

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER: WE ARE PLANNING TO SECURE THE RETURN OF SYRIAN REFUGEES TO THEIR COUNTRY

Turkey will work to ensure the safe return of Syrian refugees it hosts to their homes, as well as support the reconstruction of Syria after the Assad regime was toppled by armed opposition groups, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Monday. Fidan told Turkish ambassadors that Ankara hopes to build a new Syria that lives in peace with its neighbours and that Turkey is ready to support the neighbour in achieving this goal. He stressed that Turkey will continue to stand by the Syrians in this new phase.



FRENCH RIGHT WARNS OF MIGRANT INFLUX AFTER FALL OF ASSAD REGIME

The head of the National Rally warned (RN) Jordan Bardella fears that the fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad at the hands of the armed Syrian opposition could lead to a new migration crisis in Europe, according to a report in the French newspaper Le Figaro. Speaking on a France 3 show on Sunday, Bardella expressed concern about the repercussions of this geopolitical shift, describing Assad's departure as a geopolitical catastrophe.



SPAIN RECEIVES 53 THOUSAND MIGRANTS IN THE ACCOMMODATION SYSTEM



Spanish Secretary of State for Migration Pilar Cancela pointed out that the national accommodation system in Spain provides support to approximately 53,000 migrants through more than 3,000 centres and other types of facilities and resources, managed by non-governmental organisations and associations. The minister added, during a meeting with foreign newspapers, that the system is intended for adults from vulnerable groups or those facing irregular administrative situations, while the care and responsibility for minors falls under the Spanish regions. Cancela also touched on the different stages of management following the arrival of migrants, whose influx continues significantly at present time, especially in the Canary Islands.

TRUMP RAISES EYEBROWS ON IMMIGRANTS, NATO, CAPITOL ATTACKERS, UKRAINE CONFLICT

Donald Trump on Sunday reiterated his campaign pledges in a television interview, including imposing tariffs and carrying out mass deportations of immigrants. He also floated the idea of withdrawing the United States from NATO. In his first formal interview six weeks before taking office, Trump reiterated that U.S. support for Ukraine could be eroded, suggesting he could cut off aid that Kiev relies on to fend off a Russian invasion. Trump also said he would “very quickly” consider pardoning supporters jailed for storming the U.S. Capitol after his 2020 election defeat to Joe Biden.



RAPE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: THE DIFFICULT SUFFERING FACED BY FEMALE MIGRANTS IN CAMPS IN NORTHERN FRANCE

Three years after the worst Channel shipwreck in history, the situation of migrants in northern France is increasing as border controls tighten. Adam, a two-year-old boy, plays in a red pickup truck in the yard as his mother Kholoud watches from afar, smoking a cigarette. She tells InfoMigrants her story: she has not heard from her child's father, a Syrian she met in Turkey who fled to Germany when she told him she was pregnant. The 26-year-old has since moved to northern France, hoping to reach the UK.



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH ACCUSES POLAND OF VIOLATING MIGRANTS' RIGHTS ON THE BORDER WITH BELARUS

Human Rights Watch alleged unlawful violations and pushbacks at the Poland-Belarus border and called on the Polish government to take responsibility for the rights of asylum seekers. The report was based on extensive interviews conducted in November 2024 with 22 people seeking to migrate. The report revealed that border officers prevent individuals from Belarus from applying for asylum even after they have crossed into Poland, including cases in which Polish officials arrested migrants several kilometres inside Poland.



IOM: DURING 2024, 21,000 MIGRANTS WERE FORCIBLY RETURNED TO LIBYA



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 21,000 migrants were forcibly returned to Libya in 2024 through interceptions by the coast guard. Data from the UN agency showed a significant increase in the number of migrants intercepted in the Mediterranean and returned to Libya, rising to 21,000 in 2024 from 17,000 in 2023. The organization expressed concern about the increase in interceptions by the coast guard in the Mediterranean. It confirmed that the interception of migrants in coastal waters and their return to Libya has now entered its eighth year, despite international warnings about the dangerous conditions inside Libya.

ITALIAN POLICE EXPOSE CRIMINAL NETWORK BELIEVED TO HAVE EXPLOITED MIGRANTS IN CENTRAL ITALY

Italian police have uncovered a criminal network suspected of exploiting migrants in the central Italian seaside resort of Rimini. The migrants are believed to have paid thousands of euros for fake jobs that would allow them to obtain residency permits in Italy. During an investigation into the exploitation of migrants in Rimini, the Italian Carabinieri revealed that migrants were paying large sums of money so that companies would pretend to employ them, allowing them to enter Italy. The police began investigating after a migrant tipped off authorities about the alleged exploiters, leading to a police operation on Monday (December 9). Twelve arrest warrants and other precautionary measures were issued by the Rimini prosecutor's office on charges of aiding and abetting illegal immigration, exploitation of workers and prostitution..

