

ISSUED BY THE INDEPENDENTS ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION ISSUES)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD: BASMA FOUAD

THE NEWSCAST

TWO CHILDREN DIE AFTER MIGRANT BOAT SINKS IN MEDITERRANEAN

Two children died and 17 people were rescued after a boat carrying illegal migrants sank in the Mediterranean, the German NGO Sea Banks reported on Sunday. The organization indicated in its statement that the rescue operation took place at dawn on Sunday in the Malta search and rescue area. The body of one child was recovered, while the organization's medical team tried to revive two other children, resulting in the rescue of one of them. The organization added that the survivors informed the rescuers that the boat was carrying 21 people when it set off, indicating that two people were missing.



US SENATE APPROVES FIRST WOMAN TO HEAD HOMELAND SECURITY DURING TRUMP'S TERM

The U.S. Senate has confirmed Kristi Noem as secretary of Homeland Security, taking charge of a key national security agency and implementing Trump's policies to combat illegal immigration. Her nomination came after the Senate Homeland Security Committee voted 13-2 in favor, with broad Republican support. The Senate also confirmed Pete Hegseth as defense secretary, and is set to vote on illegally immigrate to Europe via Libya, Scott Bessent as treasury secretary.



IRAQ SEEKS TO RETURN 39 OF ITS CITIZENS FROM LIBYA AND SAVE THEM FROM THE DANGERS OF **ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**



According to the report carried by Al-Marsad newspaper, the Chargé d'Affairs of the Iraqi Embassy in Libya, Ahmed Al-Sahaf, explained that among the returnees were two people who attempted to while 25 citizens were deported during 2024 and 12 others this year.

EGYPT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER DETERIORATING CONDITIONS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND INCREASING INFLUX OF MIGRANTS



Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Badr Abdel Aty, met on Monday with Amy Pope, Director International the General of Organization for Migration, at the start of her visit to Geneva.



AL-JABALI: MORE THAN 6,000 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS RETURNED VOLUNTARILY FROM TUNISIA

Brigadier General Houssem Eddine Jebabli, spokesman for the Tunisian National Guard, confirmed that irregular migrants from sub-Saharan Africa are facing difficulties in reaching Europe via Tunisia due to tighter controls, which has prompted them to request voluntary return. More than 6,000 return cases were recorded in 2024, compared to 2,500 in 2023. He also pointed to the increasing use of new sea routes to avoid Tunisia, and explained that coordination with relevant organizations has contributed to facilitating return operations. Humanitarian assistance is also being provided to migrants in Tunisia.



BRAZIL SUMMONS US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OVER TREATMENT OF MIGRANTS

The Brazilian government has summoned the US chargé d'affaires in Brasilia to demand an explanation for the "humiliating" treatment of illegal Brazilian migrants deported from the United States. The US chargé d'affaires, Gabriel Escobar, was summoned two days after the Brazilian foreign ministry condemned the mistreatment of 88 Brazilians who were deported, who were handcuffed during their journey home, a Brazilian government source told Radio France Internationale on Tuesday.



MOROCCO ASKS LANZAROTE TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO COMBAT MIGRANT



Morocco called for strengthening efforts to effectively combat migrant smuggling and ensure the safety of irregular migrants, with a focus on enhancing investment in legal migration mechanisms. Morocco called for strengthening efforts to effectively combat migrant smuggling and ensure the safety of irregular migrants, with a focus on enhancing investment in legal migration mechanisms.

MEXICO REFUSES TO RECEIVE US MILITARY PLANE CARRYING DEPORTED MIGRANTS

Mexico has refused to take delivery of a U.S. military plane carrying illegal immigrants after the White House announced they would be deported from the United States, a news network reported, citing Pentagon officials and a person familiar with the matter. A Mexican official and an American official told Reuters that Mexico had rejected a request by the Trump administration to allow a US military plane to land in its territory with migrants on board. Officials added that two aircraft of the typeTwo U.S. Air Force C-17s headed to Guatemala, each carrying about 80 people, but the third flight to Mexico never happened. It was not immediately clear why Mexico had rejected the trip, but tensions between the two countries have been high since Trump won the U.S. presidential election in November. Trump had threatened to impose a 25 percent tariff on all imports from Mexico in response to migrants crossing the border, and he has indicated he may carry out his threat as early as February.





FRANCE IMPOSES 'HARSH AMENDMENTS' TO LAW ON REGULARIZING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Political experts saw the amendments announced by the French interior minister as a major shift in France's immigration policy, with a focus on tightening restrictions on regularizing the status of illegal immigrants. The experts noted that the Retaillo directives, which repealed the 2012 Valls texts, increased the period of residence required to obtain legal status from five to at least seven years, adding the requirement of respecting the values of the republic as a basic criterion. In a radical move to change immigration policy, Retayo unveiled a new directive that imposes tighter restrictions on the regularization of illegal immigrants in France.



THE LARGEST MASS DEPORTATION OPERATION... DEPORTATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT

The White House announced that hundreds of "illegal immigrants" have been arrested in the United States, and hundreds more have been transported out of the country via military aircraft, as the mass deportation operation promised by President Donald Trump begins.



PM'S REMARKS ON 'DUMPING' MIGRANTS IN FRANCE SPARK CONTROVERSY, DIVISION



French centrist Prime Minister François Bayrou defended controversial comments on Tuesday after coming under fire from the left and some of his allies for his comments about a growing sense that migrants were flooding France, which were welcomed by the far-right National Rally party.). Foreign inflows are positive for any people, provided they do not exceed a certain limit, Bayrou said on Monday evening. "When you feel that you are drowning and you do not know your country, its ways of life or its culture, you start to reject it, he added.

SPAIN SUPPORTS MOROCCO'S CAPABILITIES IN COMBATING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In a move that reflects the depth of cooperation between Morocco and Spain, the government of Pedro Sanchez announced the allocation of 850 thousand euros to finance the purchase of 10 ambulances for the Moroccan authorities, as part of a project aimed at strengthening the management of maritime borders and combating illegal immigration. According to the newspaperSpanish company Okdiario, FIIAPP has launched a tender for the supply of ambulances, which will be used in sea rescue operations and the protection of migrants in danger. The newspaper expects the project to be implemented within seven months, with bids open until February 21. The programme aims to enhance Morocco's capacity to manage its maritime borders and ensure compliance with international human rights standards during rescue operations.

