

# THE NEWSCAST

## MIGRANTS STUCK IN CYPRUS BUFFER ZONE IN CATASTROPHIC CONDITIONS

The number of them was around thirty in June and now stands at 59, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which provides them with their basic needs. The camp is located within the divided city of Nicosia, close to one of the crossing points between the southern part of the island, controlled by the Republic of Cyprus - the only internationally recognized state and a member of the European Union - and the northern part where the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" was declared, recognized only by Turkey. The buffer zone, also known as the "Green Line," divides the island from northwest to southeast, passing through Nicosia, the last divided capital in the world. Although the entire island of Cyprus is officially within the European Union, European laws do not apply to the northern part of the island. The Cypriot government has tightened security measures along the buffer zone, accusing Turkey of turning a blind eye to the arrival of illegal migrants through the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." Cyprus states that asylum seekers represent more than 5% of the population of the Republic of Cyprus, which numbers 915,000 people, the highest percentage in Europe.



## DESPITE THE RISKS, MIGRANTS REJECT RESCUE EFFORTS TO REACH BRITAIN

A migrant died on Sunday while attempting, along with dozens of others, to cross the English Channel from France to Britain in a small boat. The French authorities reported that the migrants on the overcrowded boat refused rescue efforts and insisted on continuing their perilous journey.

This is the seventh migrant death in the English Channel since July 12. The French administration responsible for the Channel and the North Sea, "Premar," revealed a "new phenomenon" where migrants are dying due to overcrowding and trampling on the boats rather than drowning.

Premar stated in a release that 75 people were on board the small boat first spotted off the coast of Calais in the early hours of Sunday.

They added that rescuers managed to retrieve 35 migrants, including one person who appeared to be "deceased" and was airlifted to a hospital in Boulogne-sur-Mer where he was pronounced dead.

Others on the boat refused rescue and return to France, choosing instead to continue their journey. It was not immediately clear under what circumstances the boat reached Britain.

The French administration explained that "given the risks of falling into the sea or injuries that people might suffer in the event of forced intervention, a decision was made to allow them to continue their journey."

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REPLACES HOME AND IMMIGRATION MINISTERS AMID IMMIGRATION RELEASE CONTROVERSY



The Australian Department of Home Affairs has been under pressure since it was forced to release more than one hundred migrants who were in detention, many of whom were convicted of involvement in assaults, kidnappings, and crimes, following a landmark court ruling.

In an effort to end the political crisis, Albanese removed the Home Affairs and Immigration portfolios from ministers Clare O'Neil and Andrew Giles, respectively, and assigned them other portfolios.

The two portfolios were assigned to veteran politician Tony Burke. Several of the detainees were charged with committing further crimes after their release, damaging the reputation of the center-left Labor government.

Authorities imposed electronic tagging devices on them, allowing their locations to be tracked at all times, as well as other restrictions such as curfews.

Under the old regulations, Australia could detain migrants indefinitely if it refused to grant them a visa, but could not legally deport them to another place, for example, if they faced the death penalty in their home country.

With no destination to go to and no hope of release, many remained in Australian detention centers for years.

## More than two thousand migrants arrested in Benghazi within a month



The Anti-Illegal Immigration Authority in Greater Benghazi announced today, Tuesday, the apprehension of 2,017 irregular migrants over the past month.

According to the branch, among the migrants were 145 individuals infected with hepatitis C and B, in addition to five others infected with HIV, as stated in a post on their Facebook page.

The statement noted that necessary procedures are being taken for the deportation of the migrants to their home countries and for regularizing the status of others in accordance with the legal procedures followed within the country.



## **TRIPOLI SEEKS TO PRESENT ITSELF AS A MIGRATION CENTER.. BUT VIOLATIONS AGAINST MIGRANTS HAVE NOT STOPPED**

Tripoli is attempting to promote itself as a central player in controlling migration in the Mediterranean, despite Libya's efforts being criticized for failing to address fundamental issues and improve the treatment of migrants amid concerns about human rights violations against them. So, how is Libya trying to achieve this status?

In an effort to establish itself as a central player in managing migration in the Mediterranean, Libya is hosting a series of high-level international meetings to showcase its operational capabilities, according to La Croix International.

On July 25, videos were released showing around 750 migrants from Niger and Egypt at a deportation center in Tripoli before being sent back to their home countries. Libya regularly repatriates migrants found without documentation. Human rights organization Alarme Phone Sahara reported that over 400 Nigerian migrants were expelled from Libya to Niger last week, with another 1,000 scheduled to be deported.

A few days earlier, the Libyan capital, Tripoli, hosted the Mediterranean Migration Forum, which brought together 28 delegations from African and European countries, including prominent figures such as Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Déby.



### **DAMASCUS-ANKARA NORMALIZATION EFFORTS AMID VIOLENCE AGAINST SYRIAN REFUGEES**

Violence and riots against Syrian refugees in Turkey, followed by anti-Turkey protests in Syria: what impact do these events have on any planned diplomatic rapprochement between Turkey and Syria? And what role is Russia playing in this?

Violence erupted in the Syrian-Turkish border area, where seven people in northern Syria, six of them in the Afrin region, were killed during anti-Turkey protests in northwestern Syria. Demonstrators in the Turkish-controlled area said they were acting in solidarity with their fellow Syrians in Turkey.

They were referring to events in the city of Kayseri in central Anatolia, where a mob had previously set fire to and destroyed shops and cars belonging to Syrian refugees. The angry crowd chanted, "We don't want any more Syrians."

The anger was also directed at Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's policy in Syria. The protesters chanted "Step back, Erdoğan," indicating that they no longer wanted to accept Erdoğan's long-standing open-door policy towards Syrian refugees.

Approximately 3.5 million Syrians live in Turkey. Erdoğan himself criticized the riots in Kayseri, describing them as "unacceptable." According to media reports, around 470 people were arrested there.

These incidents have complicated the potential diplomatic rapprochement between Turkey and Syria. Russia, an ally of the Syrian government, plays a significant role in mediating and facilitating negotiations between the two countries. Russia's involvement is crucial as it seeks to stabilize the region and support its ally, Syria, while also maintaining its strategic relationship with Turkey. The recent violence underscores the fragility of the situation and the challenges any diplomatic efforts will face in the near future.

### **MIGRANTS WILL BECOME A THIRD OF LIBYA'S POPULATION**

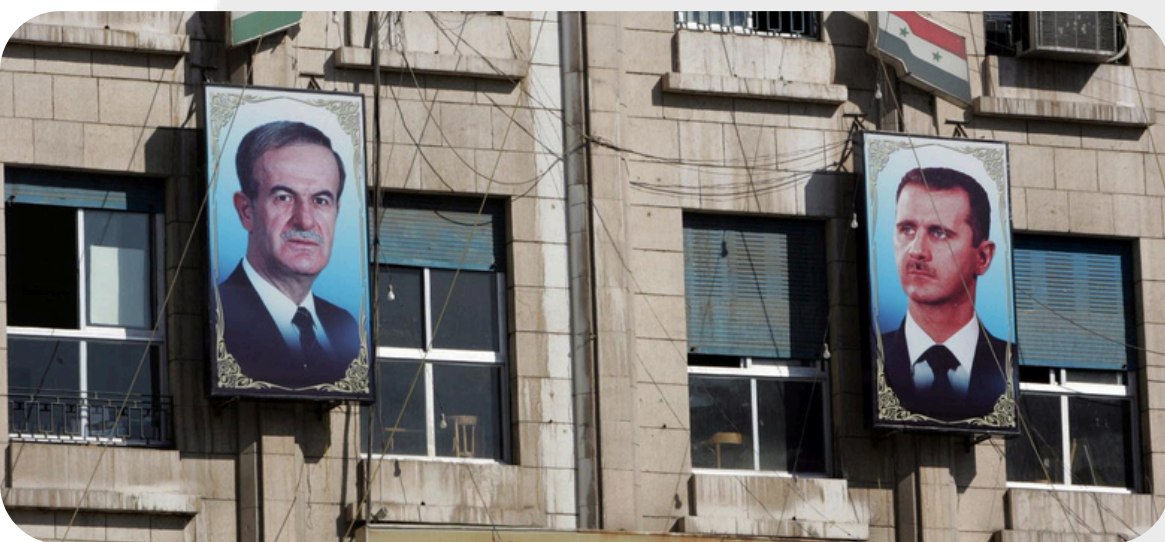


Reports from organizations concerned with illegal migration indicate that Libya ranks first in the number of migrants heading to Italy since the beginning of this year. The BBC quoted Libya's Minister of State for Communication Affairs, Walid Al-Lafi, as saying that "official and unofficial figures indicate that the number of migrants reaching Europe via Libya constitutes more than 40% of the total migration across the Mediterranean."

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi are seen in a photo during the Mediterranean Migration Forum in Tripoli, Libya, on July 17, 2024.

The Minister of Interior of the Libyan Government of National Unity, Emad Trabelsi, estimated the number of migrants currently in Libya to be around 2.5 million, expecting the number to rise to 3 million, which would constitute nearly a third of Libya's population.

Trabelsi noted that approximately 90,000 to 120,000 migrants enter Libya through the desert each month, explaining that his country spent about \$330 million on combating migration during 2023.



## **The cost of illegal immigration is beyond Tunisia's capacity**

Political analysts have warned about the continued influx of illegal migrants from Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe through Tunisian lands and coasts, and the repercussions of this flow on the security, economic, and social conditions in a country already struggling with economic difficulties.

Tunisian political analyst, Mondher Thabet, believes that illegal migration is not exclusive to Tunisia but involves many countries connected to the crisis, especially due to the waves coming from African countries and Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly from Chad and Mali, heading to Europe via Tunisia.

Thabet explained to "Al-Ittihad" that some African countries are experiencing unstable security conditions, and the spread of terrorist groups threatens many Sahel and deeper African countries, in addition to developmental crises and sectarian tensions. All of this has led to increased flows through Tunisia towards Spain and Italy.

He emphasized that Tunisia is not in a position to control these successive waves of illegal migrants nor to bear their high costs.

Tunisia has become one of the main departure points for migrants risking the crossing of the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. According to the Tunisian Ministry of Interior, there are currently about 23,000 illegal migrants in the country.

Thabet stressed that the voluntary return program for migrants to their home countries requires incentives, conditions, and guarantees to be offered to them, which can only be achieved within the framework of multilateral agreements and under the supervision and contribution of the United Nations.



## **ALGERIA... THWARTING AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTEMPT AND ARRESTING (21) PEOPLE**

The Algerian authorities announced today the dismantling of two criminal networks specialized in organizing irregular migration trips, with 21 people arrested in two separate migration attempts.

A security statement clarified that the judicial police and coast guard in Tipaza province managed to put an end to the activities of two criminal networks organizing illegal sea migration trips, arresting 21 people on the beach of Bou Ismail in Tipaza province, northwestern Algeria. The statement noted that the first operation resulted in the arrest of 15 suspects, including three involved in organizing the irregular migration operation, with the seizure of equipment used for clandestine sailing and a sum of foreign currency amounting to €1,730. The second operation led to the arrest of six people who were preparing to participate in a clandestine sailing operation towards Europe, with the seizure of a rubber boat equipped with a marine engine.



### **AUSTRALIA: CABINET RESHUFFLE OVER 'MIGRANT CRISIS'**

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese made changes to the positions of Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration on Sunday, following the release of more than 100 migrants, some of whom were previously convicted of "assault and violence crimes."

According to Channel News Asia, Albanese appointed veteran government official Tony Burke to the positions, replacing Clare O'Neil and Andrew Giles, who were reassigned to other roles. This change came after a High Court ruling that overturned the government's policy of detaining migrants who were denied visas, ordering the release of dozens of them.

The government's policy, in place since 1992, stipulated the indefinite detention of migrants if Australia refused them visas and could not deport them due to strong reasons, such as facing the death penalty in their home countries. However, the High Court deemed this partisan policy "illegal" last November, nullified it, and forced the government to release the migrants, including those convicted of assault, kidnapping, and murder.



### **LIBYA DEPORTS 369 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM NIGERIA AND MALI**



A Libyan anti-illegal migration official announced the return of 369 irregular migrants from Nigeria and Mali to their home countries, including more than 100 women and children.

Libya's Al-Wasat TV reported that the repatriation process began with two flights: the first carrying 204 Nigerians and the second with 165 Malians.

The network confirmed that arrests of migrants occur following complaints filed with the anti-illegal migration authority by the municipalities where the migrants are located.

### **Germany: Immigrants' frustration and dissatisfaction with naturalization bureaucracy**

Migrants have expressed their frustration and disappointment with the slow process of obtaining German citizenship, despite recent reforms and eased naturalization procedures. In an interview with DW, several of them stated that the situation is worsening with the increasing number of applications.

As soon as she arrived in North Rhine-Westphalia, Russian national Maria Zadnipyriants fell in love with Germany, which she came to a decade ago to study. She was impressed by the freedom, availability of public services, and job opportunities.

However, she now feels like a "second-class citizen" after a four-year battle with bureaucracy in the capital, Berlin. In an interview with DW, she said, "I came to Germany with a naive idea of living here. I thought it was a fair place where everyone is treated equally, but the experience turned out differently."

In her early years in Germany, Maria made every effort to integrate, starting with learning German and finding a well-paying job to settle in Berlin. However, 2020 was a turning point when she submitted all the required documents for citizenship in the Pankow district of Berlin.

For years, she received no response regarding her application, and her attempts to find out the reason were unsuccessful. As a result, Maria decided to consult a lawyer who suggested suing the Pankow authorities, but she declined. In the fall of 2022, she sent faxes to official bodies hoping to "escalate my case," as she described it.

Soon after, she was informed that she needed to provide additional documents, but, as in previous cases, she received no response even after submitting the new documents.

