

(WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION ISSUES)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD: BASMA FOUAD

THE NEWSCAST

GERMANY'S FAR-RIGHT PARTY CALLS FOR DEPORTATION OF MIGRANTS AFTER MAGDEBURG ATTACK

The German government is facing criticism after a car-ramming attack at a Christmas market in Magdeburg last Friday, which killed at least five people and injured dozens. The 50-year-old Saudi psychiatrist, who has lived in Germany for nearly 20 years and is known for anti-Islam comments, was arrested. The motive remains unclear. The newspaper "Bild" questioned why the doctor wasn't apprehended despite warning signs in recent years. "Der Spiegel" reported that Saudi intelligence warned Germany about the doctor a year ago due to tweets threatening Germany over its treatment of Saudi refugees, but the warning was ignored while the man continued his hate-filled speeches.



TRUMP PLEDGES TO CLOSE BORDER TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

US President-elect Donald Trump announced on Sunday that he will sign a series of executive orders on his first day in office to close the US border to illegal immigrants. Speaking at the Turning Point USA conference in Arizona, Trump said: "On my first day in the Oval Office, I will sign a historic package of executive orders to close our borders to illegal immigrants.". The next US president indicated that this step would stop the flow of illegal immigrants to the United States, and he confirmed his intention to begin the largest deportation operation in the country's history.



8 MIGRANTS DROWN OFF THE COAST OF RHODES ISLAND IN GREECE



The Greek coast guard said eight migrants drowned after their speedboat collided with a coast guard vessel off the island of Rhodes. Eighteen people were rescued, including some injured, and a search operation is ongoing. The boat was travelling at high speed as it tried to flee, and its captain has been arrested. Greece is a major transit point for migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia to Europe.

CYCLONE CHIDO HIGHLIGHTS TENSIONS BETWEEN LOCALS AND MIGRANTS IN MAYOTTE



Cyclone Chido in Mayotte destroyed infrastructure and exposed tensions between locals and migrants. Migrants who entered the island illegally avoided shelters for fear of deportation, making them more vulnerable to destruction. In turn, some residents accused the government of diverting limited resources to migrants at their expense. Fatima, a mother of five, complained about the difficulty of accessing clean water and said the island could not support its current population, so how could it take in more?.



MELONI RENEWS HER DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE HER CONTROVERSIAL POLICIES ON MIGRANT RECEPTION CENTERS

Italy's right-wing government, led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, has reiterated its commitment to maintaining controversial migrant reception centres in Albania, despite a series of legal defeats. In a statement issued after a meeting that included Meloni and a number of ministers, the government stressed its "firm determination" to pursue the implementation of "innovative solutions" to address migration issues. Italian courts have twice blocked Meloni's policy of processing asylum applications for migrants arriving across the Mediterranean in Albania. Judges based their rejection on the fact that migrants being returned to Albania by Italian ships did not come from countries considered safe.



GREECE: CONTINUOUS CALLS TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION INTO 2023 MIGRANT SHIP SINKING

Greek lawyers representing survivors and victims of a June 2023 shipwreck have asked the court to examine additional evidence after a preliminary investigation showed no progress. The ship carrying hundreds of migrants sank off the coast of the city of Pylos, killing hundreds. The lawyers cited "major gaps" in the investigation, saying the court had summoned the ship's captain and coastguard crew but not their supervisors.



HOW WILL GLOBAL MIGRATION TRENDS EVOLVE BY 2025?



Migration continues to increase globally with no signs of a decline in people's desire to migrate. However, migrants have faced significant challenges such as Donald Trump's wall" "build the rhetoric, during the restrictions COVID-19 pandemic, and Brexit. Early 2025 is expected significant political to see changes in the two largest migration destinations, with Trump set to begin his second term in the United States and early elections likely in Germany that could lead to the victory of parties that support more restrictive immigration policies.

THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MINOR MIGRANTS IN GREECE IS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND REQUIRES ATTENTION

Greece is facing an unprecedented crisis regarding refugee children, with the number of unaccompanied or separated minors doubling in 2024 compared to last year. The number of migrants has reached a five-year high, with more than 59,200 people entering the country by December 2024. Of these, more than 13,000 have arrived, a 50% increase on the previous year, and the number of unaccompanied children has doubled to 3,000. Aid organizations have described the phenomenon as a "children's emergency", with a significant increase in the arrival of children in the first half of 2024, exceeding 6,400 children.





POLL: MOST GERMANS OPPOSE SPEEDING UP SYRIAN RETURNS

After the fall of the ruling regime in Syria, an opinion poll showed that the majority of Germans do not support accelerating the return of hundreds of thousands of Syrian immigrants to their homeland. The poll, conducted by the Wallen Institute for Opinion Research on behalf of the German public television channel ZDF, showed that 64% of Germans prefer to postpone decisions to return Syrian refugees until stable and peaceful conditions are achieved in Syria. Amid years of war, an Islamist-led coalition seized power in Syria about two weeks ago, while former President Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia. According to the survey, only 27% of Germans believe that conditions in Syria are stable and peaceful, while 63% of the survey participants do not believe this.



MEXICO REFUSES TO ACCEPT MIGRANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THAT TRUMP INTENDS TO DEPORT

Mexico has said it is willing to accept its citizens if President-elect Donald Trump carries out his plans to deport migrants, but has refused to be a safe third country for migrants of other nationalities. The State Department said it would work with authorities to address potential mass deportations. According to a Bloomberg report, Trump's team has held informal talks with the governments of Mexico and El Salvador about taking in migrants who will be deported.



CALLS TO ORGANIZE SHELTERS FOR MIGRANTS IN ERRACHIDIA



Activists in the city of Errachidia expressed their concern about the deterioration of the situation around the bus station and the main street, as a result of the heavy presence of migrants from sub-Saharan countries. They called on the local authorities to intervene immediately, either to deport them or to find alternative solutions that contribute to reorganizing the public space and restoring the beauty of the city. In identical statements to the electronic newspaper Hespress, a number of civil society activists expressed their dissatisfaction with the current situation, as the green spaces surrounding the bus station and the passages near the main street have become a haven for dozens of immigrants.

MARYAM, FROM GUINEA, ARRIVES IN ITALY ALONE AND ASPIRES TO START A NEW LIFE.

Mariam, a 16-year-old Guinean girl, arrived in Italy alone after losing her family on a dangerous sea voyage. She was with her sister Fara before they were separated during the journey. At a shelter run by nuns in Sicily, Mariam began to recover. Her family had dreamed of a better future in Europe, with her father hoping to send them to France to study, but the money he left them was limited. Mariam is eager to start a new life, and tells her story of the challenges she faced during her journey.

