

THE NEWSCAST

ITALY SEES DECLINE IN MIGRANT ARRIVALS VIA MEDITERRANEAN IN 2024

The Italian Interior Ministry announced a significant drop in the number of illegal migrants arriving via the Mediterranean in 2024, with 66,317 compared to 157,000 in 2023. The government attributed the decline to the tough measures it has taken against immigration, in implementation of the policy of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. In contrast, the United Nations indicates that more than 2,200 refugees drowned or went missing in the Mediterranean last year, with fears of higher numbers. Most of the migrants in 2024 were from Bangladesh, Syria, Tunisia and Egypt.



GERMANY: POLICE RETURN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WHO TRIED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY SEVEN TIMES

German police have arrested a 20-year-old Syrian man who tried to enter Germany illegally seven times. On his last attempt, authorities stopped him when he arrived by train from Prague without valid documents, and he admitted to paying 5,000 euros to human traffickers. He was returned to the Czech Republic in accordance with the common border agreements. Illegal migration in Europe. Despite the recent decline in asylum applications, data shows Frontex: 166,000 people tried to enter the EU illegally in the first nine months of the year. Germany tightens border controls, CDU backs sending refugees back at the border.



TRUMP AND CONGRESS: NEW BILL FOCUSED ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES



US President-elect Donald Trump has expressed his intention to deport illegal immigrants since the beginning of his campaign. Ahead of his inauguration, Congress is preparing to vote on the League of Nations"bill, which focuses on the border issue and has sparked a major political controversy. The bill reflects Republicans' continued pressure on Democrats to strengthen their position after the recent elections.

GERMANY... A PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE SUFFICIENT INCOME AS A CONDITION FOR OBTAINING THE RIGHT OF RESIDENCE FOR IMMIGRANTS



Germany's Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) has adopted a tougher immigration policy, proposing to link residency rights to a sufficient income and calling for the deportation of convicted migrants. The proposal will be presented at a parliamentary meeting next week. The party is part of the Christian Social Union, which is leading in the polls ahead of early elections on February 23.

MIGRANT DETENTION, RANSOM DEMANDS SPARK FRESH SHOCK OVER LIBYA SLAVE TRADE

Circulating images show migrants being held in a detention center in the Libyan city of Kufra to demand ransoms from their families, sparking shock over the slave trade in Libya. The image of the young woman, Naima Jamal, who was kidnapped in May 2024, made headlines in the media, as a gang demands a ransom of \$6,000 for her release, and sent a video showing her being tortured.



MIGRATION BETWEEN ALGERIA AND SPAIN: SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DROWNING INCIDENTS DURING 2024

In 2024, more than 500 people died on the migration route between Algeria and Spain, making it the second most dangerous migration route to Spain after the Canary Islands. Youssef, a fisherman and skilled swimmer, set off with 12 other people in a small boat towards Spain, but after five kilometres the boat sank at sea. Everyone fell into the water, including a family with a baby and a child. The coast guard was alerted, but the migrants, who did not have life jackets, waited for about six hours at sea.



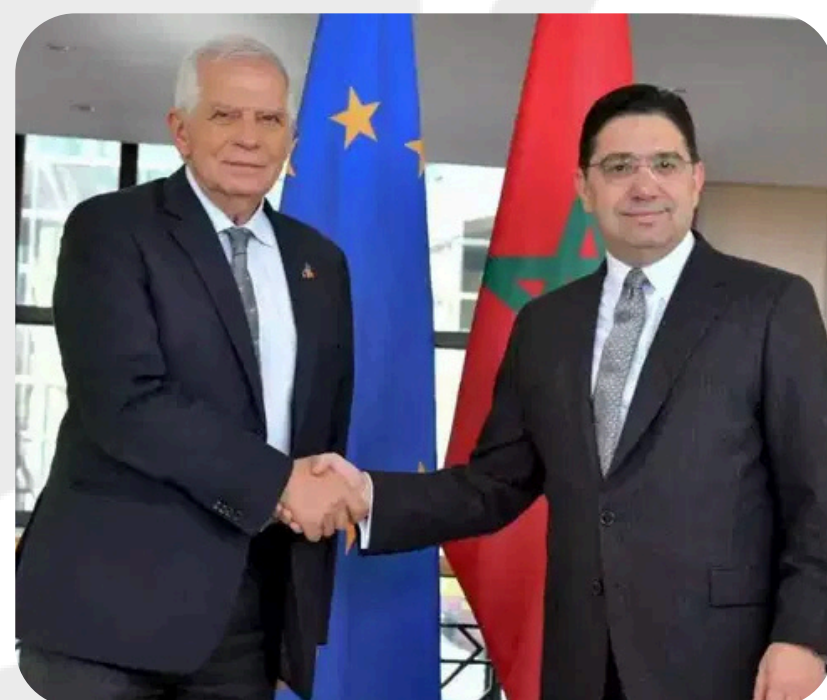
IN THIS GERMAN STATE, DEPORTATIONS HAVE SEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE



The efforts of the Ports Security Sector of the Ministry of Interior, in coordination with the relevant authorities within 24 hours, resulted in the detection of 8 cases of illegal immigration and smuggling of goods, in addition to 2946 traffic violations, 29 public security cases, and 272 judicial rulings. Six cases were also detected in the field of illegal immigration and document forgery. Legal measures were taken, and security campaigns continue to enhance control over the ports.

THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS ALLOCATED €2.5 MILLION TO SUPPORT MOROCCO IN ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

As part of the ongoing partnership between the European Union and Morocco, the Union has allocated €2.5 million to support Morocco's efforts to combat irregular migration, which has been on the rise in recent years. The funding aims to strengthen Morocco's border control capabilities, as it is a major transit point for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East towards Europe. The support includes the provision of advanced equipment and training of Moroccan personnel to improve the management of migration flows and combat human trafficking networks. Morocco plays a crucial role in protecting European borders, particularly through its maritime and land crossings. In 2023, Moroccan security efforts resulted in the thwarting of some 49,000 irregular migration attempts, which has contributed significantly to strengthening European border security, particularly through Spain, a major gateway to the European Union.



DESPITE THE DANGERS OF THE SEA, THE PHENOMENON OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTINUES UNABATED

Tunisia has recently witnessed an intensification of rescue operations for irregular migrants after their boats broke down at sea, amid continued illegal immigration despite bad weather conditions. The Coast Guard announced the rescue of 83 migrants and the recovery of 27 bodies, while the search for missing persons continues, while another operation was carried out to rescue 19 Tunisians, including a deceased child. The organization Mediterranea also indicated the presence of wreckage of three migrant boats on the road to Lampedusa.



US HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY DISCUSSES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DURING VISIT TO MEXICO

US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, during his visit to Mexico City, confirmed that the southern border of the United States is closed to illegal immigration, indicating the development of "legal paths" to reduce the flow of migrants. He added that cooperation with Mexico aims to curb the phenomenon, while sending a clear message to migrants: "Don't come"



ITALIAN AUTHORITIES UNCOVER A CRIMINAL NETWORK PROVIDING FORGED DOCUMENTS AND INCITING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION



Italian authorities are investigating five people in Ancona for allegedly providing false documents and fake jobs to enable foreigners to obtain illegal residence permits in exchange for money. The network was headed by an Italian retailer, and the suspects demanded around 5,000 euros for each application. The goal was to make a big profit by regularizing the migrants' status.

CASUALTIES AND MISSING IN TWO SEPARATE SHIPWRECKS WHILE TRYING TO SAIL TO ITALY

Italian authorities announced the loss of about 20 migrants after a boat sank off the island of Lampedusa, while the Tunisian National Guard confirmed the death of two migrants, one of whom was a child, in a similar sinking incident near the Tunisian coast. The boat, which had set sail from Libya and was carrying migrants from Egypt, Syria and Sudan, capsized in the Mediterranean, Italian authorities said in a statement on Tuesday. Seven people, including an 8-year-old child, were rescued, while searches are ongoing for possible survivors. Authorities expressed concern about the possibility of more victims, especially as the chances of finding survivors diminished hours after the accident.

