

ISSUED BY THE INDEPENDENTS ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION ISSUES)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD: BASMA FOUAD

THE NEWSCAST

SHOUKRY: EGYPT IS WORKING WITH SPAIN TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, stated that Egypt is working bilaterally with Spain to prevent illegal immigration and address this phenomenon from a comprehensive perspective. He noted that Egypt hosts a large number of migrants, approximately 9 million people, and bears the burden out of a sense of responsibility.

During a press conference with his Spanish counterpart, José Manuel Albares, Shoukry added, "We aim to address issues such as the crisis in Sudan and Libya and continuously seek peaceful means to resolve any conflict in the region. We also observe the implications of the war in Gaza on the freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the damage we have sustained on the economic situation."



THE STATE OF TEXAS IS STRENGTHENING ITS FORCES ON THE BORDER WITH MEXICO TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The Governor of the US state of Texas, Greg Abbott, announced on Sunday the reinforcement of his forces on the border with Mexico by about 300 soldiers at a new border base in the city of Eagle Pass to combat illegal immigration.

In statements reported by the American channel Alhurra, Greg Abbott said, "His plan to expand the Eagle Pass base is part of a strategy aimed at giving the state the ability to increase troop deployment on the border."

Governor Abbott added that the plan includes accommodating up to 1,800 soldiers at the base, with the capacity to expand to 2,300 soldiers, to prevent the influx of illegal migrants.

Approximately 300 soldiers from the Texas Border Guard have moved to the new border base in the city of Eagle Pass on the border with Mexico in an effort to deter illegal crossings as part of Governor Greg Abbott's efforts to curb irregular immigration.



IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY OFFICIAL: MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE LEADS TO AN INCREASE IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION



In a speech delivered at a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Family, Women, and Children's Affairs, held today at the National Assembly, the Head of the Legal Assurance Department of the State Migration Service, Nijat Guliyev, stated that marriage of convenience is being combated rigorously because such marriages lead to an expansion of illegal immigration.

Guliyev emphasized that marriage of convenience poses risks of misuse of specific legal concessions. He explained that this also negatively affects efforts to prevent illegal immigration, noting that a foreigner marrying an Azerbaijani citizen can gain the right to work, which is inappropriate.

Two Polish soldiers injured in an attack by illegal migrants at the border with Belarus



Two Polish soldiers were injured in an attack by illegal migrants at the Polish-Belarusian border as they attempted to enter the country. Radio Poland International reported on Friday that Michał Bora, an official from the Border Guard unit in the Podlaskie Province in the east of the country, stated that a group of foreigners attacked two Polish officers, injuring their faces with serious weapons that required medical intervention.

The official noted that this was the second such incident this week. Earlier, on Tuesday, another soldier was stabbed by migrants attempting to breach the border barrier, and that soldier is currently in critical condition.



THE FIRST TRIAL SESSION OF 17 DEFENDANTS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN MINYA

Today, Saturday, the Minya Criminal Court began the first trial session of 17 defendants from Matai, including two fugitives and 15 others who have been released, for their involvement in illegal immigration to Italy.

The court session was held under the chairmanship of Judge Salah El-Sherbiny, with the membership of Judges Mostafa Abdel Azim Raheel and Ahmed Mohamed Saleh, and the clerks Morcos Nabil, Mohamed Mostafa Haroun, and Khaled Mohamed Abdel Ghany. The court reviewed the decision of the Chief Prosecutor of North Minya, referring the defendants to criminal trial.

The referral decision in case number 20129 of 2002, registered as number 2006 of 2024, North Minya, Matai, includes 17 defendants, among them two fugitives and 15 released defendants, for illegal immigration.

Chief Prosecutor Osama Abou El-Khair of North Minya had referred all the defendants to criminal trial on charges of illegal immigration, demanding the application of the Penal Code provisions.



THE STORY OF AN IMMIGRANT FROM GUINEA WHO DESPAIRINGLY ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE FROM THE MISERABLE DETENTION CENTERS IN ITALY

Darkness and quiet still prevailed as Othman Silla performed his final prayer in the courtyard of the Italian immigrant detention center... Then, the silence of dawn dissipated, and chaos took over the detention and deportation center in Ponte Galeria on the outskirts of Rome. A young man named Othman Silla, in his twenties, committed suicide inside the Italian immigrant detention center in Ponte Galeria on the outskirts of Rome.

Screams from Othman Silla's detained colleagues, who discovered his body, echoed as they sought help and frantically attempted to revive him. When paramedics finally arrived, Silla had already passed away.

Angry migrants, enraged by his death, set fire to mattresses, broke down doors, and hurled stones at security forces inside the prison, leading to the arrest of 13 individuals.

Silla's death in February shed light on the dire conditions within these actual prisons for immigrants, raising questions about Italy's immigration policy. At the same time, its government, led by the far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, pledged to build more of these facilities across the country and abroad.

Detention and deportation centers were established in 1999, described by lawyers and activists as "black holes for human rights." The Italian government argues that they are necessary to deter migrants like Silla from crossing the Mediterranean Sea aboard smugglers' boats.



43 MISSING AFTER A MIGRANT BOAT SANK OFF THE COAST OF TUNISIA



The Tunisian Red Crescent announced today (Saturday) that 43 people were missing after a boat carrying 127 migrants sank on Friday night off the southern coast of Tunisia.

The director of the Tunisian Red Crescent branch in Medenine province, Monji Slim, told the French press agency, "84 migrants were rescued, while 43 others were reported missing after a boat carrying 127 migrants sank off the coast of the city of Zarzis (south)."

The migrants departed from the Libyan coast, according to testimonies collected by the Tunisian Red Crescent from survivors.

The Tunisian Ministry of Defense stated in a statement today (Saturday) that the navy "rescued 84 illegal migrants of various nationalities, including Bangladesh, Sudan, Eritrea, Egypt, and Chad, in cooperation with fishing boats." The ministry did not specify the number of missing persons in its statement.

The ages of the survivors range from three years to forty years, and they were aboard a boat that sank northeast of Zarzis, according to the ministry.

The survivors reported that they set sail from the coast of Zuwara in Libya "during the night between June 28 and 29, with the intention of crossing the maritime borders clandestinely towards European territory."

They were subsequently taken to the port of Zarzis to be handed over to the National Guard for legal procedures.

Statistics Agency: Italy ranks first in the number of Egyptian migrants in 2023

The annual bulletin for Egyptians who obtained approval for migration abroad and Egyptians who acquired another nationality in 2023 revealed the list of foreign countries that received Egyptian immigrants.

Data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics indicated that Italy ranked first, with the number of migrants reaching 83, constituting 33.6% of the total migrants. The United States followed with 61 migrants, accounting for 24.7% of the total, then Canada received 59 migrants, comprising 23.9% of the total number of Egyptians who obtained approval for migration and Egyptians who acquired immigrant status in 2023.

The bulletin data indicated that the number of Egyptians who obtained approval for migration and Egyptians who acquired immigrant status in the age group "35-40 years" was 53 migrants, accounting for 21.5%. Those with university qualifications ranked first among the Egyptians who obtained approval for migration and Egyptians who acquired immigrant status in the education age group "10 years or more," totaling 130 migrants, accounting for 54.9%.

The category of specialists "holders of scientific professions" accounted for the largest share, with 103 migrants, representing 44.4% of the total number of Egyptians who obtained approval for migration and Egyptians who acquired immigrant status.

Overall, the number of Egyptians who obtained approval for migration and Egyptians who acquired immigrant status was 247 migrants in 2023, distributed between 34 migrants and 213 migrants who acquired immigrant status, compared to 317 migrants in 2022, representing a decrease of 22.1%.

The total number of Egyptians who obtained approval for migration and Egyptians who acquired immigrant status was 247 migrants, comprising 218 original migrants, accounting for 88.3%, and 29 dependents, accounting for 11.7% in 2023.





IN THE AEGEAN SEA, A MIGRATION BOAT COLLIDED WITH A GREEK COAST GUARD PATROL, LEAVING 6 MIGRANTS DEAD OR INJURED

The Greek authorities announced the death of one migrant and the injury of 5 others in a collision involving a migrant boat and a patrol belonging to the Greek coast guard, which was chasing them in the Aegean Sea.

According to the Greek authorities, the incident occurred off the island of Symi, in the southeast of the Aegean Sea near the Turkish coast.

A statement issued by the Greek coast guard stated that its boats had spotted a rubber boat carrying a number of passengers, sailing at high speed without light signals, towards the island of Nimos.

The statement added that the patrol "approached the boat and tried to stop it using sound and light signals, but to no avail."

It noted that the driver of the rubber boat jumped to avoid arrest, resulting in a collision with one of the patrol boats, causing "most of the passengers" to fall into the sea, and the driver of the rubber boat was detained.

The coast guard rescued 18 people, including a minor, while the migrant boat was sinking. First aid was provided to 5 migrants, and the sixth, who was unconscious, was resuscitated. The injured were transported to the health services center in Symi, where one of the wounded later passed away.



CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN MIGRANTS IN SPAIN

Spanish media outlets have reported details of deadly clashes that occurred during this week in the Son Gotleu neighborhood on the island of Palma de Mallorca, between migrants of Moroccan and Algerian origin, and a group of Romani people.

According to the sources, a group of Moroccans and Romani people expelled members of an Algerian gang who were residing in the mentioned neighborhood.

The same media sources reported that the gang members of Algerian origin had carried out numerous thefts and assaults in the past months.

The sources stated that Spanish police intervened, preventing any losses during the confrontations.

They mentioned that the police resorted to using public force to disperse the brawlers and restore order to the affected neighborhood.



BIDEN PLANS TO CLOSE THE BORDER WITH MEXICO AND TIGHTEN HIS IMMIGRATION POLICY



American media outlets reported, citing sources, that President Joe Biden plans to significantly tighten his immigration policy on the southern border with Mexico. Media reports revealed details of Biden's plan to close the border if the number of illegal border crossings exceeds 2500 per day, with the possibility of reopening if the number drops below 1500.

President Joe Biden is planning stricter rules on the southern border of the United States, and immigration is likely to become an important issue in the American election campaign, according to the German magazine "Der Spiegel". During the election season in the United States, in addition to issues such as inflation, consumer prices, and lawsuits filed by Donald Trump, attention will once again be focused on immigration from Central and South America.

Biden plans to present his plans and sign a similar decree, and since there are already more than 2500 illegal border crossings every day, the decree may mean an immediate closure of the borders.

Two foreigners were issued prison deposit cards for facilitating the entry of Africans into Tunisia through irregular means

On Friday, May 31, 2024, the investigating judge of the Court of First Instance in Ariana issued two prison deposit cards for two young men from sub-Saharan African countries. This came after their involvement in forming an agreement with two other individuals who are currently under inspection. They were involved in organizing the entry of Africans into Tunisia through legal means, according to "Mosaique FM".

Available information indicates that agents of a National Guard unit in Ariana received reports about Facebook pages recruiting African migrants from sub-Saharan countries to help them enter Tunisian territory. Upon notifying the public prosecutor's office at the Court of First Instance in Ariana, the investigation unit of the National Guard in Ariana was assigned to conduct necessary investigations to identify the parties behind those Facebook pages. They managed to uncover the identities of four young men, one Tunisian and the rest foreigners. Two of the suspects were arrested, and a quantity of equipment used in the recruitment of African migrants was seized.

During interrogations with the detained suspects, it was revealed that they, along with their fugitive partners, were responsible for recruiting Africans to come to Tunisia and informing them about maritime and land routes that would enable them to enter Tunisian territory. They also received varying amounts of money from them later on.

