

THE NEWSCAST

EGYPTIAN NAVY RESCUES ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Egyptian Navy rescued a group of illegal immigrants whose ship had broken down in the Mediterranean Sea on Thursday. The Alexandria Governorate issued a statement detailing the rescue operation, explaining that it had received a report from the Alexandria Port Operations Room. The report indicated that an American ship named USS Bulkely had spotted an illegal immigration vessel with engine failure 130 nautical miles from the border city of Sallum, carrying 31 individuals of various nationalities.

The statement added that the Egyptian Navy immediately moved after receiving the report to retrieve the immigrants and transfer them to Pier No. 8 at Alexandria Port. Additionally, seven equipped ambulances and a full medical team were dispatched. The Directorate of Social Solidarity provided necessary support to the injured.

The Alexandria Governorate's statement noted that the incident resulted in the death of one immigrant and critical injuries to five others. The injured were transported within Alexandria Port, and necessary procedures are being taken.

It is noteworthy that since 2016, Egypt has been enforcing a law to curb "illegal immigration." The law stipulates "severe imprisonment and a fine of not less than 200,000 EGP and not more than 500,000 EGP (with the dollar officially equal to 30.8 EGP), or a fine equal to the value of the benefit gained, whichever is greater, for anyone who commits, attempts to commit, or mediates in the crime of smuggling immigrants."



GREECE DENIES ANKARA'S ACCUSATIONS OF PUSHING MIGRANTS INTO TURKISH TERRITORY

The Greek Coast Guard denied accusations from the Turkish Ministry of Defense on Monday that it had pushed migrants from off the coast of Lesbos to Turkey, according to Reuters. Earlier, the Turkish Ministry of Defense had posted a drone video on the platform X showing a Greek Coast Guard operation. The video purportedly showed a Greek ship pushing a boat carrying migrants from the north of Lesbos Island towards Turkish territorial waters. The ministry stated on X, "Our Coast Guard Command was immediately informed, and the concerned migrants were rescued by a boat that reached the area."

A senior Greek Coast Guard official responded, saying, "This was by no means a pushback, but rather a detection and prevention of illegal entry into Greek territorial waters." Aid groups accuse Greece, a key entry point for refugees and migrants from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa into the EU, of forcibly repelling migrants from its sea and land borders in what is also known as "pushbacks," an illegal practice.

Greece and Turkey, both NATO members, have long-standing disputes over issues including the extent of their continental shelves, energy resources, airspace over the Aegean Sea, and the ethnically divided island of Cyprus.

This incident comes two days after the 50th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of part of the island following a short-lived coup instigated by Greece. Greek Cypriots seek to reunify the island into a federal entity, while Turkish Cypriots desire a settlement based on two separate states. The situation remains emotionally charged for both countries, hindering Turkey's ambitions to join the EU and complicating energy potential in the Eastern Mediterranean due to overlapping claims.

In 2023, both countries agreed to renew their relations and chart a roadmap towards a new era of closer ties.



DEPORTING MIGRANTS TO RWANDA.. A NEW ACCUSATION AGAINST THE FORMER BRITISH GOVERNMENT



The new British Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, accused the previous Conservative government on Monday of concealing its forecast of spending ten billion pounds (13 billion dollars) on a later-canceled plan to deport some asylum seekers to Rwanda.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government scrapped the plan after winning the election comfortably this month.

Cooper, a member of the Labour Party, told Parliament that taxpayers had already spent 700 million pounds on chartering flights that never took off, along with paying the Rwandan government and wasting countless hours of government work, among other things.

She added that since her appointment two weeks ago, she has been reviewing "the policies, programs, and legislation we inherited... It is the most wasteful expenditure of taxpayers' money I have ever seen."

The previous Conservative government announced in 2022 that it would end the arrival of asylum seekers to Britain without permission on small boats by deporting them to Rwanda.

The gang that smuggled migrants from Egypt to Italy appears before the Criminal Court today



The Cairo Criminal Court, convening in the Fifth Settlement, continues today, Saturday, the trial of a gang consisting of 12 defendants established for the purpose of smuggling migrants from Egypt to Italy, as it listens to the pleadings.

The indictment states that in 2021, within the jurisdiction of the Nozha Police Department, the 12 defendants, along with unknown others, illegally smuggled migrants, totaling 16 victims, from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the State of Libya, sneaking through desert paths and then to Italy by sea using fishing boats not designated for this purpose, with the intent of financial gain.

The investigations indicated that the crime had a transnational character and posed a threat to the lives of the aforementioned victims, endangering them as detailed in the investigations.

The indictment also mentioned that the defendants, along with unknown others, joined an organized criminal group established to smuggle migrants from Egypt to Italy for financial gain.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.. 60 EGYPTIANS ARRESTED IN LIBYA IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR DEPORTATION

Libyan authorities have announced the arrest of 60 Egyptians who had illegally entered the country in an attempt to migrate to Europe.

The authorities stated that patrols from the Directorate Support Force in the western region managed to apprehend several migrants who were preparing to migrate by sea from the city of Zuwara. The migrants were transferred to the headquarters of the Directorate Support Force to complete legal and humanitarian procedures in preparation for their deportation.

Information obtained by "Al Arabiya Net" revealed that the majority of the detained Egyptians were from the city of Sahel Selim in Assiut Governorate in southern Egypt. They had traveled to Libya in January for work, intending to later migrate to Europe through illegal migration networks.

Several relatives of the detainees spoke to "Al Arabiya Net." Thomas Malak said he had lost contact with his brother, who had been working in Libya since January, until he was surprised to find pictures of him among the detainees on Libyan police social media pages, accusing him of attempting illegal migration. He confirmed that more than 60 young men from his city were with his brother, having traveled together to work there.

Jaafar Fareq explained that his brother had also disappeared since the beginning of July and was shocked to see his picture among those announced to have been arrested for illegal migration. He confirmed that his brother had left Egypt legally via Borg El Arab Airport in Alexandria and had traveled solely for work, with no intention of migrating to Europe.

Milad Adly Samir stated that his son had traveled to Libya legally in March and had been working in construction, but contact was lost with him at the beginning of July. He was then surprised by a call from someone informing him that his son had been arrested along with others.

Previously, the authorities decided to deport hundreds of Egyptians who had illegally entered the country for work or to migrate to Europe, specifically Italy. The authorities disclosed that hundreds of migrants were apprehended in a shelter warehouse in Tobruk before their planned journey to Italy, including 25 children, most of whom were from a single village in the Sharqia Governorate in northern Egypt.

Egypt has called for a decisive confrontation with illegal migration networks and has demanded action against them. Egypt has also announced the implementation of stringent laws to combat the crime of illegal migration and anyone involved in organizing or facilitating it. It confirmed that border controls have been tightened to prevent illegal migrants from departing via Egyptian coasts.



AUSTRIA: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DOWN 64% IN JUNE

Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner confirmed today, Saturday, that his country has successfully countered the international trend in illegal immigration. He explained that in June, 1,835 asylum applications were submitted in Austria, representing a 64 percent decrease.

In statements today, Karner said that compared to the rest of the European Union, asylum applications there have barely decreased compared to the previous year.

The minister noted that smugglers are currently avoiding Austria, and there is a significant drop in illegal border crossings, asylum applications, and family reunification applications in the asylum field.

The Austrian Interior Minister emphasized that when comparing the first half of this year with the same period last year, there is a significant decline. In the first half of 2023, 23,142 asylum applications were submitted, while this year there were 13,479 applications, a decrease of 9,663 applications or 42 percent.

The Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (OFDF) reported that nearly 12,500 people residing illegally in Switzerland were arrested between January and the end of June 2024, marking a one-third decrease compared to 2023, when the number of such cases was less than 17,800 in the first half of the year.

"Radio and Television Switzerland" quoted Reto Korman, spokesman for the State Secretariat for Migration, as saying that this decrease in irregular migration is due to two main factors: the first is the halving of landings in southern Italy to around 30,000 in the first half of 2024, and the second is the significant change in the route in the Western Balkans, where Serbia, in particular, has intensified its fight against smugglers, leading many refugees to take alternative routes that no longer pass through Switzerland.

The Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (OFDF) had recorded a significant increase in illegal entries in 2022 and 2023, with more than 50,000 irregular migrants, especially on the southern and eastern borders.

A THIRD OF ITS POPULATION ARE IMMIGRANTS. HOW DID LIBYA BECOME THE LARGEST IMMIGRATION CENTER TO ITALY?



Khattar, a 25-year-old Syrian, has not overcome what he endured in Libya before leaving two years ago. Although he spent only a few days there, it remains an "unforgettable bad experience," as he describes it.

At the beginning of 2022, Khattar was imprisoned by Syrian security forces after they regained control of the city of Daraa in southern Syria. After several attempts by his father, Khattar was released after a few months, but his father insisted that he leave the country to preserve his life.

Khattar told the BBC that his father paid \$6,500 to a person named Abu Omar in Syria for a trip to Libya, from where he would later board a boat to Italy.

Khattar recounts to the BBC that he flew to Benina Airport in Benghazi via a direct flight from Damascus Airport in mid-August 2022. Most of the passengers on the flight were planning to migrate to Europe. Upon arrival in Libya, airport security officers confiscated their passports and demanded \$50 to return them.

Khattar says, "We stayed at the airport for about two hours, during which we were subjected to mistreatment, including insults, curses, and even beatings in some cases. Then we paid \$50 and left."



In numbers and details.. The number of illegal residents in the United States and legal ways to immigrate

Trump's first presidential term was marked by a strong focus on immigration, as he showed a desire to radically change the immigration and asylum system. Even during his first election campaign in 2016, Trump attacked immigrants, considering most of them "rapists and drug and crime carriers."

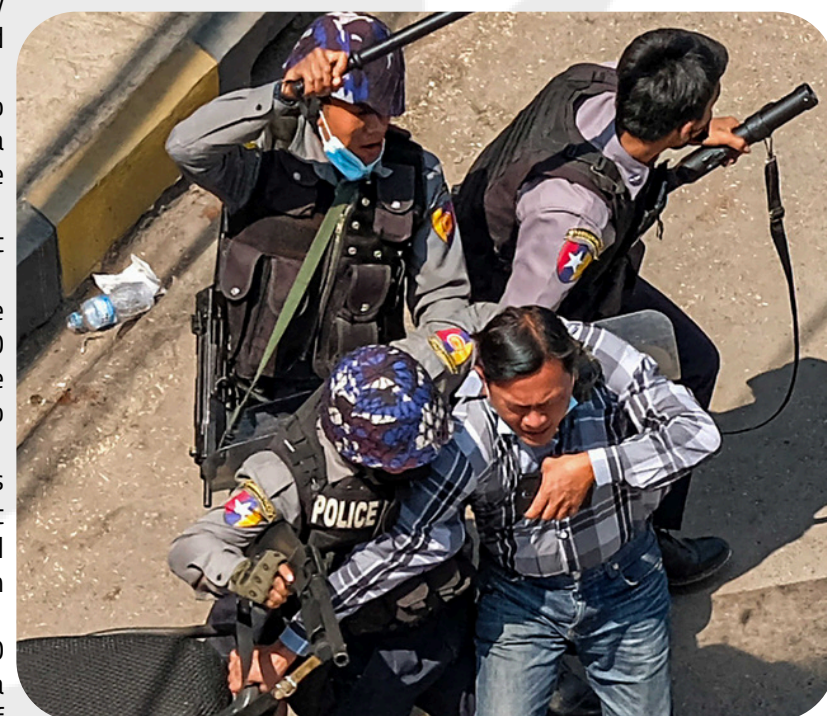
As he seeks to return to the White House, the former president says that if elected again, he is determined to deport about 20 million immigrants living in the United States without legal authorization. Trump said during a campaign rally on Saturday, "I will work on a massive process to deport illegal immigrants as soon as I take office."

So, what are the numbers of these individuals, and how did they come to the United States? Conversely, what are the legal ways to immigrate?

The Federal Census Bureau does not show specific numbers for illegal immigrants, including them among the foreign-born population regardless of their legal status. The bureau's data in 2022 shows that between 2010 and 2022, the number of foreign-born residents increased by 15.6 percent. The report indicates that the number of foreign-born residents was 46.2 million (13.9 percent of the total population) in 2022 compared to 40.0 million (12.9 percent of the total population) in 2010.

In November of last year, the Pew Research Center in Washington estimated the number of illegal immigrants at about 10.5 million in 2021, representing approximately 3 percent of the total U.S. population and 22 percent of the foreign-born population. The Migration Policy Institute also estimated that there were 11.7 million illegal immigrants, nearly half of whom were from Mexico (5.3 million), followed by El Salvador and Guatemala with about 700,000 each, and India and Honduras with about 500,000 each.

According to Pew Research Center figures, the number of illegal immigrants from Mexico decreased by 900,000 from 2017 to 2021, reaching 4.1 million. Information from the Migration Policy Institute reveals that about a quarter of the immigrants (2.3 million) have lived in the United States for less than five years, and nearly half of them are between the ages of 25 and 44.



OLYMPICS SECURING: FRANCE SCRUTINIZES IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES FROM FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin announced that French security services are scrutinizing migrant communities from former Soviet republics in an effort to secure the Olympic Games from the threat of ISIS, thereby confirming a report published by Reuters last week. In an interview published in Le Parisien on Tuesday, Darmanin said that "ISIS-Khorasan Province" undoubtedly represents the most dangerous movement. However, he stated that the authorities have not identified any concrete threats to the Olympics.

ISIS-Khorasan Province is a branch of ISIS and is named after the historical region of Khorasan, which included areas of Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia.

Darmanin noted that to counter this threat, security services are particularly scrutinizing all individuals holding ten nationalities from the former Soviet Union.



UK: SPEED UP DEPORTATIONS INSTEAD OF RWANDA PLAN

Despite announcing the abandonment of the Rwanda deportation plan, the new British government continues to adopt an approach focused on combating human trafficking and reducing migration across the English Channel. The Home Secretary announced her intention to accelerate the deportation of migrants to their home countries and tighten border controls.

After the Labour Party achieved a significant victory in the recent elections in the United Kingdom, the government quickly affirmed its plan to control immigration, announcing a "serious program" to deport migrants to their home countries.

This step was announced by the government on Monday as an alternative to the controversial plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda in East Africa. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper condemned the project, which cost British taxpayers "£700 million" (€830 million).

The new Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed upon taking office the abandonment of the Rwanda project, believing it was "dead and buried" even before it began.

At the same time, he announced his intention to expedite the processing of asylum applications while intensifying efforts against smuggling gangs to "strengthen" the borders, pledging to address the immigration issue "humanely."



SENEGAL: IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND STATE EFFORTS TO REDUCE IT...AND ADDRESS ITS CAUSES



In a segment from the editorial rooms, Samira Walnabi hosts Senegalese journalist Tierno Bashir from the capital, Dakar, to shed light on the causes and consequences of irregular migration, especially following tragic incidents. Senegalese forces intercepted more than 200 "irregular migrants" on a boat, days after a boat that had departed from the Senegalese coast sank, leading to deaths off the coast of neighboring Mauritania. Additionally, the Royal Moroccan Navy rescued at least 189 Senegalese migrants off the coast of Dakhla in the south of the kingdom.

Austria: Initiative to restore contacts with Syria contributes to combating illegal immigration

Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner welcomed Foreign Minister Schallenberg's recent initiative, in which he called on EU leaders to engage and cooperate with the Syrian president to curb the flow of people fleeing Syria to Europe.

In statements made on Wednesday, the Austrian Interior Minister described the initiative to resume communications with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as a sensible and positive step. He highlighted Austria and the EU's conviction that there is a need to intensify cooperation in combating illegal migration.

He noted that recent efforts have increased communications with representatives of EU member states to enhance cooperation with third countries in fighting illegal migration. He mentioned that the latest discussions included interior ministers from Hungary, Luxembourg, Belgium, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, and Croatia, on the sidelines of the informal council of interior ministers in Budapest.

The minister emphasized that the discussions focused on intensifying cooperation with so-called third countries in combating illegal migration, explaining that for the new asylum and migration pact to succeed, close cooperation with countries outside the EU is absolutely essential. This is the only way to reduce pressure on the EU's external borders.

Karner considered it necessary to outsource asylum procedures to achieve this. He noted that, in addition to illegal migration and combating smuggling mafias, there is European coordination on joint efforts against organized crime.

