

Independent Organization International

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

#### **CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD: BASMA FOUAD**

# THE NEWSCAST

### THE FRENCH LEFT PRESENTS A "PLEASANT SURPRISE" FOR ARAB IMMIGRANTS.

#### A Victory That Grants Security

It seems that the success of the leftist bloc has brought reassurance to the hearts of Arab immigrants who were greatly concerned about the potential rise of the far-right, which aims to tighten restrictions on immigrants, gaining a majority in the French parliament.

Among the measures included in the left's program are:

- \*\*Abolishing the "Asylum and Immigration" Law\*\*: The New Popular Front intends to facilitate the acquisition of visas, organize workers, students, and parents of school children, and establish a ten-year residency permit as a standard residency permit.

- \*\*Reviewing the European Asylum and Immigration Charter\*\*: They aim to ensure a "dignified reception for immigrants."

- \*\*Guaranteeing Full Rights for Children Born in France\*\*: The program also seeks to make it easier to obtain French citizenship.

- \*\*Creating a Sea and Land Rescue Agency\*\*: This agency will be established in support of the European Union Agency for Asylum.

- \*\*Including the Status of "Climate Displaced Persons."\*\*

- \*\*Ensuring Access to State Medical Assistance\*\*: This system allows foreigners who are in an illegal situation on French territory to benefit from access to healthcare.

#### ORGANIZATION WARNS OF "EMERGENCY SITUATION" AFTER MIGRANT RESCUES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

German NGO "Sea-Eye" Warns of "Emergency Situation" After Rescuing Migrants in the Mediterranean

The German non-governmental organization "Sea-Eye" announced on Tuesday that it had rescued five migrant boats within 24 hours, indicating an "emergency situation" in the Mediterranean Sea.

In a statement, the organization said, "Five rescue operations in 24 hours demonstrate the current emergency situation in the Mediterranean and the importance of our presence there to save lives."

The organization explained that the "Sea-Eye 4" ship responded to distress calls along with two other rescue ships between Sunday and Monday, rescuing about 230 people, including a mother and her child.

After transferring some of them to an Italian coast guard ship, the "Sea-Eye 4" transported around 170 people on Tuesday to its designated port in Genoa, northern Italy, "about 600 nautical miles away."

Since coming to power in Italy at the end of 2022, the far-right government of Giorgia Meloni has pledged to reduce the arrival of migrants from North Africa.

Rome believes that the presence of NGO rescue ships encourages migrants to attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

The NGOs reject this argument, pointing out that they rescue less than 10 percent of the



#### TWO DEAD AND 11 OTHERS RESCUED IN THE SINKING OF AN ILLEGAL MIGRATION BOAT IN MATROUH



Two people drowned and 11 others were injured as a result of the sinking of an illegal migration boat off the coast of Marsa Matrouh, near the eastern port.

Border guard forces assisted in rescuing those on the illegal migration boat after receiving a distress call about the sinking of the fishing boat they were on.

The Matrouh Ambulance Facility received a report of the incident, and ambulances from the Marsa Matrouh units along the coast immediately responded.

Eleven injured individuals were transported to Matrouh Hospital, and the bodies of two young men from the same boat were also received. Initial information indicates that the boat departed from Rashid Port four days ago, carrying around 20 young men, all from Monufia Governorate. All necessary first aid is being provided to the injured at Matrouh General Hospital. The bodies have been placed in the morgue of the General Hospital in Marsa Matrouh, awaiting further instructions from the relevant authorities.

migrants retrieved in the Mediterranean, while the Italian coast guard rescues the majority. The head of "Sea-Eye," Gordon Isler, expressed regret, saying, "By sending civilian rescue ships to distant ports – we spend six days on the trip to and from Genoa alone – we waste valuable time in the search and rescue area during which we cannot assist people in need."



#### Human Rights Commissioner Warns of Widespread Arbitrary Arrests and Impunity in Libya



Migrants' and Refugees' Plight in Libya Takes Center Stage at Human Rights Council in Geneva

The plight of migrants and refugees in Libya was a key focus of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Tuesday. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk urged the international community to reconsider its agreements with Libya regarding asylum seekers and migration issues.

In his address to the council, the High Commissioner stated that "trafficking, torture, forced labor, extortion, and starvation in intolerable detention conditions" are being widely committed in Libya, with impunity prevailing.

Mr. Türk continued, saying that "mass expulsions and the sale of human beings, including children," are widespread in Libya. He emphasized that collusion between governmental and non-governmental entities persists, "stripping victims of their humanity."

Calling on Libyan authorities to investigate crimes committed against thousands of vulnerable individuals on the move, the High Commissioner also highlighted the discovery of a mass grave in March in southwestern Libya containing 65 bodies, presumed to be migrants.



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# SUCCESS IN HALTING MIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN LEADS TO NEW DISASTERS ON THE ATLANTIC FRONT

Sub-Saharan Africans Shift Migration Route from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic Ocean in Search of a Better Life

Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko of Senegal has expressed concern over the growing phenomenon of irregular migration, which has become one of the major crises facing the African continent. This shift comes as smugglers increasingly choose the perilous Atlantic route over the Mediterranean, where North African governments have tightened security.

On Saturday, Sonko urged youth not to attempt the dangerous Atlantic crossing to Europe, following the deaths of dozens of migrants when their boat capsized off Mauritania just days earlier.

Speaking at Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, North Senegal, Sonko stated via his Facebook page, "Another ship has crashed off our coasts, and while we await precise numbers, it is believed to have claimed the lives of many young people."

Attempts by sub-Saharan Africans to migrate irregularly to Europe have been increasing, driven by the search for a better life amidst wars, security disruptions, and deteriorating economic conditions exacerbated by recent climate changes in their countries.

African officials need to take concrete steps to inspire optimism among youth and persuade them to abandon the dream of migration, instead encouraging them to seek stability in their homelands where many suffer from starvation.

According to UN reports, 8 out of every 10 children in Africa aged between 6 and 23 months do not consume the minimum food required for growth, and approximately 16.7 million children under the age of five suffer from severe malnutrition. Moreover, more than two-thirds of families cannot afford a healthy diet.

Last week, 89 migrants lost their lives and dozens more were reported missing when their boat sank off the coast of Mauritania while en route to Europe, according to official sources announced on Thursday.

# TUNISIAN COAST GUARD INTERCEPTS 630 MIGRANTS IN ONE NIGHT

Tunisian National Guard Intercepts 630 Migrants in One Night

The Tunisian National Guard announced today, Wednesday, that they intercepted 630 migrants, including 550 from sub-Saharan Africa, during an attempt to cross maritime borders towards Europe on Monday night to Tuesday.

According to a press statement from the Guard, they thwarted 18 attempts to cross the borders and apprehended 20 human traffickers in a security operation in Sfax, a city known for illegal migration activities towards nearby Italian islands.

The National Guard administration reported that among those arrested were brokers involved in illegal migration operations that have resulted in deaths at sea.

Security forces also seized 50 boats, as well as cars, motorcycles, and a sum of 650,000 Tunisian dinars (equivalent to 211,000 US dollars), according to the same source.

A month ago, Tunisia signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Union to enhance efforts in combating large flows of irregular migration waves, in exchange for economic and financial support, including \$100 million in funding for the coast guard.

Individuals from Tunisia and sub-Saharan Africa risk their lives boarding small motorized boats provided by smugglers for thousands of dollars to reach Italian territory. These boats are often overcrowded, increasing the risk of capsizing at sea.

Approximately 950 bodies have been recovered on Tunisian shores this year, according to reports from the Tunisian authorities cited by the German news agency.





# MAURITANIA: RESCUE OF 9 OUT OF 170 REFUGEES ON BOARD BOAT



The Mauritanian News Agency announced the rescue of 9 people out of 170 aboard a

boat carrying asylum seekers. The agency also confirmed the recovery of 89 bodies of asylum seekers after their boat sank off the country's coast.

# Selling bags at exorbitant prices despite being manufactured for a few dollars... Exploitation scandal affecting Dior and Armani

Some fashion brands, including Dior and Armani, are facing allegations of operating outside the law by employing contractors who pay workers less than \$2 per hour to manufacture handbags. These handbags are then sold for thousands of dollars each in retail stores. According to European law enforcement officials, Dior pays approximately \$57 to manufacture a handbag that retails for around \$2780, while Armani reportedly pays \$270 to a supplier for a handbag sold for \$2000.

Italian authorities obtained these figures after conducting raids on workshops and temporary factories employing undocumented migrants and others operating "outside the law." Prosecutors in Milan have accused the companies of using contractors who employ foreign migrants at low wages ranging between \$2 and \$3 per hour. Workers are allegedly forced to sleep in the workshops and work long hours, including on holidays.

In response to the raids, Armani denied any wrongdoing in the production of clothing and accessories, stating that the company has always implemented monitoring and prevention measures to reduce supply chain violations.





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# HOW DOES AUSTRALIA TREAT IMMIGRANTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

When Luca was born at Perth Hospital in Australia two years ago, his parents Dante and Laura Corry's world turned upside down in a way they never expected. The joy of parenthood was mixed with the shock of their newborn son Luca being diagnosed with cystic fibrosis.

The Corrys had lived in Australia for eight years, where they were informed that they couldn't stay permanently because Luca might pose a financial burden on the country. Laura said, "I cried for about a week. I feel so sorry for Luca. He's just a two-and-a-half-year-old child who doesn't deserve to be treated this way because of his illness."

Australia, with a third of its population born overseas, has long considered itself a "migration nation" and a multicultural home for immigrants seeking a fair journey and a fresh start. However, reality often proves different, especially for those with disabilities or serious medical conditions.



# DEATH OF 7 ILLEGAL MIGRANTS AND RESCUE OF 19 AFTER A BOAT SANK OFF THE TURKISH COAST

Istanbul, July 9, 2024 (Xinhua) - Seven illegal migrants drowned and 19 others were rescued today (Tuesday) when their boat sank in the Aegean Sea off Izmir province, western Turkey, according to the Turkish coast guard.

The coast guard stated in a press release that 19 illegal migrants were rescued who were stranded on Kara Ada island, while the deaths of seven others were confirmed.

The statement added that a search and rescue team supported by a helicopter is still searching for the missing.

The destination of the migrants has not been immediately clarified.

The Aegean Sea is a significant route for migrants attempting to reach Europe via Turkey. Official statistics released today indicated that the total number of migrants intercepted off the Turkish coast has reached 24,303 so far this year.

Additionally, 137 smugglers have been apprehended during the same period.



# FORCED DEPORTATION TO RWANDA



Asylum seekers who had Europe's doors, including Britain's, opened to them, have turned into their worst nightmares. They've shifted from being sympathized with as asylum seekers to being seen as migrants—socially ostracized, legally condemned, and politically exploited. Their disposal has become a topic of discussion among officials, using their plight for electoral gains at times and satisfying racial biases at others. Defending them remains the burden of human

rights organizations, despite facing political and legal obstacles. A team on the ground monitors the steps of undocumented migrants in Britain, shedding light on their struggles and fears of forced deportation to Rwanda.

# The death of 89 migrants and the loss of dozens more after a boat sank off the coast of Mauritania

The Mauritanian news agency announced that 89 migrants died this week, while dozens are missing after their boat sank off the coast of Mauritania while attempting to reach Europe. The agency reported that coast guard teams recovered the bodies of the victims and rescued nine survivors, including a five-year-old girl. Survivors indicated that the boat had departed from the border between Senegal and Gambia with 170 passengers aboard, raising the number of missing to approximately 72 people.

The Atlantic Ocean route from West African shores to the Canary Islands, typically used by African migrants seeking to reach Spain, is among the most dangerous migration routes in the world. Such journeys intensify significantly during the summer season.





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