

THE NEWSCAST

MEXICO'S BORDER CITY OF TIJUANA DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ANTICIPATION OF TRUMP'S THREATS OF MASS DEPORTATION OF MIGRANTS... LEBANON

The Mexican city of Tijuana has declared a state of emergency in preparation for mass deportations threatened by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump. The decision aims to allocate resources to hire staff, provide shelter and provide legal services to deported migrants. Tijuana, south of San Diego, is a major crossing point for migrants entering the United States. Trump has called migrants an "invasion" and vowed to deport millions upon taking office.



SUDANESE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS BRITISH COUNTERPART AGREED TO RETURN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AS PART OF JOINT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION ISSUES

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer agreed to cooperate on returning illegal immigrants and enhancing immigration relations during Al-Sudani's official visit to the UK from January 14-16, 2025. They also discussed Iraq's stability and growth under Al-Sudani's leadership, as well as fostering a partnership focused on trade, investment, culture, education, and addressing challenges related to security, migration, and climate change.

GERMAN INTERIOR MINISTRY CALLS FOR RESPECT FOR IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE INTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY

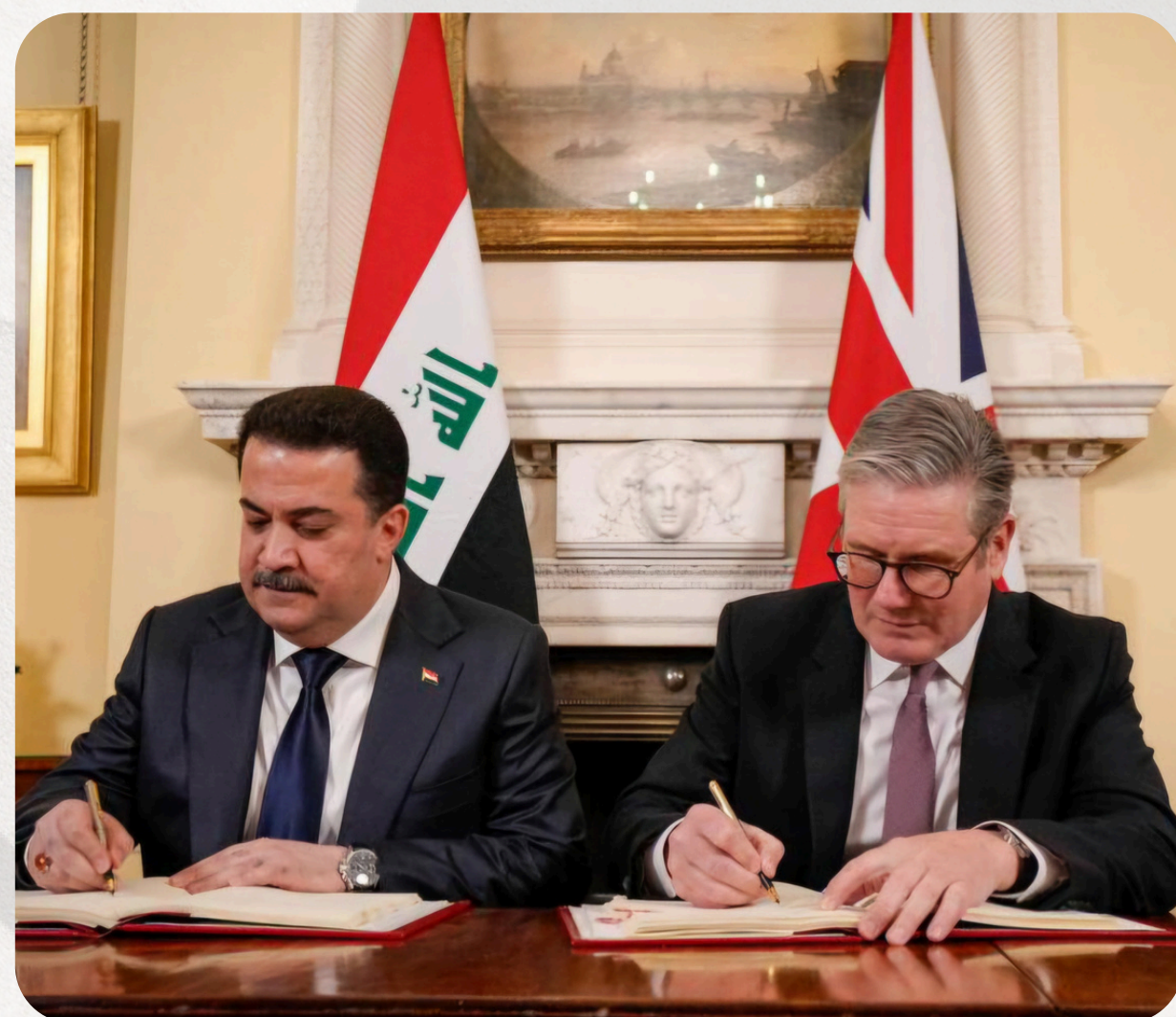


German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser called for greater respect towards migrants who have successfully integrated into society. She highlighted that around 25 million people with migrant backgrounds, making up 30% of Germany's population, contribute significantly to various sectors like healthcare, industry, and businesses, and deserve more recognition for their achievements.

SWEDEN: NUMBER OF REGISTERED REFUGEES IN 2024 FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 40 YEARS



Swedish authorities announced that only 6,250 refugees will be registered in 2024, the lowest number in 40 years. After the influx of refugees in the 2015 crisis, Swedish governments, both left and right, tightened their policies to limit the number of refugees. The center-right government led by Ulf Kristersson has imposed strict restrictions since taking power in 2022, with the support of the far-right, anti-immigration Sweden Democrats.



BEFORE DEPARTURE, BIDEN OFFERS GIFT' TO IMMIGRANTS IN THE US

The US administration announced it will extend legal stay for about one million immigrants from El Salvador, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela for an additional 18 months. This extension affects 232,000 Salvadorans, 1,900 Sudanese, 600,000 Venezuelans, and 103,700 Ukrainians. The decision comes just days before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, who has previously vowed to implement mass deportations. This special status is for individuals who cannot safely return to their countries due to war, natural disasters, or other exceptional circumstances. Trump attempted to cancel this program during his first term but was unsuccessful.



CHOOSING BETWEEN SETTLING IN GERMANY OR RETURNING TO SYRIA

While Syrians inside Syria continue to rejoice after the fall of the Assad regime, Syrians abroad are anxiously awaiting the state of their homeland. InfoMigrants spoke to several of them in Germany who visited Syria, some to celebrate with their families, others with development goals to help the country. One of them is engineer Mohammed, who left Syria in 2015 due to the bombing of Aleppo. He expressed his sense of loss but considered leaving a necessary step to avoid imprisonment under the regime.



GERMAN INTERIOR MINISTRY CALLS FOR RESPECT FOR IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE INTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY



The number of migrants crossing Serbia illegally fell by 50% in 2024, due to the closure of reception centres and the change in migration routes, which are now concentrated on the eastern borders of the EU, especially between Poland and Belarus. Reception centres in Serbia received 19,483 migrants in 2024, a decrease of 82.1% compared to the previous year.

TRIPOLI DEPORTS MIGRANTS FROM MOROCCO

The Department for Combating Irregular Migration in East Tripoli announced the deportation of 15 Moroccan migrants to their home country for violating residency laws in Libya. The migrants were transferred from a detention center after completing the necessary procedures via Mitiga International Airport. Human rights organizations have reported a large number of foreigners in detention centers, some of which are controlled by armed militias. Sources also pointed out that the number of detained Moroccans remains unknown due to the involvement of multiple authorities overseeing the centers.



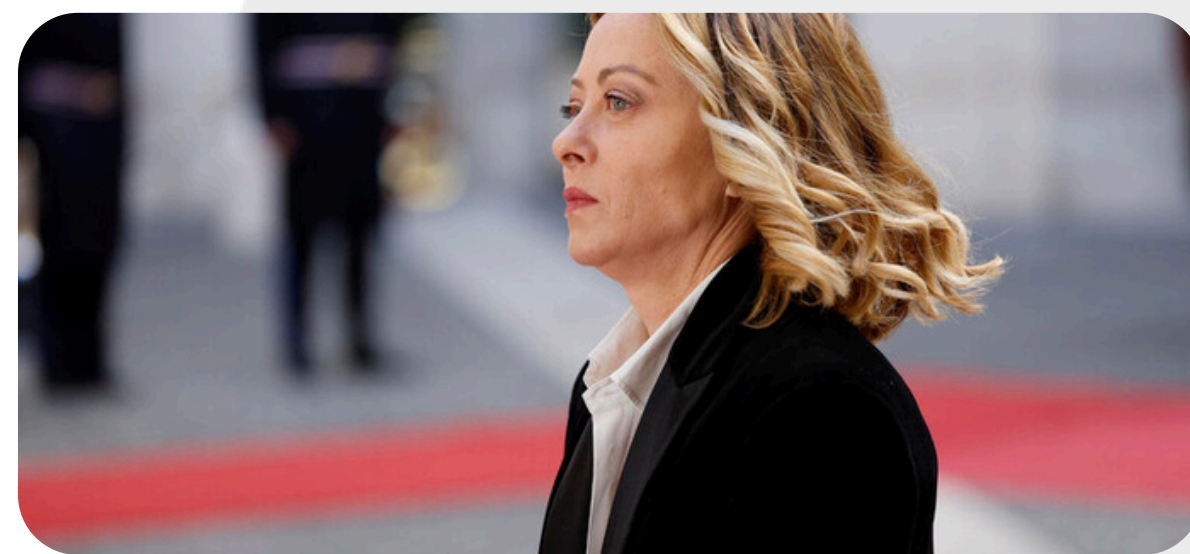
101 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS RESCUED OFF THE LIBYAN COAST IN THE FIRST OPERATION OF 2025

The rescue ship Ocean Viking of the organization SOS Mediterranee managed to rescue 101 illegal migrants, including 29 women and 7 children, who were on board a wooden boat off the coast of Libya. The operation took place in international waters in the Libyan search and rescue area, where rescue teams cooperated with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to provide care for the survivors. The migrants were transferred to the Italian port of Ravenna despite the difficult weather conditions.



FRONTEX SUPPORTS MELONI IN REDUCING MIGRANT FLOW FROM LIBYA

Frontex data showed that illegal migration across the Mediterranean coasts fell by 59% in 2024, thanks to cooperation with Libya and Tunisia. Despite this decrease, the number of migrants reached 67,000 people, with the Central Mediterranean route remaining one of the most active after the Eastern Mediterranean.



SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2024



Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, reported a 38% drop in irregular migration to the EU in 2024, reaching its lowest level since 2021. The agency noted a 192% increase in crossings from Belarus and Russia, totaling 17,000. Migrants and asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt, and Africa were among those arriving, despite changing migration routes. Irregular migration remains a key issue in European politics, with far-right and populist parties promising stricter measures in elections.

DISMANTLING A CRIMINAL NETWORK SPECIALIZING IN MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND ORGANIZING CLANDESTINE SAILING TRIPS, AND ARRESTING 17 PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES, INCLUDING THE PLANNERS OF THESE TRIPS

The Judicial Police in Oran managed to dismantle a network for smuggling migrants and organizing illegal immigration trips, which led to the arrest of 17 people of different nationalities. The operation resulted in the seizure of a large sum of money in national and foreign currency, in addition to two cars used in the criminal activity. Judicial measures were taken against them on charges of smuggling migrants, forgery and money laundering.

