

THE NEWSCAST

"DIRTY" DEPORTATION... THE ECONOMY OF BRITAIN DETERMINES THE FATE OF MIGRANTS

The Appellate Criminal Division for Terrorism and Illegal Immigration Crimes, presided over by Judge Khaled Al-Shabasy, and comprising Judges Mohamed Al-Qursh and Tamer Al-Fangary, along with Chief Prosecutor Abdullah Al-Derabaly, accepted the prosecution's appeal against the acquittal of 6 out of 14 defendants. Sentences were previously handed down to 9 defendants, while 6 others were acquitted. Following the prosecution's appeal, the court found the acquitted individuals guilty and sentenced them to 10 years in prison. The court also accepted the prosecution's appeal regarding the fine, increasing it from half a million to three million pounds for each defendant, due to their involvement in recruiting and transporting youth abroad via illegal immigration.

Information and reports had been received by security agencies about a criminal gang smuggling young people through the Saloum border to Cyprus and then to Italy, in exchange for large sums of money ranging from 30,000 to 400,000 pounds per person.

Investigations revealed that a criminal gang led by an agricultural engineer and a contractor was behind the operation. The defendants were based in Kafr El-Sheikh, Mansoura, Samanoud, Menoufia, and Qalyubia.

The criminal investigation team discovered that the defendants had divided roles among themselves, including attracting and recruiting young people, collecting money from them, and contacting their families after they had left the country. All recordings between the defendants and the families of the youth were monitored. The investigations revealed that the defendants had obtained nearly 18 million pounds from the victims and their families.

The court's reasoning emphasized that the defendants' guilt was proven beyond a doubt by both tangible and verbal evidence. It was found that they received financial payments from those wishing to travel on their mobile phones and through various applications, transferring these amounts to the gang leader and some of his collaborators. The phone recordings, authorized by the Public Prosecution, contained conversations that confirmed their crimes, organizing travel dates, meetings, and ongoing communication with the gang leader.



THE ATLANTIC COAST IS A PATH THAT PRESENTS CHALLENGES FOR MOROCCO AND ITS PARTNERS IN CONFRONTING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Today, Morocco faces significant challenges posed by irregular migration, particularly from the south along the Atlantic coast of the kingdom. This includes the coasts of Mauritania, Senegal, and Gambia, where human trafficking and irregular migration gangs operate extensively and unprecedentedly. This situation is exacerbated by the concentration of organized crime and terrorist groups in the Western and Sahel regions of Africa, supported by countries aiming to destabilize security and stability in many neighboring states.

This maritime route, considered the most dangerous compared to previously safer paths, is perilous due to the long maritime distances and numerous recorded drowning incidents. The Atlantic Ocean, known in geography as the Sea of Darkness, is not like the Mediterranean Sea, the meeting point of the European and African continents and the cradle of Mediterranean civilizations.

The southern coasts of the kingdom present a monitoring challenge due to their vastness, requiring substantial financial, logistical, and human resources. This is exploited by active networks in irregular migration.

The shift in irregular migration from northern to southern Morocco is primarily due to the increased crackdown on the Mediterranean Sea and the significant cooperation between Morocco, Spain, and Mediterranean countries.

OPPONENTS CALL ON TÜRKIYE TO BRING DISPLACED PEOPLE INTO ITS "AREAS" IN NORTHERN SYRIA



Displaced individuals from northern Homs have appealed to Ankara to expedite their entry into the city of Al-Bab in northern Syria after being prevented from crossing at the Abu al-Zandin checkpoint near the city. Meanwhile, the Turkish army has established a new observation point west of Aleppo.

The opposition network "Smart" reported that the "humanitarian situation is very dire, with no food, water, or sanitation facilities, amidst heavy rainfall." The report noted that "the convoy includes a large number of war-wounded individuals, children, and women, and that an elderly woman died from a heart attack, with her body still inside an ambulance belonging to the Syrian Red Crescent organization."

The "Negotiation Committee" in northern Homs and southern Hama countryside communicated with the Russian delegation, which informed them that departure from areas controlled by regime forces is allowed, but the Turkish authorities are hindering entry.

This displacement follows an agreement between the "Negotiation Committee" for northern Homs and southern Hama with a Russian delegation from the Hmeimim military base. The agreement stipulated a ceasefire and displacement.

Previously, dozens of residents and activists in the city of Al-Bab organized a protest on Tuesday, condemning the Turkish authorities' prevention of the first convoy of displaced individuals from northern Homs from entering the area.

In a related context, Turkish officers promised displaced individuals from southern Damascus that they would be relocated to the Afrin area (42 kilometers northwest of Aleppo) in northern Syria after shelter centers are prepared for them.

The Turkish authorities had initially prevented convoys carrying displaced individuals from Eastern Ghouta from entering the "Euphrates Shield" areas due to a "lack of coordination with them." However, they quickly reversed the decision following popular protests and demonstrations, according to "Smart."

A United Nations organization: The death toll from the sinking of a migrant boat in Yemen has risen to 56 dead and 129 missing



The International Organization for Migration (IOM), a United Nations agency, announced on Wednesday that the death toll from a migrant boat sinking off the coast of Yemen about two weeks ago has risen to 56, with 129 people still listed as missing.

In a report seen by the German news agency (DPA), the UN agency stated, "On June 10, 2024, a boat carrying 260 migrants capsized off the coast of Yemen near Shabwa Governorate, resulting in the confirmed deaths of 56 people, with 129 others still missing."

For the first time, the report revealed details of the incident, stating that "smugglers ordered all passengers to jump into the sea due to strong winds that were causing the overcrowded boat to fill with water, which would have led to its capsizing."

The UN report added, "Many of them were young, aged between 15 and 25 years old. While some tried to save their companions from the water, others were crying for their friends who had drowned."

The report highlighted that "the scene was chaotic and horrifying, with people screaming on the shore and in the water, struggling for their lives for approximately four hours."

On June 10, the organization announced that a migrant boat (from the Horn of Africa) had sunk off the coast of Yemen, resulting in the deaths of 49 people and the loss of 140 others.



ARRESTING IRREGULAR IMMIGRANTS IN SABRATHA

The Sabratha Security Directorate announced early this Sunday the arrest of a number of irregular migrants in the city.

In a statement, the directorate mentioned that "investigation and arrest patrols affiliated with the directorate raided several places illegally used for housing migrants in the city center." The statement noted that "several individuals who entered the country through irregular means, from various nationalities, were arrested, and measures were taken against them, placing them in detention."

- Dbeibeh discusses preparations for the "Migration Forum" with EU ambassadors
- Following Libya's lead, Tunisia establishes a search and rescue zone in the Mediterranean
- Baour discusses preparations for the migration conference in Tripoli with the Italian ambassador

Libya's efforts in combating irregular migration, as a transit country, were reflected in the statements of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni earlier this month. She announced that "the number of irregular migrants has decreased by 60% compared to the same period last year," attributing this achievement to "cooperative relations with North African countries, primarily Tunisia and Libya."



AN UNIDENTIFIED ERITREAN DROWNED AFTER AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTEMPT NORTH OF EGYPT

The Egyptian Ministry of Health confirmed the deaths of two individuals and the rescue of five others from drowning during an attempt to escape by jumping into the sea after border guard forces raided a boat involved in illegal migration off the coast of Kafr El-Sheikh in northern Egypt. The forces also managed to arrest approximately 200 other individuals of various nationalities who were on board the boat.

Dr. Hossam Abdel Ghaffar, spokesperson for the Egyptian Ministry of Health, stated in a media interview this morning that the incident resulted in five injuries and one death. However, sources within the Ministry of Health later confirmed two fatalities; one is believed to be of Eritrean nationality, while the other remains unidentified. Abdel Ghaffar explained that all the injured individuals are in stable condition after receiving treatment for minor injuries.

Early this morning, Egyptian border guard forces apprehended around 200 people of various nationalities while they were attempting to migrate illegally to Italy via Egyptian shores. The coast guard forces also rescued five individuals from drowning, all of whom were of Somali nationality. The injured and the two deceased fell into the water due to a stampede during their attempt to flee while the boat was being intercepted. The search for other bodies is still ongoing.



THE UNITED NATIONS EXPANDS THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FOR SUDANESE REFUGEES IN LIBYA AND UGANDA



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced on Tuesday that it has decided to expand its assistance plan for Sudan to include two additional countries, Libya and Uganda, following the arrival of tens of thousands of refugees in recent months.

UNHCR spokesperson Ewan Watson told journalists in Geneva that at least 20,000 refugees have arrived in Libya since last year, with the number of arrivals accelerating in recent months. Meanwhile, at least 39,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda, according to Reuters.

Watson added, "This only highlights the desperate situations and decisions being made by those who end up in a place like Libya, which is, of course, extremely challenging for refugees at the moment."

A document from the UNHCR indicated that the number of Sudanese refugees in Libya is expected to reach 149,000, and in Uganda 55,000, by the end of the year.

International report: Libya has more than 725 thousand migrants

The number of migrants is the highest since the International Organization for Migration (IOM) began collecting data in Libya in 2016, although it remains lower than the total number of migrants before 2011, which was estimated at around 2.5 million.

The IOM recorded 725,304 migrants from 44 nationalities in 100 Libyan municipalities. This information was published in a report by the organization on Thursday, highlighting the continued influx of Sudanese displaced persons into southern and eastern Libya.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report, based on data collection conducted in March and May, showed a 1% increase in the number of migrants, a modest rise compared to the last census conducted in December.

The program noted that the current number of migrants is the highest since it started data collection in 2016, but still below the total number of migrants before 2011, which was estimated at around 2.5 million.

According to the report, Sudanese displaced persons have continued to flow into Kufra and other locations in eastern Libya due to the ongoing conflict in their home country.

The DTM also observed an increase in the number of migrants in coastal areas of eastern and western Libya, seeking "better livelihood opportunities, including in sectors such as construction, oil, trade, and agriculture, as well as the relatively stable security situation in some municipalities."



BEFORE THE ELECTIONS... ANTI-IMMIGRANT ACTIONS INCREASE IN FRANCE

In northern France, where the National Rally party achieved the highest results in the European elections, migrant aid associations say they are cautious and condemn racist views and actions against migrants. Several incidents have been recorded in recent days.

In an interview with MigrantNews, Claire Melot, Vice President of the Salam Association for Aid to Migrants, expressed her dismay over the situation in northern France, stating, "For years, Ms. Bouchart (the mayor of Calais) has been trying to scare people by saying 'Your children are in danger,' but what is this danger? Migrants are not going to kidnap (French) children before leaving (across the Channel)! Making such statements is irresponsible. And now, look at the situation."

The situation she refers to is happening 50 kilometers away in Dunkirk, more precisely in the "Loon-Plage" camp, where hundreds of migrants live. On the night of June 13-14, the tank that supplies drinking water to the migrants was deliberately contaminated by someone from outside the camp, with a blue liquid being poured into the tank.

Claire Melot continues, "There was a sweet taste, as witnesses told us, and it was not the authorities who were responsible for this. We believe it was an isolated act," confirming that a complaint has been filed and a bottle of the water has been sent for analysis.



AN EGYPTIAN COURT ORDERS THE IMPRISONMENT OF 56 DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE OF THE SINKING OF AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT BOAT

An Egyptian court sentenced 56 defendants to prison terms ranging from two to 13 years in the case of a migrant boat sinking that resulted in the deaths of 203 people.

The Rashid Misdemeanor Court sentenced the 56 defendants on Sunday to various prison terms and acquitted one defendant in the case of the illegal migrant boat sinking off the coast of Rashid. They were charged with manslaughter, fraud, harboring criminals, and unauthorized employment.

According to Egyptian law, misdemeanor courts can issue prison sentences of up to three years, unless the defendants are tried under special laws that impose harsher penalties. Additionally, the court can sentence a single defendant for multiple crimes.

The public prosecutor charged the defendants with manslaughter, negligence, recklessness, using the boat "Al-Rizk Bi'ithn Allah" for an unauthorized purpose, failing to provide sufficient life-saving equipment, endangering the lives of children, practicing labor recruitment abroad without a license, and using the boats "Ghazal Al-Jadida" and "Hajj Fathi Abdeen" in violation of their licensing conditions, leading to the deaths of 203 people.



REQUESTS FOR "VOLUNTARY RETURN" ARE INCREASING DUE TO ANTI-IMMIGRANT BEHAVIOR IN TUNISIA



Between January 1st and June 25th, 3500 illegal migrants suffering from anti-Black policies in Tunisia sought assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to return to their home countries. This figure marks a 200% increase compared to the previous year.

According to the International Organization for Migration, approximately 3500 migrants requested "voluntary return" from Morocco to their countries of origin during the period from January 1st to June 25th, 2024, representing a 200% increase compared to the same period in 2023. The most affected nationalities include Gambians, Burkinabes, and Guineans, according to the same source.

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights views this increase as unsurprising, citing difficult living conditions for Sub-Saharan Africans in the country. Many have lost their jobs and homes following harsh rhetoric from President Kais Saied in February 2023, accusing them of "violence and crime" and holding them responsible for a "criminal plan" aimed at "changing the demographic composition" of Tunisia.

According to the Tunisian Ministry of Interior, there are currently 23,000 irregular migrants in the country, constituting 0.2% of the population.

Italian police arrest two Egyptians suspected of involvement in the killing of 10 migrants while crossing the Mediterranean

Italian media reported two days ago, on June 30th, that police arrested two Egyptian nationals who arrived in Lampedusa on the 17th of the same month. The Public Prosecutor's Office in Agrigento and the Public Prosecutor's Office for Events in Palermo issued arrest warrants accusing them of aiding 51 illegal migrants' entry into Italy, most of whom are from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Authorities allege that the young men directed and navigated the unfit boat for profit, indirectly endangering the lives and safety of the passengers, resulting in fatalities. The journey led to the suffocation of 10 Bangladeshi individuals inside the boat's hold, with injuries reported among other migrants, according to the same source.

The events occurred in the early hours of June 17th when the sailboat "Nadir," a wooden vessel approximately 10 meters long, was found in international waters about 47 nautical miles south of the island of Lampedusa. It carried 51 migrants and 10 bodies packed inside its hold. Italian Coast Guard patrol boats rescued the 54 migrants and towed the "Nadir" sailboat with the 10 bodies to Lampedusa. Survivors indicated the boat departed from Zuwara, Libya. Initial information revealed multiple nationalities aboard, including approximately 30 Bangladeshis, along with Pakistanis, Syrians, and Egyptians.

This incident is not the first time humanitarian ships have encountered similar shipwrecked boats. On Friday, June 7th, the vessel "Geo Barents," operated by Doctors Without Borders, retrieved the bodies of 11 migrants who had drifted in the sea off the Libyan coast. On May 28th, rescue teams from SOS Méditerranée found the lifeless body of a six-month-old child in a floating migrant boat.

