

October 3 , 2024 Issue 59

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

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

# THE NEWSCAST

### ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CRIME SPARKS DEBATE OVER FRANCE'S DEPORTATION SYSTEM

As the new French government under Prime Minister Michel Barnier began its term, a crisis emerged following the discovery of a 19-year-old woman, Philippine, found dead in Boulogne Park, west of Paris, after being sexually assaulted and murdered. The suspect, Taha, a 22-year-old illegal Moroccan immigrant, had been previously convicted of rape in 2019 and released with a deportation order. Delays in consular procedures allowed him to remain in France, where he committed another crime. French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau called for legislative reforms to ensure citizen safety, while the incident sparked calls for stricter laws against illegal immigrants accused of crimes, amid concerns of political exploitation.



## MUSTAFA ABDEL KABEER CONFIRMS DROWNING OF MIGRANT BOAT OFF DJERBA COAST WITH 12 BODIES RECOVERED

Mustafa Abdel Kabeer, head of the Tunisian Observatory for Human Rights, confirmed the drowning of а boat carrying 57 irregular migrants off the coast of Djerba after departing from Ras al-Raml. 12 bodies were recovered, including women and a 9-month-old infant, while 32 others were rescued, including 25 young men and 7 women, two cases hospitalized. Search with operations for the missing are ongoing, with concerns that some may not be survivor found, reported as one swimming from the boat. The public prosecutor in Medenine has opened an investigation to identify and arrest those responsible for organizing the illegal trip.

THOUSANDS PROTEST AGAINST "UNCONTROLLED IMMIGRATION" IN LISBON, LED BY FAR-RIGHT PARTY CHEGA



Thousands of people demonstrated in Lisbon, Portugal, waving national flags and holding signs demanding the expulsion of immigrants who commit crimes, protesting what they called "uncontrolled immigration." The protest was organized by the far-right party Chega. Party leader André Ventura stated that Portugal welcomes only immigrants who come to work and contribute to the country, linking immigration to the country's housing crisis, which has sparked widespread protests. According to the Immigration and Integration Agency, the number of foreigners living in Portugal increased by 33% last year, reaching over a million, or roughly a tenth of the population.



#### 9 Dead and 48 Missing After Migrant Boat Sinks Near Canary Islands



Spanish authorities announced the death of nine people and the disappearance of 48 others after a boat carrying migrants sank near the Canary Islands. Spain's maritime rescue services received a distress call about a small overcrowded boat about four miles off the coast of El Hierro island. The boat capsized when a large number of migrants moved to one side during the rescue attempt. 27 people were rescued from the boat.





# UN URGES ACTION TO PREVENT SAHARA AND MEDITERRANEAN FROM BECOMING "MASS GRAVES" FOR MIGRANTS

The Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in New York, Bar Lilgert, addressed the UN Security Council, urging the international community to take immediate action to prevent the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea from becoming "mass graves" for migrants. He stressed the need for long-term solutions for displaced migrants and refugees. Despite a decrease in migrants arriving through routes from Tunisia and Libya, many are now taking more dangerous paths to reach Europe, such as the Atlantic route. Lilgert noted that over half of the migrants interviewed by IOM in Europe had suffered violence, exploitation, or abuse, with increasing numbers of women and children facing sexual exploitation and child labor. IOM reported 1,450 documented deaths in the Mediterranean this year, including 1,121 on the central Mediterranean route, with 152 deaths also occurring in the Sahara due to vehicle accidents, drought, extreme environmental conditions, and violence.



## ITALY PRAISES TUNISIA FOR ARRESTING 19 HUMAN TRAFFICKERS IN JOINT EFFORT TO COMBAT SMUGGLING

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi praised the Tunisian authorities for arresting 19 human traffickers, acknowledging the success of joint efforts to combat human smuggling. According to a statement from the Italian Ministry of the Interior, five boats were destroyed, and nine others were seized, along with inflatable boats, engines, cars, cash, and mobile phones. This operation is part of ongoing cooperation between Italy and Tunisia on migration issues, with Italy recently providing three patrol boats to help strengthen maritime rescue operations and fight human trafficking.



GERMANY ARRESTS 2,448 FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY FOLLOWING BORDER INSPECTION EXPANSION



Germany's federal police announced that 2,448 illegal entries into the country were detected since border inspections were expanded in mid-September. Of those, 1,546 people were returned after illegally crossing the border, and 69 were denied entry due to re-entry bans. Authorities also arrested 49 smugglers. Since September 16, Germany expanded border checks to all neighboring countries, including Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, in addition to the already monitored borders with Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Switzerland. These measures are part of a sixmonth plan to curb illegal migration.

# Conservative Leadership Candidate Sparks Controversy with Comments on Special Forces and Migrants

Robert Jenrick, a candidate for the Conservative Party leadership and former immigration minister, sparked controversy after stating in a video that British Special Forces kill terrorists and illegal immigrants instead of capturing them because the European Court of Human Rights may release them if detained. Jenrick has centered his campaign on withdrawing from the European Convention on Human Rights, which has drawn criticism from his competitors. Former Home Secretary James Cleverly asserted that the British army "does not kill people," while Tom Tugendhat, another leadership contender and former military officer, described Jenrick's comments as "wrong" and reflective of a misunderstanding of military operations and conflict law.





#### WWW.IOINGO.ORG



## TIM WALZ: COOPERATION NEEDED TO SOLVE IMMIGRATION ISSUES,

**TRUMP DELAYED KEY LAWS** 

Democratic vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz emphasized the need for various agencies to work together to solve the immigration problem, pointing out that candidate Kamala Harris is working to expedite these efforts. In a debate with Republican candidate JD Vance, broadcast by Al-Qahera Al-Ikhbariya, Walz criticized the Trump administration for delaying laws aimed at resolving illegal immigration and highlighted that Trump ended his term without fulfilling his promise to build the wall with Mexico.

## TRUMP ESCALATES ANTI-IMMIGRANT RHETORIC, ATTACKS KAMALA HARRIS

Former President Donald Trump, the Republican candidate for the upcoming presidential election, escalated his rhetoric against illegal immigrants, warning that they plan to attack Americans in their homes. During a campaign rally in Wisconsin, Trump insulted his Democratic opponent, Kamala Harris, using derogatory terms and accusing immigrants of committing crimes, particularly against young women. Trump's speech focused heavily on attacking immigrants, calling them "monsters," "cold-blooded killers," and "vile animals," while blaming President Joe Biden and Harris for allowing illegal immigrants into the country. He also claimed that these migrants would take American jobs and pose a threat to national security. Harris, during her visit to the border, emphasized plans to reform the immigration system, accusing Trump of stoking fear and division.





ELON MUSK SUPPORTS LEGAL IMMIGRATION, CRITICIZES ILLEGAL ENTRY



In September 2023, Elon Musk expressed strong support for legal immigration during his visit to the US-Mexico border, emphasizing the importance of allowing hardworking and honest individuals into the country. However, he also stressed the need to enforce laws to prevent illegal immigration. Since acquiring X (formerly Twitter) in 2022, Musk's stance on illegal immigration has become a key part of his public discourse, particularly

with the 2024 presidential election approaching. While he supports legal immigration, his brother Kimbal Musk's remarks have raised questions about their own experiences with immigration during the early days of their careers in the US.

# Illegal Immigrants Accused of Crimes Arrested by ICE in Martha's Vineyard

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested two illegal immigrants accused of crimes on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, on September 17. Among them was a 36-year-old Brazilian fugitive who had escaped a 10-year prison sentence for drug trafficking in his home country. Patricia Hyde, acting director of the Boston ICE office, praised the efficiency of officers in tracking down criminals and reaffirmed the agency's commitment to enhancing public safety by arresting non-citizen offenders in New England.



