

# THE NEWSCAST

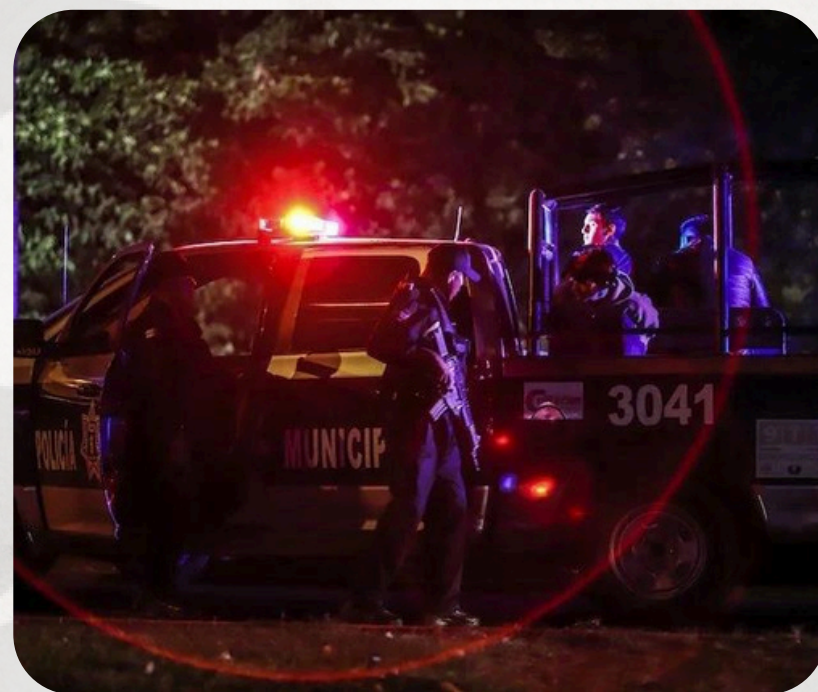
## SAVING MOROCCAN IMMIGRANTS FROM THE GRIP OF A SMUGGLING GANG IN MEXICO

Mexican authorities have rescued a group of Moroccan migrants who were kidnapped by a criminal gang specializing in smuggling migrants to the United States. Gilberto Loya Chavez, Secretary of State Security of the Mexican state of Chihuahua, announced during a press conference on Monday that 1,245 migrants had been rescued in the state until August, including 6 Moroccans and 4 Sudanese who had been kidnapped and blackmailed by the gang. Chavez pointed to the increase in crimes against migrants, noting the arrest of 87 people involved in acts of violence, human trafficking and kidnapping of migrants. He added that the police, in cooperation with the National Guard, are conducting intensive periodic patrols to rescue detained migrants.

The rescue of the Moroccan migrants took place on August 6 on a highway in Chihuahua after the police received a report about a group of people in a bad condition. Media sources confirmed that the migrants were kidnapped, tortured and their families were blackmailed.

Mexican Red Cross teams provided first aid to the migrants, who were suffering from malnutrition and injuries, and they were transferred to a shelter to receive medical, psychological and legal care.

In another incident, authorities in the state of Baja California announced that 20 migrants, including Moroccans, were found detained in a house in the city of Mexicali. The migrants reported that they traveled from Egypt to Spain and then to Nicaragua and Guatemala before arriving in Mexico, where they were held by a network that promised to facilitate their entry into the United States in exchange for a large sum of money.



## "RESCUING 220 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OFF THE COAST OF TRIPOLI AND HANDING THEM OVER TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES"

The Libyan Coast Guard announced the rescue of 220 illegal immigrants in territorial waters near the Bouri offshore field near the capital, Tripoli.

According to Libyan Al-Wasat TV, the Libyan Coast Guard attributed the deaths of the immigrants, including women and children of different nationalities, on a dilapidated boat in territorial waters off the coast of Zuwara.

The statement added that after their rescue, they were disembarked at the Shaab port point affiliated with the Coast Guard, Tripoli branch, before being handed over to the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency to take the necessary legal measures.

Last July, the Libyan Coast Guard announced the rescue of 71 illegal immigrants of African nationalities on the coasts east of Tripoli.

Libya, located on the Mediterranean Sea, is a major transit point for many irregular immigrants to Europe. The southern border of Egypt witnessed the deaths of 50 illegal immigrants from different African countries, during a journey across the desert on the border between Niger and Libya. Libya also announced the deportation of 10,069 irregular migrants in 2023, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration.

## GERMANY LAUNCHES 'MIGRANT COMMUNITY HOUSE' MUSEUM PROJECT IN COLOGNE TO SHOWCASE MIGRATION HISTORY AND IDENTITY ISSUES



German authorities have announced the launch of a project to establish a "Migrant Community House" museum in Cologne, which aims to showcase the history and present of the migrant community in Germany and highlight issues of identity, coexistence and participation. The museum is expected to open in 2029 with joint funding from the German parliament and the parliament of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The museum will be built on a former industrial site in the Cologne-Kalk area, where the Documentation and Museum Center on Migration in Germany (DOMED) announced that the museum will seek to display "a unique collection in Germany" that reflects the history and present of migration in the country. According to the German news agency "ABD", the museum will highlight the role of migration in shaping German society, and will serve as a cultural and social platform for discussing issues of identity, coexistence and participation. The winning design for the museum is scheduled to be presented in early 2025. Construction of the museum is expected to begin in 2027 at the earliest, taking into account external factors, and about 22 million euros have been allocated to finance the project from the budgets of the German parliament and the parliament of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The Documentation Center and Museum on Migration in Germany, founded in 1990 by immigrants, is a non-profit association and has the largest collection of documents and objects related to the history of migration in Germany, with more than 150,000 social, cultural and historical testimonies.

## Moroccan Armed Forces Rescue 186 Illegal Immigrants Off Coast



A unit of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces, tasked with monitoring the coast, rescued a stranded boat carrying 186 migrants who were trying to migrate illegally yesterday, Tuesday. According to a statement issued by the General Command of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces, the irregular migrants who were seeking to reach the Canary Islands received the necessary first aid before being handed over to the competent Moroccan security authorities to complete the administrative procedures in force.



## **TWO MIGRANTS DIE TRYING TO CROSS ENGLISH CHANNEL, BRINGING DEATH TOLL TO NINE SINCE JULY AMID RISING CROSSINGS, SEA RISKS**

Two migrants died Sunday morning while trying to cross the English Channel, bringing the number of deaths in the channel to nine since mid-July, French authorities said.

A boat carrying 56 people sank 10 kilometres north of Calais, Jacques Péan, mayor of Pas-de-Calais, told a news conference. Of the 54 survivors, 50 others on another boat were rescued and taken to the port of Calais, with five in a relatively critical condition.

The Manche and North Sea Maritime Directorate reported that the boat reported difficulties off the coast between Calais and Dunkirk on Sunday morning. Several naval resources, including a helicopter and several ships, were deployed to rescue the migrants, with around 50 people saved. There has been a rise in drownings off the French coast in recent weeks, with seven people dying in attempts to cross the Channel in July. As small boat crossings have increased over the summer, so have deaths attempting to reach England, which has been rocked by unrest and violence during anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim protests.

Between July 12 and 19, six migrants died in three separate sinkings caused by overloaded boats, bringing the total number of deaths in the Channel to 23 since the start of 2024, surpassing the 12 deaths in 2023.

France and Britain have been working for years to stop attempts to cross the Channel on rubber dinghies, and following Labour's election victory, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to work more closely together to tackle the surge in illegal migration.

Starmer has scrapped the government's previous plan to send illegal migrants to Rwanda. While French authorities have sought to stop migrants from setting sail, they only intervene for rescue purposes after the boats enter their territorial waters, in parallel with joint French and British efforts to dismantle the people-smuggling gangs organising the crossings.



### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETWORKS EXPLOIT WOMEN AND CHILDREN VIA SOCIAL MEDIA IN SPAIN AND GERMANY**

Trafficking networks in Spain exploit foreign women and children via social media, with children twice as likely to be subjected to violence as adults, according to the Spanish news agency EFE and humanitarian organizations.

According to the Spanish Red Cross, most victims of human trafficking in Spain are foreigners. Last year, the Red Cross reported that 96% of the trafficking victims it helped were migrants, 70% of whom were in an irregular administrative situation, while less than 20% were asylum seekers.

Trafficking networks use digital platforms to impersonate their victims and attract clients, including minors looking for acceptance, attention or friendship online, the United Nations reported.

Fuensanta Pérez of the Red Cross's anti-trafficking unit noted that migrant children, especially those who arrive in Europe unaccompanied, are particularly vulnerable to trafficking. The situation is similar in Germany, where women and children are more vulnerable than men, due to the need for a guardian or parent to care for them, making them more vulnerable to exploitation if they do not have proper care, explained Sophia Wirsching, executive director of the German NGO Network Against Human Trafficking.



### **ITALY RETURNS 233 ILLEGAL MIGRANTS THIS WEEK AS MIGRATION FALLS BY 60%**



Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi announced that his country's authorities returned 233 illegal immigrants to their countries this week.

The Interior Minister explained in a statement issued on Saturday that this operation came as a result of the exceptional efforts made by the Italian police in combating illegal immigration, and is part of a comprehensive government plan to combat this phenomenon.

In a related context, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni confirmed that the number of illegal immigrants arriving in Italy has decreased by 60% compared to last year.

### **Widespread controversy after the migration of Tunisian goalkeepers Aziz Sellami and Abdelkader Ayadi to Italy in search of professionalism**

Tunisian goalkeepers Aziz Sellami and Abdelkader Ayadi have sparked widespread controversy after leaving Tunisia for Italy illegally in search of professional opportunities.

Local press reports indicated that the duo recently arrived in Italy by sea in an irregular manner. Tunisian radio station Mosaïque FM reported that Sellami and Ayadi chose the adventure of traveling by sea to Italy in the hope of getting a chance to play in the Italian league.

Aziz Sellami had played for Ittihad Tataouine and had previous experience with Stade Tunisien and Terji Zarzis, while Abdelkader Ayadi played last season for Ittihad Tataouine and recently signed for Sfax Railways Club.

Tunisian radio station MFM confirmed that the incident of Sellami and Ayadi is not the first of its kind among Tunisian football players, as Tunisian Sfaxien goalkeeper Ali Shalabi and Yassin Rahimi from Mustaqbal Soliman had previously followed the same path.

In the Italian league, there are currently only two Tunisian players, Hamza Rafia at Lecce and Anas Haj Mohamed at Parma. The Italian league has previously witnessed the brilliance of many Tunisian football stars such as Tijani Belaid with Inter and Yohan Benalouane and Karim Laribi with Sassuolo.



## **MIGRANTS CHOOSE BETWEEN GERMANY AND ITALY: ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES PUSH MANY TO SETTLE IN GERMANY**

Germany and Italy have been the most prominent European destinations for migrants in recent years, but there are fundamental differences between the two countries that affect migrants' choice to settle in one over the other.

Both Germany and Italy need foreign workers in various sectors, making them preferred destinations for foreign workers. However, Italy is under great pressure due to the influx of illegal migration boats from African countries bordering the Mediterranean, while a smaller percentage of legal migrants or asylum seekers arrive in Germany.

Migrants News spoke to individuals who have experienced migration in both countries and decided to settle in one of them based on economic and social differences. Among them is Salima, a Tunisian citizen who obtained permanent residency in Italy with her family after settling there for more than ten years, but they decided to move to Germany three years ago.

Salima explained the significant difference in the labor market between the two countries, especially for women, saying: "Italy does not offer the same job opportunities and salaries as Germany, and this was one of the main reasons that prompted my family to make the decision to migrate. Moving to Germany was the best solution for a more stable future for us."

Salma added that in Italy she worked in a warehouse for an international parcel company, where she was paid 8 euros per hour, while in Germany, compensation sometimes reached 13 to 15 euros per hour. Her husband's salary was also much better than it was in Italy. Consequently, their financial situation improved significantly after the move.



### **TURKISH GENDARMERIE ARRESTS 60 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS, INCLUDING 12 CHILDREN, IN MUGLA**

ANKARA (Zaman Turkish) – Gendarmerie forces captured 60 irregular migrants, including 12 children, in the Fethiye district of Mugla province.

According to a statement issued by the Coast Guard Command, Coast Guard boats and gendarmerie teams were sent to the area after receiving information about the presence of a group of irregular migrants. Gendarmerie elements succeeded in capturing 60 irregular migrants in the Gulf.

After being captured, the migrants were handed over to the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management for necessary procedures



### **"TWO WEEKS OF UNREST IN BRITAIN: FAR-RIGHT RIOTS AMID ALLEGATIONS OF RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE**



Britain has been rocked by two weeks of far-right riots that have included violence, arson, looting and racist attacks targeting Muslims and immigrants. Security officials have questioned Russia's role in the instigation. Nigel Farage has been criticised for fuelling conspiracy theories about the Southport attack by questioning "whether the truth is being suppressed from us", adding that he condemns "all acts of political violence."

### **"Tensions on the Moroccan-Spanish border: Hundreds of migrants try to swim to Ceuta amid massive rescue interventions**

The border between Morocco and the city of Ceuta is witnessing severe tensions after between 200 and 300 people tried to swim from the Moroccan coast to Ceuta earlier this week. This development led to the intervention of the Spanish Civil Guard and maritime rescue patrols to deal with the situation.

According to reports from Ceuta, Spanish rescue patrols were able to retrieve dozens from the water, while some tried to continue swimming, using buoys and diving suits, and some tried to escape the rescue boats by returning to the sea despite the risk of drowning.

Official Spanish sources reported that dozens of people were rescued from drowning, including many minors who arrived in Ceuta, most of whom are Moroccan nationals.

On the Moroccan side, Civil Protection announced that it had recovered the body of a young man from the beach of the city of Fnideq, near Ceuta, on Tuesday. The Moroccan authorities also indicated that 249 would-be immigrants were arrested, including 159 who were at sea, while trying to infiltrate by swimming to the coast of Ceuta. This number was before the new infiltration attempt. According to the migration agreement between Spain and Morocco, the reception of migrants is limited to minors and adults from Algeria and sub-Saharan Africa, while Moroccan adults are returned to their point of departure.

The sea distance between the beaches of Ceuta and the Moroccan beaches ranges between five and seven kilometers, which makes it possible to cross by swimming, especially from the coasts of Tarajal beach south of Ceuta or Belyounech beaches to the east. Ceuta and Melilla are the only land borders between the European Union and Africa, although Morocco considers them to be occupied cities of Spain without political escalation.

The Spanish Navy is under great pressure to deal with these events, as the newspaper "El Faro de Sota" reported that naval personnel heard distress calls from people in the water who were no longer able to swim, and some local residents intervened in the rescue operations

