforts of the state in providing job opportunities and a decent life for every Egyptian citizen.



THE EUROPEAN UNION EXPRESSES ITS DESIRE TO ENHANCE COOPERATION WITH LIBYA TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MIGRATION

The European Union has expressed its desire to enhance cooperation with the Libyan side to address the challenges related to illegal migration. Ruth Kauffman, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Office at the European External Action Service, stated during her visit to Libya on Wednesday that this visit is evaluative, aimed at assessing the activities and programs implemented by the EU mission for integrated border management support in Libya.

The European official emphasized the need to continue the discussions and efforts made by the Libyan government to address the issue of illegal migration.



RELEASE OF OVER 100 MIGRANTS IN LIBYA: TESTIMONIES OF TORTURE AND INJURIES, DETAILS OF THE OPERATION, AND POOR HEALTH CONDITIONS



On Monday evening, a spokesperson for the Libyan security forces announced that over 107 migrants, including women and children, were freed from captivity in a town in southeastern Libya.

Walid Al-Orfi, the spokesperson for the General Department of Criminal Investigation in Benghazi, stated that the migrants, who had been held for up to seven months, were seeking to migrate to Europe. Al-Orfi confirmed that the migrants were from sub-Saharan Africa, including many Somalis, and noted the signs of torture and injuries they had sustained.

Videos were released showing the demolition of the house where they were held, along with footage of their suffering and the signs of torture on their bodies. Relief workers were also seen transporting the injured to ambulances.

According to United Nations statistics, there are over 704,369 migrants from more than 43 nationalities in Libya, most of whom are living under difficult conditions. In March, authorities discovered the bodies of at least 65 migrants in a mass grave in southwestern Libya, according to a report by the International Organization for Migration.

Parking lot in Beirut: A playground and gathering space for migrant workers in the cricket league

In one of Beirut's large parking lots, migrant workers find joy and relaxation in playing cricket, competing enthusiastically in a local league. This experience provides a refreshing and fun escape from their strenuous work and the daily stresses they face in their home countries affected by economic and social crises.

Pradeepa Silva, a 42-year-old migrant worker from Sri Lanka, participates eagerly in these matches while sharing her experience of hard work that causes her a lot of anxiety and stress. But on Sundays, these feelings turn into happiness as everyone gathers to eat and laugh together in an apartment near the parking lot.

These migrant workers, who mainly come from Sri Lanka, as well as the Philippines, India, and Pakistan, enjoy playing their favorite sport in this parking lot in one of Ashrafieh's neighborhoods in Beirut. Hundreds gather on weekends to enjoy playing, sharing traditional food, and listening to music.

Beyond the fields, this sports community also offers an opportunity to strengthen relationships and exchange support. Iris Sagarayo, a 43-year-old worker from the Philippines, feels excited to play every Sunday, the only day she rests from work.

Away from the fields, these migrant workers emphasize the importance of mutual support and equality. While they face some difficulties in their home countries and in Lebanon, they find in these community events a chance to enjoy life and support each other, showcasing the strong and cooperative spirit that unites them.



TUNISIA DEPORTS SURVIVING MIGRANTS TO LIBYA AND ALGERIA AFTER A TRAGIC SHIPWRECK OFF ITS COAST

Senegalese media reported on Sunday that migrants with Tunisian nationalities were arrested and deported to Libya and Algeria after surviving a shipwreck, in which their boat capsized, according to details in an official memo shared by Senegalese media.

The incident dates back to the night of May 15 to 16, when a boat carrying 41 Senegalese migrants capsized off the coast of Sfax, Tunisia, resulting in the death of seven of them, as revealed by Senegalese media reports.

The Tunisian navy arrested the survivors and subsequently deported them to the Libyan and Algerian borders, while 11 of them managed to reach the Niger desert, hoping to be repatriated to Senegal.

Thousands of migrants from sub-Saharan African countries are present in Sfax, Tunisia, hoping to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach European shores. Last year, Tunisian authorities deported undocumented migrants from the city of Sfax following clashes with local residents.

Last week, the journalistic coalition "Lighthouse Reports" published a report revealing the dire conditions faced by African migrants in transit countries such as Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania. The report confirmed that international authorities deport migrants to the desert and abandon them there, leveraging funding received from the European Union. In a comment on this issue, European Commission spokesperson Eric Mamer stated, "This is a difficult situation, it is a rapidly changing situation, and we will continue to work on it."

Investigative reports published by "Lighthouse" in collaboration with various media outlets such as the French newspaper "Le Monde" and the American newspaper "The Washington Post" indicate that Europe supports, funds, and directly participates in covert operations in North African countries aimed at relocating thousands of African migrants and abandoning them in the desert or remote areas each year to prevent them from reaching the European Union.



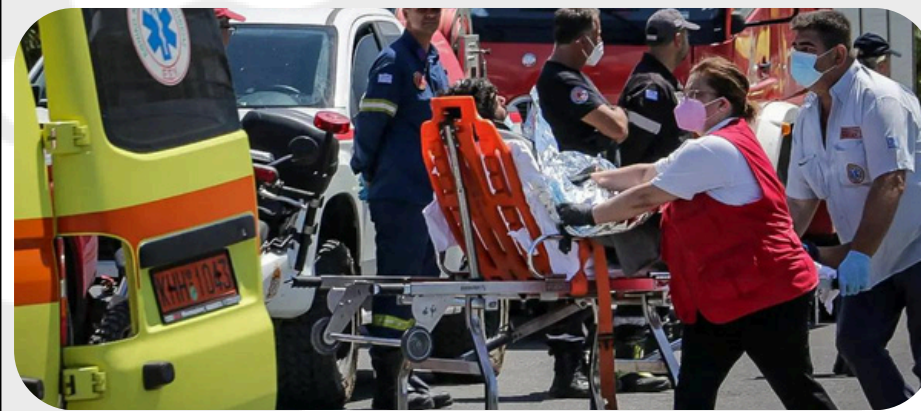
DIVISIONS IN ITALY OVER ILLEGAL MIGRATION AMID THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Amid the European election campaign, divisions over migration issues are deepening between the ruling majority and opposition parties within the Italian parliament.

According to the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has addressed illegal migration as a priority issue, aiming to halt the influx of migrants. Her tenure coincided with a significant increase in the number of arrivals from North Africa, although official data for the first quarter of 2024 shows a decrease of more than half compared to the same period last year.

In launching the European election campaign for the Brothers of Italy party, Meloni was credited with bringing about a change in Europe's stance on migration. The Italian government strongly supported the recent agreement between the European Union and Tunisia, considering it a success that led to a decrease of nearly 60% in the number of departures.

GREEK COURT DROPS CHARGES AGAINST EGYPTIANS IN MIGRANT BOAT SINKING INCIDENT 126 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS DETAINED IN LESS THAN A WEEK



While the Algerian coast guard announced the thwarting of an illegal migration attempt by 126 people across the Mediterranean Sea, reports prepared by Spanish activists monitoring "death boats," which face the risk of sinking, confirmed that 160 Algerian migrants reached the Spanish coast during the current week. This comes amid concerns from Algerian authorities about the escalation of illegal migration with the beginning of summer.

The Algerian coast guard, through a statement from the Ministry of Defense on Wednesday, confirmed that the migrants who were prevented from heading to European shores "were aboard traditional boats." The statement emphasized that their interventions against illegal migration were part of intermittent operations carried out in less than a week, from May 22 to May 28. During the same period, 584 illegal migrants "of various nationalities" were arrested within Algerian territory, according to the same statement, highlighting a reverse migration trend in the country originating from Sahel countries, particularly from the Niger border.



The European Union acknowledges the difficult situation of migrants in Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania

More than 10,000 migrants have reached Britain since the beginning of the year via the English Channel, an unprecedented number coinciding with the expected election campaign on July 4th in the country.

With the arrival of five new boats on the shores of southern England on Friday carrying 288 migrants, the number of arrivals on British soil via the English Channel since the beginning of 2024 has exceeded 10,000 people, an increase of over 35% compared to the same period last year when 7,326 migrants arrived.

Data from the UK Home Office confirms that this figure represents a new record, surpassing the previous record of 9,326 people recorded between January and May 2022.

The ministry noted that the highest daily toll of migrants was recorded on May 1st of this year, with 711 people arriving on the southern coast.

Illegal migration has become a major issue in the election campaign that officially kicked off in Britain.

Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who promised to halt migrant flows, admitted that this controversial project may not be implemented before the elections.

The current Conservative government hopes to deter migrants from coming to Britain by enacting a series of controversial laws, including the law to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda, which has practically been implemented.

In contrast, the Labour Party, which leads the Conservatives in opinion polls by more than 20 points, pledged to abandon the policy of deporting migrants to Rwanda, criticizing the plan as a "costly" and ineffective "means".

