

THE NEWSCAST

13 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED ON CHARGES OF ORGANIZING IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN LIBYA

The Libyan Attorney General announced the imprisonment of 13 individuals on charges of involvement in organizing irregular migration operations, human trafficking, and the unlawful detention of others in the Kufra and Tazirbu regions. This step is part of an ongoing campaign to combat the crimes of human trafficking and irregular migration, which have increasingly plagued Libya in recent years.

As part of this campaign, 197 migrants were freed from forced detention and torture in illegal detention centers operated by criminal groups. After their release, these migrants received the necessary medical and psychological care in preparation for their resettlement or return to their home countries, in coordination with international organizations concerned with migration and refugees.

Additionally, the Libyan investigative authority has issued orders to pursue 76 other suspects involved in human smuggling and trafficking networks. Libyan authorities are working in cooperation with local and international security agencies to track down and dismantle these networks in an attempt to curb this phenomenon, which has worsened due to the political and security chaos in the country.

These efforts reflect the Libyan authorities' commitment to fighting human trafficking and protecting the rights of migrants and refugees, despite the significant challenges they face.



THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS TASKED THE ARMY WITH INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT OF THE MIGRANT BOAT SINKING

The Lebanese Council of Ministers today (Tuesday) tasked the army with investigating the incident of the migrant boat that sank a few days ago while the naval forces were attempting to stop it, resulting in the deaths of six people, with others still missing.

Three weeks before the upcoming parliamentary elections in mid-May, the migrant boat set off on Saturday evening from the south of Tripoli, Lebanon's poorest city, which has become a launching point for illegal migration boats in recent years. The naval forces pursued the boat, which sank during the attempt to stop it. The circumstances of the incident remain unclear; survivors accused naval personnel of cursing at them and deliberately sinking the boat during the attempt to stop it, while the army stated that the boat's captain performed evasive maneuvers, causing it to collide with a naval vessel.

After an extraordinary session chaired by President Michel Aoun at the Baabda Palace, dedicated to discussing the incident, Information Minister Ziad Makari announced that the government decided to "request the army command to conduct a transparent investigation into the circumstances of the incident under the supervision of the competent judiciary." Makari clarified that the military judiciary would undertake the investigation.

The session was attended by the army commander, the director of intelligence, and the naval forces commander, who provided a "detailed presentation of the facts of what happened," according to the Lebanese presidency. Search operations for the missing continue, after the army rescued 48 people and retrieved six bodies. Conflicting reports exist regarding the number of passengers on the boat, most of whom were Lebanese, with some Palestinian and Syrian refugees among them. The United Nations mentioned at least 84 individuals, including women, men, and children.

The government tasked the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense with communicating with relevant countries and entities to assist in "refloating the sunken boat."

With the deteriorating economic and living conditions, the number of migrants attempting to flee by sea has doubled, often heading to Cyprus. Initially, Palestinian and Syrian refugees undertook the perilous journey, but now Lebanese are also taking the same route.

Since 2020, according to the United Nations, 38 boats carrying more than 1,500 people have attempted to escape by sea from Lebanon, with "over 75% being intercepted or returned."



42 CANDIDATES FOR IRREGULAR MIGRATION HAVE BEEN ARRESTED



The Royal Gendarmerie services at both the Qasabi Territorial Center and the Guelmim Judicial Center, in close coordination with local authorities and auxiliary forces, successfully thwarted an irregular migration operation and arrested 42 candidates, all from Sub-Saharan African countries, including 5 women and 3 children.

This operation was carried out in the area between Ras Oumlil and Zawiya, under the leadership of Labiar in the outskirts of the Guelmim province. The candidates were apprehended while attempting to carry out the irregular migration via maritime routes.

The arrested candidates are being subjected to a judicial investigation under the supervision of the competent public prosecution, while ongoing investigations aim to arrest the suspected organizers of this criminal activity.

This operation is part of the efforts by the Royal Gendarmerie, local authorities, auxiliary forces, and the Royal Armed Forces to combat irregular migration and human trafficking. These efforts have led to the prevention of several attempts in the Guelmim province and surrounding areas.

Accusations Against Moscow of Recruiting Migrants and Foreign Students



The Kremlin has forced thousands of migrants and foreign students to fight alongside Russian forces in their war against Ukraine, aiming to bolster manpower in their offensive in the Kharkiv region, according to assessments by European officials. Bloomberg News reported that Russian officials have increasingly threatened not to renew visas for African students and young workers unless they agree to join the military.

A European official stated that Moscow is enlisting convicts from its prisons into the army, while some Africans in Russia have been detained and forced to choose between deportation or fighting alongside Russian forces.

DETENTION OF SUSPECTS ACCUSED OF ILLEGALLY DETAINING MIGRANTS

The Attorney General's Office announced the detention of two individuals from a criminal gang whose members deliberately detained illegal migrants from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to extort money from their families in exchange for their release.

According to a statement from the office, the Sabratha Security Directorate conducted an investigation into information related to the crime of detaining migrants after they were handed over by a facilitator who had transported them to Italian territory by sea.

The criminal investigation led the judicial enforcement officer to confirm the incident and apprehend the suspects in the act of detaining six migrants, who showed signs of harsh, degrading, and inhumane treatment.

Subsequently, a prosecutor from the Attorney General's Office took on the task of investigating the evidence against the two suspects. The preliminary investigation revealed that the detainees were part of a criminal gang involved in human trafficking, organizing illegal migration, and detaining migrants to obtain unlawful financial benefits. As a result, the investigator ordered the detention of the two suspects pending further investigation and continued the pursuit of the remaining gang members.



A LOCAL OFFICIAL REVEALS THE REASON FOR THE DROWNING OF AFRICAN MIGRANTS OFF THE COAST OF SHABWA AND CONFIRMS THAT THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS HAS RISEN TO 38, MOSTLY WOMEN

A local official in the district of Radhum, Shabwa Governorate, revealed the cause of the drowning and death of African migrants yesterday on the shores of Shabwa Governorate in southern Yemen.

He confirmed that one of the smugglers disembarked dozens of African migrants and threw them into the sea, resulting in the death of 38 people, including 28 women and 10 men so far.

The source added that 71 migrants managed to survive, with some swimming ashore and others being rescued by local fishermen who conducted search operations for survivors after the tragic incident.

The source noted that the death toll may rise as 151 people are still missing, and search efforts continue to locate them. He also mentioned that the bodies found have been buried in a cemetery in Ain Bamaabd in the Radhum district.



TRUMP PLEDGES TO REPEAL BIDEN'S RESTRICTIONS ON BORDER CONTROL WITH MEXICO



Donald Trump announced his intention to overturn President Joe Biden's orders regarding tightening restrictions on illegal immigration during his first campaign rally since his conviction in a criminal case. The Republican candidate, expected to compete against Biden later this year in the presidential elections, also threatened to impose fees on countries that fail to control the flow of immigrants into the United States. This move is part of his electoral strategy, which opinion polls suggest is important to voters.

During the rally held on Thursday in Phoenix, Arizona, in the southwestern United States, Trump was asked by a participant about what he would do to stop the influx of people entering the United States through the southern border, including immigrants from China and Middle Eastern countries. Trump affirmed that he would take economic measures to address the issue, stating, "We have tremendous economic power... If China or another country misbehaves, we have things called tariffs and they are very tough."

He further added, "We will be very tough and if a country doesn't behave the way they should, we will impose massive tariffs on them," without providing details about the size or nature of these tariffs.

Escalating tensions on the Poland-Belarus border as more migrants arrive

About 10 people have gathered near a barbed wire fence amidst dense forests on the border in Belarus, waiting for an opportune moment to climb or breach the fence and head west towards Poland. On the other side, patrols of border guards and armed Polish soldiers move back and forth, while the group, mostly composed of young Middle Eastern men, some injured from sharp wires, watches on.

Tensions over migration are escalating across Europe amidst a confrontation between far-right parties advocating stricter controls and centrist movements in the European Parliament elections. Voting is taking place in Poland on Sunday as part of these elections.

In Poland, this confrontation is exacerbated geopolitically, as Warsaw accuses Belarus and Russia of attempting to sow chaos since 2021 by pushing migrants across borders in what Warsaw terms "hybrid warfare." Minsk and Moscow have denied these accusations.

Recent government data shows an increase in arrivals, and a Polish soldier died last week from injuries sustained in a clash with migrants on the border on May 28.

In response, the government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist party, supportive of the European Union, announced plans to establish a restricted zone along the border.

Deputy Defense Minister Pavel Zalewski told Reuters, "Unfortunately, these borders are not safe. The purpose of this zone is to ensure that no one is subject to attacks like those suffered by Polish soldiers."

Ahmed Libek, 24, from Aleppo, Syria, has been near the fence for over a month. His brother gave up and returned to Belarus, with no news since then.

Ahmed, an English teacher from Syria, said, "I came from the war to start a good life. But I found it very difficult to cross these borders." He attempted to climb the fence four times.

Under current arrangements, migrants can apply for asylum in Poland, an EU member state, once they reach its territory. The following day, one succeeded in crossing the fence: Naaman Al-Hamiri, a 24-year-old graphic designer from Yemen.

Al-Hamiri told Reuters from the forest on the Polish side of the border that he and others made a ladder from wood, cloth scraps, and plastic bags and climbed the barrier under cover of darkness.

He first applied for a Polish student visa from Yemen, and after the application was rejected, he traveled to Moscow, then to Belarus and finally to the border area, where he spent 22 days.



THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR PLEDGES TO DEPORT MIGRANTS FOLLOWING A POLICE STABBING INCIDENT

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledged today, Thursday, that Germany will start deporting migrants from Afghanistan and Syria again, following a knife attack carried out by an Afghan migrant last week that resulted in the killing of a police officer and injuring four others. Scholz, in his speech today before the German parliament (Bundestag), as reported by Deutsche Welle, stated, "The killing of a police officer by stabbing by a 25-year-old Afghan citizen last week in Mannheim is a tragedy that has shocked all of us," emphasizing the need to tighten laws against such violence and to punish those who kill police officers severely. The German Chancellor addressed the controversial issue of deportation of migrants, stating, "It is appalling that someone seeking shelter in Germany commits crimes such as the stabbing attack in Mannheim," and adding, "These individuals must be deported." The issue of whether Germany should resume deportations to countries like Afghanistan and Syria has been a heated debate, opposed by the left and supported by the right. Scholz acknowledged these concerns in his speech but promised to strengthen laws allowing for swift deportation of migrants whom he described as "criminals" to countries that were previously considered unsafe, stating that "national security is more important than the rights of asylum seekers." He further stated, "There is no place for dangerous criminals and terrorist threats here. In such cases, Germany's security interests outweigh the interests of the crime perpetrators." Currently, Germany is not conducting any deportations to Afghanistan or Syria, and the German government does not maintain any diplomatic relations with the Taliban movement in Kabul. The security situation in Syria is extremely fragile, which does not allow for deportations there.



AUSTRIAN-GERMAN COOPERATION ON EUROPEAN UNION ELECTIONS AND ISSUES OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Alexander Schallenberg, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the importance of Austrian-German cooperation, especially concerning the upcoming European Union elections, energy issues, illegal migration, and geopolitical developments.

Schallenberg stated in remarks following the conclusion of his visit to Berlin that he discussed with German officials a wide range of European and international topics, in addition to their excellent bilateral relations, particularly in trade and upcoming decisions at the European level.

He pointed out that his discussions with German Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff, Wolfgang Schäuble, focused on the upcoming European Union elections, energy issues, and illegal migration. They emphasized the crucial need for continuous and close coordination to address these challenges and others.

ASSIUT UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES A SEMINAR ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION



Assiut University's Center for Monitoring and Studying Social Issues is organizing a seminar titled "Illegal Migration: Its Consequences and Methods of Combating It," under the patronage of Dr. Ahmed El-Menshawry, President of Assiut University, and under the supervision of Dr. Mahmoud Abdel Aleem, Vice President of the University for Community Service and Environmental Development. The seminar will be held tomorrow, Monday, June 10th, at the Youth Center in Ibnoub City, affiliated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Dr. El-Menshawry emphasized that Assiut University places great importance on raising awareness to combat all forms of illegal migration, alongside promoting awareness among youth and encouraging them to work within the country. He added that the seminar aims to address issues related to migration, confront negative perceptions arising from illegal migration practices, as well as train youth in leadership and decision-making, aiming to find solutions to various societal problems and issues.



The recovery of 11 migrant bodies off the coast of Libya

Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) reported that a charity rescue ship recovered the bodies of 11 migrants off the coast of Libya after rescuing over 160 people from boats near the Libyan shores. The organization mentioned that their search and rescue vessel, Geo Barents, rescued 146 migrants in two operations and found another 20 in a separate boat. Additionally, they retrieved 11 bodies spotted floating on the sea's surface by a monitoring aircraft.

On social media platform Twitter, Médecins Sans Frontières stated, "We do not know the exact cause of this tragedy, but we know people are still dying in a desperate attempt to reach safety. This massacre must end."

The watchdog group Sea-Watch, whose aircraft observed the bodies, attempted to contact the Libyan coast guard to recover the bodies but received no response. They stated in a release, "This is what happens in the Mediterranean Sea, even when no one is watching."

According to the United Nations, more than 20,000 deaths and disappearances have been recorded in the central Mediterranean since 2014, making it the world's deadliest migrant route. Italy has urged Tunisia and Libya to make more efforts to prevent potential migrants from setting sail. Italy has also imposed strict restrictions on rescue ship operations, claiming they encourage people to head for Europe, a stance disputed by charitable organizations.

In a confirmation of the restrictions placed on rescue ships, Italy requested today, Friday, that the ship Geo Barents take its latest group of migrants to the northern port of Genoa, over 650 nautical miles away from their location and far from the more accessible ports in nearby Sicily. Médecins Sans Frontières commented, "This will significantly delay providing assistance to survivors who have already endured so much."

