

THE NEWSCAST

FOILING THE SMUGGLING OF 90 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS IN SABRATHA, LIBYA

The security authorities in Sabratha, Libya, thwarted an attempt to smuggle 90 irregular migrants of various African nationalities. This followed a raid on a hideout managed by a human trafficking gang, who were preparing to transport the migrants across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The Sabratha Security Directorate urged citizens to collaborate with law enforcement to curb this phenomenon. Libya has been addressing this issue in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through the "Voluntary Return Program," which has facilitated the repatriation of 80,000 migrants since 2015.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN TUNISIA: BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN TRAGEDIES AND AWARENESS EFFORTS

The issue of irregular migration continues to provoke discussion in Tunisia. In late October, the shores of Mahdia Governorate in eastern Tunisia witnessed a tragic event, with 15 bodies washed ashore. This incident coincided with a European delegation's visit to Tunis to follow up on the implementation of the strategic partnership memorandum signed last year between Brussels and Tunisia, focusing on addressing migration issues. In Zarzis, a southern city and major departure point for migrants, reporters met a local artist who has been collecting items washed ashore for 30 years. Initially aimed at raising awareness about marine pollution, the initiative has evolved into a tribute to migrants who lost their lives attempting to cross the Mediterranean.

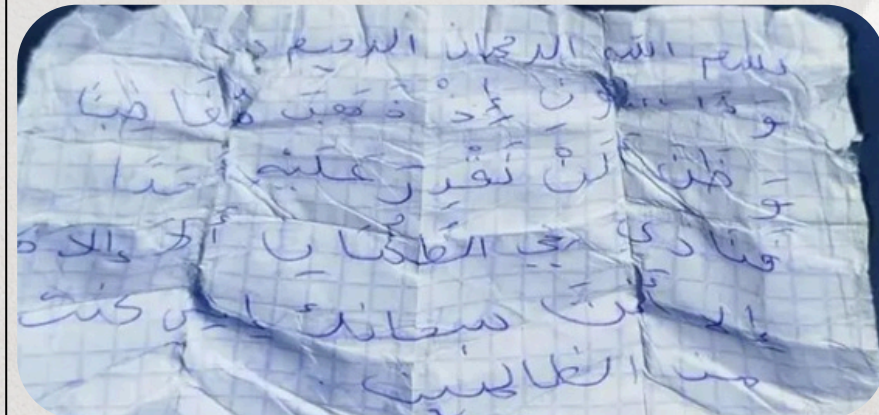


NETHERLANDS LAUNCHES BORDER CHECKS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL MIGRATION



Dutch Minister for Asylum, Marjolein Faber, announced the commencement of border inspections on December 9 to combat illegal migration and human smuggling. These inspections are set to last six months. While emphasizing minimal disruption to traffic flow, border municipalities opposed the measure, describing it as "ineffective." This initiative is part of a broader government plan to tighten asylum regulations and amend European migration rules.

A PAPER NOTE FROM A MIGRANT LOST AT SEA EVOKES SORROW AND HOPE



A paper note found in the clothing of a migrant who perished during a Mediterranean crossing has sparked widespread sorrow and empathy on social media. The note, shared by Spanish activist Francisco José Clément Martín with his 250,000 followers, contained Quranic verses from Surah Al-Anbiya (87 and 88), recounting the story of Prophet Yunus (Jonah) and his plea to God in the depths of the sea. The activist, renowned for his focus on migrant issues, invited followers to translate the Arabic text. The note, expressing despair and hope, added a spiritual dimension to the tragedy, shedding light on the struggles faced by migrants in their pursuit of a better life.

ITALY ANNOUNCES DEPORTATION OF 27 MIGRANTS AND ESCALATES EFFORTS AGAINST IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi announced the deportation of 27 irregular migrants to their home countries. In a statement released Wednesday, he noted that 4,752 migrants had been repatriated since the start of the year, marking a 16.5% increase compared to 2023. The minister attributed this progress to enhanced repatriation mechanisms and reiterated the Italian government's commitment to combating irregular migration. He highlighted the use of chartered flights to ensure swift deportation processes.



BRITISH PRIME MINISTER VOWS TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO COMBAT IRREGULAR MIGRATION

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged to increase efforts to combat irregular migration across the English Channel. He emphasized that the key to addressing this issue lies in dismantling the human smuggling networks operating in the region.

TRUMP APPOINTS TOM HOMAN AS BORDER SECURITY CHIEF IN HIS UPCOMING ADMINISTRATION



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump announced the appointment of Tom Homan as the head of border security in his forthcoming administration. Homan will oversee border operations and the deportation of irregular migrants. Trump, who is set to return to the White House in 2025, expressed confidence in Homan's ability to effectively implement the administration's agenda. However, this decision has sparked controversy due to Homan's track record during Trump's previous term.



EUROPEAN COURT REVIEWS ITALIAN MIGRANT DETENTION POLICY AFTER TRANSFERS TO ALBANIA

A court in Rome referred the case of migrants transferred to Albania to the European Court of Justice on Monday to ensure Italian laws align with European Union regulations. The seven migrants involved, from Egypt and Bangladesh, are expected to be returned to Italy in the coming hours, pending the court's decision. This case represents a new challenge to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's migration policies. Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini criticized the decision, calling it "political" and harmful to Italian security.



CAPSIZED MIGRANT BOAT OFF AL-KHUMS COAST: RESCUE EFFORTS UNDERWAY

The Emergency and Ambulance Authority announced the capsizing of a boat carrying irregular migrants off the coast of Al-Khums on Wednesday night. In a statement posted on Facebook, the authority confirmed dispatching emergency teams from Al-Khums, Masallata, Al-Qarabully, and Qasr Al-Akhyar to the accident site to carry out rescue operations. The statement noted that rescue efforts are ongoing but did not provide additional details regarding survivors or fatalities.



TRUMP FACES LEGAL CHALLENGES IN DEPORTING IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

Republican Party member Mac Francis highlighted the complexities surrounding President-elect Donald Trump, describing him as unpredictable and preferring trusted officials for appointments. Francis stated that Trump's new team adopts stricter positions, especially on issues such as irregular migration and the Ukraine-Russia war. Francis pointed out that deporting more than a million irregular migrants will be a formidable task due to legal protections for those married to American citizens or those with families in the U.S. Additionally, asylum seekers add further complexity, as deportations require court rulings.

EU AMBASSADOR REPORTS AN 87% INCREASE IN VOLUNTARY MIGRANT RETURNS TO LIBYA



EU Ambassador to Libya Nicola Orlando revealed a significant 87% year-on-year increase in the number of voluntary migrant returns to Libya. Speaking to Libya's Al-Wasat TV, Orlando attributed this rise to EU-supported reforms and strong cooperation with Libyan authorities. He added that these efforts aim to strengthen voluntary return programs while continuing to disrupt irregular migration along Mediterranean shores.



JADARI PROCESSING CENTER IN ALBANIA: A SYMBOL OF MELONI'S TOUGH MIGRATION POLICIES

The migrant processing center in the remote village of Jadari, northern Albania, has become a symbol of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's strict migration policies. According to French newspaper *Le Monde*, the center was constructed on the ruins of an abandoned airbase in the Shëngjin area to house migrants rescued from the Mediterranean. The report explained that Italian officials would directly handle asylum applications for these migrants at the center, marking a significant step toward controlling irregular migration into Italy.

