

# THE NEWSCAST

## EUROPEAN UNION ADOPTS A STRICTER STANCE ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION AMID RISING FAR-RIGHT INFLUENCE

The European Union is shifting toward a stricter approach to handling illegal migration, driven by the growing influence of far-right parties in several member states. Although the EU adopted a new migration and asylum agreement in May with tougher rules set to apply from 2026, EU leaders have agreed to expedite legislation for faster deportation procedures and to explore new solutions. This approach includes establishing "return centers" outside the EU to evaluate migrants' asylum eligibility, similar to the Rome-Tirana agreement, despite the Italian Constitutional Court overturning such measures. On the sidelines of the summit, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hosted discussions with Denmark and the Netherlands, joined by leaders from other right-leaning governments, amid praise from the European Commission for Italy's plan. European Parliament member Bas Eickhout criticized the approach, considering it influenced by far-right fear-mongering.



## DEATH OF 12 EGYPTIANS IN CAPSIZED ILLEGAL MIGRATION BOAT OFF THE LIBYAN COAST ONE SURVIVOR

In a tragic incident, 12 Egyptian migrants drowned when their boat capsized off the coast of Libya. Only one person was rescued, as reported by local authorities and the Libyan "Al-Aabreen" organization for migrant aid and humanitarian services. The organization stated on its official Facebook account that the boat overturned approximately 60 kilometers east of the city of Tobruk on Monday evening, with one migrant surviving in good condition. The survivor informed Libyan authorities that the boat had departed from Egypt on Sunday, carrying 13 men from the governorates of Al Sharqia and Al Gharbia, aiming to reach Italy via human smuggling boats. Egypt has previously called for strict measures against human trafficking networks and established stringent laws to combat illegal migration, strengthening security at its borders to prevent unauthorized migration via the Egyptian coasts. It is worth noting that since the 2011 ousting of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya has become a primary transit point for migrants trying to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. According to United Nations figures, Libya hosts approximately 761,322 migrants from 44 nationalities as of mid-2024.

## MASSIVE PROTESTS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS AGAINST THE SURGE IN ILLEGAL MIGRATION



Thousands protested in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Spain, on Monday, voicing opposition to the increasing numbers of undocumented migrants. Protesters carried signs calling for immediate actions to ease the strain on public services, strengthen healthcare, and intensify efforts to combat human trafficking networks. Spain, alongside Italy and Greece, is one of the main gateways for migrants into Europe. According to the Ministry of the Interior, 32,878 undocumented migrants arrived in the Canary Islands by sea as of October 15, 2024, marking a significant increase from the same period in 2023. Despite the Atlantic route's dangerous conditions, particularly with recurring boat sinkings, this route remains active due to reduced surveillance compared to the Mediterranean route.

## Trump Vows to Revive the Alien Enemy Act to Deport Migrants



Former U.S. President Donald Trump, known for his hardline stance on immigration, pledged to reactivate the "Alien Enemy" Act of 1798 to expedite the deportation of undocumented migrants. In his recent speech, Trump stated that this law would enable him to "dismantle criminal operations involving migrants in the United States." The Alien Enemy Act grants the president the authority to detain or deport non-citizens from enemy countries during wartime. It was enacted under President John Adams when the United States was on the verge of war with France as part of a series of laws aimed at protecting the country from suspected foreign threats.





## **OUTRAGE IN CALAIS AFTER THREE MIGRANTS DROWN IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL**

The French town of Calais is in shock after the deaths of three migrants who drowned while attempting to cross the English Channel to reach Britain. Local resident Malika Edeline expressed her dismay, saying, "We are a country of human rights, and I cannot understand why we are left in this situation, allowing these people to die at sea." Calais Mayor Natacha Bouchart also voiced her frustration, emphasizing that coastal mayors feel abandoned in facing this crisis, which she described as a national and international issue requiring urgent management from authorities.



## **SWEDEN LINKS DEVELOPMENT AID TO REDUCING IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

In a new approach, the Swedish government announced an increase in development aid for countries near conflict zones and migrant transit regions to curb irregular migration flows to Europe. Sweden allocated a budget of three billion kronor (\$284 million) from 2024 to 2028 to support neighboring countries, aiming for a long-term reduction in migration. Development Minister Benjamin Dousa stated that this initiative seeks to bolster infrastructure in countries affected by conflict or poverty, encouraging residents to remain in their home countries. Additionally, Sweden allocated an annual total of \$5.3 billion in aid, with half dedicated to supporting Ukraine.



## **POLAND DISMANTLES ILLEGAL MIGRANT SMUGGLING NETWORK ON THE BELARUSIAN BORDER**



The Polish Border Guard announced the dismantling of a network smuggling illegal migrants from Belarus into Western European countries, in collaboration with Europol. Eleven suspects were arrested, including citizens from Poland, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. Authorities reported that the smugglers primarily recruited drivers to transport migrants from the Belarusian-Polish border to Germany using organized van networks.

## **Indian Migrant Dies After Dinghy Sinks in Attempted English Channel Crossing**

French authorities reported the death of a 40-year-old Indian man on Sunday in northern France after the inflatable boat he was on, alongside other migrants, deflated during an attempted crossing of the English Channel to the United Kingdom. The migrants were forced to swim back to shore, but the man suffered a cardiac arrest and died. This year has seen an unprecedented number of migrant deaths from capsized boats in the Channel, with 56 fatalities since the beginning of the year, according to the Channel and North Sea Marine Authority.





## **GERMANY RECORDS OVER 53,000 CASES OF ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS IN 2024**

German federal police reported 53,410 cases of illegal border crossings through the country's land borders in the first nine months of 2024, as published by Bild am Sonntag. As a result, 28,321 people were returned to their countries of origin, while police arrested 1,195 human smugglers and recorded 1,088 smuggling operations. These figures do not include inspections at airports and seaports. During the same period, police also detained 7,783 individuals with outstanding warrants, including severe crimes, unpaid fines, and international arrest warrants.



### **CANADA TAKES STEPS TO CURB ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND REDUCES PERMANENT RESIDENCY QUOTAS**

Canadian authorities announced a 21% reduction in permanent residency quotas starting in 2025. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau explained that this move aims to "stabilize population growth," allowing the government time to invest in healthcare, housing, and social services. Immigration Minister Marc Miller added that the plan responds to growing criticism, as a recent survey showed that half of Canadians believe migration harms the nation, while 58% think current levels of migration are too high, a view that has intensified over the past two years.



### **SYRIAN REFUGEES REVEAL HORRORS OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE DURING MIGRATION JOURNEY THROUGH LIBYA**



Syrian refugee women rescued from the Mediterranean shared harrowing stories of violence and abuse during their journey through Libya. One survivor stated, I was lucky not to have been raped in Libya, unlike many other women and children. Another woman recounted severe abuse in Libyan detention centers, where children were forced into sexual acts, and families were compelled to watch. Reports indicate that many rescued women were pregnant due to sexual assault during their journey, and that those traveling alone often suffer severe psychological trauma, making it difficult for them to share their experiences due to intense fear.

## **Florida Sheriff: Majority of Arrested Looters Post Hurricane Were Undocumented Migrants**

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gaultieri reported that 41 out of 45 people arrested for looting after two hurricanes were undocumented migrants. The county, which includes Clearwater and St. Petersburg, was heavily impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in late September and early October. Gaultieri stated that his team conducted patrols to prevent looting on the barrier islands, resulting in 45 arrests on charges of armed robbery, vandalism, and trespassing, while nearly 200 individuals were asked to leave the area due to insufficient evidence for arrest. Among them, 141 were from outside the county, and 163 were not U.S. citizens, although their immigration statuses were not immediately specified.

