

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

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## THE NEWSCAST

### A NEW TRAGEDY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: 42 MIGRANTS MISSING NINE DAYS AFTER A SHIPWRECK

A migrant boat capsized off the Libyan coast, and authorities have revealed details of the tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea, which resulted in the loss of 42 lives, mostly from Sudan, including two women. Rescue teams managed to save only seven migrants. In a statement issued on Wednesday, November 12, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced that the boat was carrying dozens of migrants when it sank on November 3 near the Libyan coast. The IOM confirmed that 42 people remain missing, while only seven survivors have been found.



## GREECE CONDUCTS AGE CHECKS FOR UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT MINORS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Greek authorities have announced the start of the first medical age tests for migrants claiming to be unaccompanied minors, in order to verify the accuracy of information provided in asylum applications. Greek Migration Minister Thanos Plevris explained that initial results showed that 60% of the migrants who declared themselves minors were found to be adults. This measure is part of the implementation of a new institutional system adopted by the Greek government to identify unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, which came into effect at the end of August under a joint ministerial decree between the Ministries of Migration and Asylum and Health. Minister Plevris posted on the X platform (formerly Twitter) that the first series of age-determination tests included 104 suspected cases, and the results showed that 59 of them were adults.



## FRANCE REFUSED TO GRANT HIM A VISA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, SO HE EMIGRATED TO NORTH MACEDONIA



Wassel, a 21-year-old Tunisian man, fell ill about two years ago and twice applied for a medical visa from the French consulate, but his application was rejected each time. Faced with the heavy financial burden his family bore after borrowing money to cover his medical expenses, Wassel decided to pursue irregular migration.

## GERMANY TACKLES RISING IMMIGRATION COSTS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT PLANS



Since Chancellor Friedrich Merz (of the Christian Democratic Union) took office, the issue of immigration and refugees has returned to the forefront of the political scene in Germany.



## MIGRANTS FACE FREEZING TEMPERATURES WITHOUT SHELTER IN THE ITALIAN CITY OF L'AQUILA

With temperatures plummeting and their blankets gone, a number of homeless migrants are facing dire conditions in the Italian city of L'Aquila, nestled in the Abruzzo mountains. As winter temperatures dipped to around three degrees Celsius, some 30 migrants found themselves with nothing but cardboard to protect them from the bitter cold, forcing them to sleep in tunnels and parking garages for the past few nights. Lacking shelter in the city and surrounding areas.



#### A CONVICTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEPRIVES A MOROCCAN IMMIGRANT OF HIS DREAM OF SPANISH CITIZENSHIP

The Spanish National Court upheld the Justice Ministry's decision to reject a citizenship application submitted by a Moroccan citizen residing in Ceuta, after he was previously convicted in 2019 of domestic violence against his Spanish wife.



#### NEARLY 1,800 MIGRANTS ARRIVED IN BRITAIN VIA THE ENGLISH CHANNEL IN THREE DAYS



Last weekend, the British coast saw a new wave of migration across the English Channel, with 503 migrants arriving in the UK on Saturday, November 8 alone, aboard seven small boats.

## INTERNATIONAL CALLS TO CLOSE MIGRANT DETENTION CENTERS IN LIBYA AFTER SHOCKING REPORTS OF TORTURE AND MURDER; THE VICTIMS ARE MOSTLY SUDANESE

A United Nations session held Tuesday in Geneva witnessed growing international calls for Libya to close its migrant detention centers, amid human rights reports indicating that migrants and refugees inside these centers are subjected to torture, ill-treatment, and even, in some cases, killings. Several countries—including Britain, Spain, Norway, and Sierra Leone—expressed grave concern about the humanitarian situation of migrants in Libya, a major transit point for Africans fleeing conflict and poverty on their way to Europe.





## DENMARK OFFERS FINANCIAL GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE SYRIAN REFUGEES TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY

In a new step within its policy of encouraging the voluntary return of refugees, the Danish government announced an expansion of its financial program dedicated to supporting Syrians wishing to return to their homeland. This expansion includes attractive financial grants aimed at incentivizing their voluntary and orderly departure from the country. This decision comes within the context of a growing European trend towards reducing the number of refugees and supporting voluntary returns.



### THE MIGRATION OF CHADIAN YOUTH: THE REAL MOTIVES AND ROUTES TO EUROPE

Several villages in Chad have recently witnessed a growing exodus of young people, with thousands fleeing to neighboring countries or attempting to reach Europe via perilous migration routes, seeking to escape dire economic conditions and find better opportunities. This exodus comes amidst the worst humanitarian crisis in four years, triggered by a series of devastating floods and droughts.



# A SHIP CARRYING MIGRANTS SANK OFF THE LIBYAN COAST, WITH ESTIMATES SUGGESTING THAT AROUND 42 PEOPLE MAY HAVE DIED



The UN migration agency said Wednesday that around 42 migrants are feared dead after a boat carrying dozens of people sank off the Libyan coast on November 3. Seven survivors were rescued after being adrift at sea for six days.

## THE CRISIS IN MALI IS DISRUPTING MOSCOW'S CALCULATIONS AND OPENING THE DOOR TO A DECLINE IN ITS AFRICAN INFLUENCE

Mali has witnessed significant developments on the ground in recent months, with the escalating pressure exerted by the Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) militants on the capital, Bamako. The group has adopted a strategy of gradually isolating the capital by cutting off the roads that supply it with fuel, placing the city under a suffocating threat at a critical juncture. Despite indications of a relative improvement in the security situation in recent days, numerous questions remain regarding the implications of these developments for the Russian presence in Africa, particularly given that Mali constitutes one of Russia's most important platforms for influence.

