

Turkish Coast Guard Saves 130 Migrants Pushed Back by Greece



The Turkish coast guard helps a group of irregular migrants intercepted at sea, in Izmir, western Turkey, Aug. 5, 2023.

ANKARA (Anadolu) – A total of 130 migrants pushed back into territorial waters by Greek forces were rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard off the coasts of western Izmir province's Menderes, Karaburun, Foca and

Cesme districts.

Meanwhile, 265 irregular migrants and a migrant smuggler were caught off the coasts of Karaburun and Dikili.

Irregular migrants were handed to the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management after procedures.

And 170 irregular migrants in rubber boats were caught by the Coast Guard off the coast of western Canakkale province's Ayvacik district.

Coast Guard Northern Aegean Group Command teams detected four rubber boats with irregular migrants off the coast of Ayvacik.

During the operations by teams with the TCSG-8 and KB-20 boats, 170 migrants from Afghanistan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Palestine and Somalia were caught and taken to shore.

Foreign nationals were sent to the Ayvacik Foreigners Removal Center after procedures.

Bahrain Urged Not to Deport Egyptian Dissidents

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – Campaigners fear Bahrain will deport two Egyptian opposition figures to Cairo after the Persian Gulf kingdom arrested them in the capital, Manama, earlier this week.

Sayed Mohamed Mahmoud el-Agez and Muhammad al-Iraq Saad Hassanein were detained on Wednesday despite committing no crime, according to the Shahab Centre for Human Rights (SCHR), or El Shehab NGO.

Both men are legal residents of Bahrain and hold valid residencies that let them live and work in the Persian Gulf kingdom. Images of their ID cards were seen by Middle East Eye and confirm the validity of their residency permits.

SCHR sent letters to senior UN officials urging them to intervene and call on Bahrain not to send the two men to Egypt.

“We urgently implore you to intervene in this matter and ensure the protection of the rights of these individuals,” SCHR said in a letter addressed to Volker Turk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

“We request your assistance in preventing their potential deportation to Egypt, where they may face inhumane conditions

and the possibility of torture and enforced disappearance due to the political nature of their cases.”

The families of both men told human rights groups that Bahrain arrested them after Egypt used Interpol to issue an arrest warrant against them, based on political reasons.

The Bahrain embassy in London did not respond to MEE's questions by the time of publication.

Agez, 59, is a businessman and father of eight children who has lived in Bahrain for the past eight years. He holds Turkish and Egyptian citizenship.

Hassanein, 45, is a computer engineer and a father of three.

Egypt, which enjoys close ties with Bahrain, has been using Interpol red notices to target political opponents abroad since President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi seized power in a military coup in 2013. Red notices are requests for governments to find and provisionally arrest a person pending deportation or other legal action.

Sisi has presided over a brutal crackdown on dissent and opposition to his rule since.

At least 60,000 political prisoners are estimated to have been jailed in the last decade, according to human rights groups.

Iraq Seeks Interpol Alerts for Former Officials Over \$2.5bn Graft

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq plans to ask Interpol to issue international alerts seeking the arrest of former senior officials including an ex-finance minister and an ex-intelligence chief over the alleged theft of more than \$2.5 billion from the country's Tax Commission.

The scandal centers on suspected illegitimate cash withdrawals from the Commission between 2021 and 2022 totaling around \$2.5 billion, according to Iraqi officials.

Iraq's top anti-corruption official, Integrity Commission chief Judge Haider

Hanoun, announced the move to seek so-called Interpol Red Notices on Sunday.

Hanoun said the judiciary would also ask for notices to be issued for the private secretary and a political adviser to former prime minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

Kadhimi and former finance minister Ali Allawi have both denied involvement in the alleged corruption, which came to light late last year after a new government came to power.

Allawi resigned from the government in August 2022 citing political interference

in government work and graft. He has since said that he took steps to prevent theft from occurring at the Tax Commission but that his decisions were ignored by other officials.

Reuters could not immediately reach the other officials for comment.

Current Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani has said one of his priorities is fighting the corruption that pervades the Iraqi state and has led to the pilfering of untold billions of the country's oil wealth dollars over the years.

Hanoun, appointed by Su-

dani, said Iraq was working to extradite people involved in the theft from a number of states including the UAE, Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and also called on the U.S. and U.K. “to hand over fugitive suspects,” though he did not name them.

Hanoun said those allegedly involved in the corruption for whom he was demanding Red Notices had taken a share of no less than 100 billion Iraqi dinars (\$77 million).

More than 48 people were suspected of involvement overall, he added.

Farmers Lament Massive Production Loss as Heatwave Persists in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Xinhua) – Adham Abdallah with a white keffiyeh on his head to protect himself from the blistering sunshine, was stunned at the “strange” scene of corn kernels exploding in his orchard in southern Lebanon.

“It is a strange scene. For the first time in my life, I see corn kernels exploding under high temperatures and the scorching sun, despite being covered with several layers of green leaves,” 70-year-old Abdallah told Xinhua.

Abdallah feared that the temperature would continue to rise, leading to severe damage to all corn grains and a massive yield loss.

Youssef Fayyad, a 60-year-old fruit grower, told Xinhua that the scorching heat has accelerated the ripening of the prickly pear fruit in his orchard.

“Many of the prickly pears ripen fast and fall,” Fayyad said while picking fruits with a group of workers in his sprawling field in Majidiyeh in southern Lebanon.

“Although we have been racing against time to harvest and market the fruits, there is still a one-third loss in our production,” he lamented.

Hot air masses in the Arabian Peninsula will continue to impact Lebanon and the eastern basin of the Mediterranean through August, according to a report released by the Lebanese Meteorological Department in July.

Akram al-Ghareeb, the owner of a 9,000-square-meter vegetable base in Wazzani in southeastern Lebanon, said farmers fear the continuing heatwave will inevitably destroy vegetables, including tomatoes, cucumbers, and cowpeas, noting that wilted plants have become increasingly common this year.

He warned that the extreme heat would later affect olive production, the primary source of livelihood for many Lebanese farmers.

The agricultural production loss is mainly traced to irrigation water shortage as most rivers and springs dried up

quickly amid the intense heat waves. The water level of artesian wells decreased to about half, lamented al-Ghareeb.

“In this abnormal climate, the plants get damaged, and their production period shortens. A plant that used to bear fruit for about three months now bears fruit for only one month, leading to decreased agricultural production,” Ibrahim Tarshishi, head of the farmers' association in Lebanon's Bekaa region, explained.

The Ministry of Agriculture estimated losses of 40 percent and 20 percent in vegetable and fruit production, respectively, as a result of the heatwave sweeping the country, said Zidan Faour, head of the cooperative for improving agricultural production in the regions of Hasbaya and Arqoub in southern Lebanon.

In addition to olives, fruit products constitute 31 percent of the total volume of agricultural production in Lebanon, while vegetables constitute 63 percent, sources from the Ministry of Agriculture told Xinhua.

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not to allow certain ships to pass through certain straits. “That is absolute nonsense, because the high seas belong to everyone. The sea and the air must be free for all nations and the security of shipping and maritime transport must be ensured for everyone.”

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to U.S. violations in international waters.

“Today, the Americans are attacking oil tankers and helping maritime smuggling gangs in our region and other regions, which is a great violation and a violation of international and humanitarian laws,” he said.

“The superpowers would have put the oceans in their own name if they could. Plundering and using public domains for their own gain is a specialty of the U.S. The 86th Flotilla's trip around the world worked against this and showed that the high seas belong to everyone.”

The Leader also praised the families present in the meeting for their important role in the success of the 86th Flotilla mission.

“Patience and tolerance in the face of worries and longings, passing this test with a feeling of honor and an obvious sense of pride in the fathers, mothers and wives, were other factors that played a role in the achievement of this historic movement,” he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the longings felt by the families of the naval forces ended when they saw their loved ones, but the void felt by the families of the martyrs after losing their loved ones has never been filled.

“We are all indebted to them and we pray that God keeps them safe and secure alongside the Iranian nation.”

The Leader also expressed his satisfaction with this year's Ashura mourning ceremonies during the Islamic month of Muharram.

“Even though the enemies tried to dampen the spirit of Muharram this year, due to the blessings of Imam Mahdi's attention, what occurred was the exact opposite of what the enemies wanted. The first ten days of Muharram were more spirited, dynamic, and fruitful than in previous years. This shows that when something is in line with divine goals, the Almighty God will assist people with it.”

U.S... (Continued From Page One)

The bomb dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6 killed thousands instantly and about 140,000 by the end of the year. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15.

Three days after Hiroshima was leveled, the United States dropped a second device on the southwestern city of Nagasaki.

The G7's first-ever joint document on nuclear disarmament, titled the Hiroshima Vision, has proved more controversial.

A Kyodo News survey conducted after the summit showed the statement was viewed negatively by 51.7 percent of those polled in Japan, of which 59 percent cited the lack of any mention of the nuclear ban treaty.