

(WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION ISSUES)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD: BASMA FOUAD

## THE NEWSCAST

### THE BALEARIC ISLANDS RECEIVED NEARLY 600 MIGRANTS IN A PERIOD OF NO MORE THAN THREE DAYS

Spanish authorities announced that more than 30 boats carrying approximately 600 irregular migrants have arrived in the Balearic Islands since Monday, amid increased reliance on this sea route following tightening controls at departure points in Libya and Tunisia. Although irregular migration to Spain has declined overall this year, the Balearic Islands recorded a significant increase of 170% during the first six months. According to official data reported by the Spanish news agency EFE, the islands received at least 3,517 migrants on 184 boats from the beginning of the year until the end of July.



# DESPITE A WAVE OF SHARP CRITICISM, AUSTRIA HAS CONFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO CONTINUE CARRYING OUT DEPORTATIONS TO SYRIA

Austria continues to adhere to its plan to deport migrants to Syria, despite a wave of international criticism following the disappearance of a Syrian migrant it had deported about a month and a half ago. This marks the first deportation from an EU country in more than 14 years. Human rights organizations, along with the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, had called on Vienna to open an investigation into the fate of the deported person and ensure his safety. However, Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner rejected these demands, considering them "idealistic and disconnected from reality.



# THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES THE SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS WITH HONDURAS AND UGANDA TO FACILITATE THE DEPORTATION OF MIGRANTS TO THEIR TERRITORIES



The network reported CBS News reported on Tuesday that the United States has concluded deportation agreements with Honduras and Uganda, as part of a broader effort to forge additional partnerships that would allow the deportation of illegal residents to third countries, even if they are not citizens of those countries.

# THE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS ARRIVING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY SMALL BOAT HAS EXCEEDED 50,000 IN ONE YEAR



British Home Office data shows that more than 50,000 people have arrived in the United Kingdom via small boats departing from the shores of northern France since the Labour government came to power in the summer of last year.



### GREECE CARRIES OUT THREE RESCUE OPERATIONS IN ONE DAY, RETRIEVING MORE THAN 150 MIGRANTS OFF THE COASTS OF CRETE AND GAVDOS

Greek authorities rescued 159 migrants in three operations off the coasts of Crete and Gavdos, within a period of less than 24 hours—from Wednesday noon to Thursday noon, August 14—after nearly two weeks of a halt to the crossing due to bad weather conditions. Local authorities reported that 57 migrants were rescued near the island of Gavdos, where a Frontex vessel transferred them to a coast guard patrol boat before transferring them to a temporary shelter on Crete. The port authority explained that the boat they were on sank and its engines were confiscated.



# LAMPEDUSA SHIPWRECK SURVIVOR PLEADS: I WANT TO BE BURIED NEXT TO MY DAUGHTER AND HUSBAND

A Somali woman survived two shipwrecks off the coast of Lampedusa, but she is in despair after losing her infant daughter and husband during the journey. She has appealed to authorities to bury them in the same place where she would like to be buried, and is currently receiving psychological support from specialists. According to aid organizations, the girl slipped from her mother's arms as the dilapidated boat began to sink, while the husband, who could not swim, fell into the water and disappeared beneath the waves.



#### A MIGRANT WAS FOUND DEAD AFTER COMMITTING SUICIDE BY HANGING IN THE LOON-PLAGE REGION OF NORTHERN FRANCE



A migrant took his life by hanging himself on Sunday, August 17, in the Lune-Plage forest in northern France, in an incident that authorities believe was a suicide. The identity of the victim is still unknown. According to local media, the young man's body was found in an isolated location around 1:00 PM. Police and emergency services arrived after reporting the incident, but the victim had died before their arrival.

## AEGEAN SEA: FOUR MIGRANTS DROWN, OTHERS MISSING, AS RESCUE TEAMS CONTINUE SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS

The Turkish Coast Guard announced, on Monday morning, August 18, 2025, the deaths of at least four migrants in the Aegean Sea while trying to reach the Greek islands from the Turkish coast on a rubber boat. The statement explained that marine patrols were able to rescue two migrants off the coast of Karaburun (Izmir province), after receiving a report after 2:00 a.m. local time. He added that the search for missing persons is still ongoing, with the participation of a helicopter, a drone, and six Coast Guard boats, after survivors confirmed that there were other people on board the boat.





## UK: FIRST GROUP OF MIGRANTS DETAINED UNDER EXCHANGE DEAL WITH FRANCE EXPRESS DISMAY AT DETENTION CONDITIONS

An Eritrean migrant detained in a British center said he was still "in shock," noting that they were taken from the Manston facility directly to a prison-like detention center without any explanation. He added, "We didn't understand what was happening, why some people who were on the same boat as us were taken and others were left behind," referring to the unclear selection criteria. For his part, an Afghan migrant explained that the Home Office informed them that they could not leave their rooms, and that they were afraid of some of the detainees inside the center.



# MIGRATION TO THE SPANISH ENCLAVE OF CEUTA: THE BODY OF A MOROCCAN MINOR WHO ATTEMPTED TO CROSS WAS FOUND

The Spanish Civil Guard found the body of a Moroccan minor, believed to be in the Fuente Caballo area of the Ceuta enclave, after he was caught in a fishing net. He was wearing blue swimming trunks, a red shirt, and a float. This brings the number of migrants who have died while trying to swim to Ceuta this year to 19.



# GREECE: MORE THAN 120 MIGRANTS RESCUED OFF GAVDOS ISLAND IN JUST A FEW HOURS



The Greek Coast Guard, in cooperation with Frontex, rescued more than 120 migrants off the small island of Gavdos on Monday morning, in two separate operations. These operations come after a halt of more than two weeks in the crossing movement, as 68 migrants were detected in the first operation and transferred to the port of Gavdos, while 58 others were found on board a Maltese-flagged oil tanker and were later transferred to the island of Sfakia.

# UGANDA DENIES REACHING ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE DEPORTATION OF MIGRANTS

A senior Ugandan foreign ministry official denied on Wednesday that his country had reached any agreement with the United States regarding the reception of illegal immigrants. Uganda has not signed any such agreement and does not have the necessary infrastructure or facilities to accommodate these migrants, Okello Oryem, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in a text message reported by Reuters. And the network waslt has been reported, based on internal documents, that Washington has concluded agreements with both Honduras and Uganda to deport people who do not hold citizenship in those countries, as part of a broader effort to conclude agreements that allow the deportation of irregular migrants to third countries.

