



# *Illegal Migration... a Nightmare threatens Humanity*

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*The phenomenon of illegal migration represents a danger faced by all, whether by countries of origin of migration, countries of migrants' transit, their receiving countries and the migrants themselves who witness death in their non-human journeys.*

*According to the United Nations statistics, figures and numbers have become an indicator of a real and actual danger of illegal migration issue and how this phenomenon can cause a demographic change in certain countries where migrants' ratios are significant among the indigenous people of the country along with their traditions, values and ideas. In 2017, the migrants' number reached 258 million as compared to about 173 million in 2000. On the other hand, it is believed that the ratio of migrants all over the world is a little bit higher than what is recorded during the last decades, i.e. more than 3.4% in 2017 compared to 2.8% in 2000 and 2.3% in 1980. In addition, there are about 68 million forcibly displaced including more than 25 million refugees, 3 million asylum seekers and more than 40 million internally displaced people.*

### ***Concerns and Fears Regarding Migration (countries of origin, receiving countries and transit countries)***

*Recently, migrants and refugees are mentioned in the Goals of Sustainable Development as translation of countries' fears and concerns, whether countries of migration origin, transit countries or receiving countries admitting that migrants have become a significant ratio in these countries' reality.*

*Also illegal migration and migrants have imposed themselves on the Plan of Sustainable Development of 2020 as for the first time the plan admits the contribution of migration to sustainable development. There are 11 goals among the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals include objectives and indicators relevant to migration. This is assures that countries have dealt practically with their concerns of fears of the issue of migrants and refugees. So at this point the human face of the Plan of Sustainable Development has been appeared and emerged along with the main principle of its agenda which frankly states to “never give up anyone” including migrants.*



## ***Disasters of War throw migrant into Europe (Syria and Yemen)***

*In regard to war in Syria, statistics of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have revealed that the continuous war in Syria since 2011 has displaced about 11 million Syrian people outside their country while 4 million Syrian people escaped to neighboring countries in addition to hundred thousands who escaped to countries of European and American West. Moreover, there are millions of displaced people inside Syria who search for a way to leave the country because of war.*

*The reports point out that Lebanon has received about 1113941 refugees from Syria while migrants' number in Jordan reached 629245 refugees and 249463 refugees in Iraq. On the other hand, the situation in Yemen was worse as till 2016 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Yemen revealed that civil war in Yemen resulted in the displacement of 2.8 million Yemeni people. It is worth mentioning that Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula which signed the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its protocol of 1967.*

## ***West Africa and Terrorism Hell... Population Escape***

*The international statistics have showed how the rates of illegal migration have been increased recently from African countries especially West Africa towards transit countries and then to the destination of migrants in Europe. Terrorism comes on the top of the reasons behind migration especially it has been turned to armed and separatist movements which threaten those who are different in doctrine, creed and ethnicity.*

## ***International Indicators and Figures about Migration***

*The international numbers and figures revealed that one from 30 people all over the world is a migrant who lives in another country while in 1990; the ratio was one among 35 people. More than half number of migrants all over the world live in only 10 countries. In 2015, two thirds of international migrants (67%) live only in 20 countries.*

## ***Turkey Coasts... the Black Hole for Illegal Migration***

### ***International Blackmail against Migrants***

*No country has benefited from the tragedy of illegal migration except Turkey. The file of illegal migration has always been 'a ready' weapon in the hands of Turkish government permanently. The map of illegal migration reveals that in Turkey there are about 130 border land, sea and air passageways. The land borders with Bulgaria, Greece, Syria,*



*Iraq, Iran, Armenia and Georgia are estimated with 3.000 km in addition to the sea coast which is estimated with 8333 km; the matter which facilitates illegal migration journeys. Hence Turkey is eligible to be called 'the black hole for illegal migration'.*

*A report by Deutsche Welle Website reveals that 13% of migrants to Europe come through Turkey since the number of escaped refugees to Europe illegally through Turkey has increased till the beginning of March 2018 compared to the same period in 2017 to 15 thousand and 450 illegal migrants. Documentary press reports highlight that profits of smuggling migrants reached 40 billion \$ at least annually from which Turkey's portion is about 10 billion according to Turkish "Turk New" newspaper.*

### ***Smuggling Gangs... Run by Turks inside Prisons***

*In Turkish Mersin Security Directorate, the department of combating migrants smuggling and human trafficking assured that they have arrested 61 people who ran gangs of human trafficking. Moreover, according to Turkish "Star" newspaper, this gang was running the biggest organization of smuggling migrants from Turkey to Europe. The department added that they have observed the gang for more than 6 months before arresting them.*

*In addition, the investigations ascertained that Turks themselves especially from the political opposition, Kurdistan Workers Party, Revolutionary Public Liberation Party or those affiliated to Fatah Allah Gulen Group alongside with migrants coming from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan have become a target for smuggling gangs.*

*What is noticeable is that the main leader of the gang called "Aldib Mahmoud" was running the gang from inside Turkish prisons full of with political opponents as he instructed them through his mobile from inside the prison and deliver fake forged passports to migrants by his friends outside prison.*

### ***Serious Steps to Combat Illegal Migration***

#### ***How did Egypt prevent death boats?!***

*In 2018, during "Hakaya Watan" conference the president Abd El Fattah El Sisi declared that since September 2016 there is no illegal migration from Egypt to Europe assuring that job opportunities provided by national projects have contributed to eliminating the phenomenon of illegal migration. The president Al Sisi added this is alongside with the security and legislative measures taken by Egypt during that period*



*to eliminate the phenomenon of death boats. The successful Egyptian experience in this regard has started by addressing reasons behind this phenomenon and solving them since Egypt has dedicated 200 billion EGP to implement small and micro projects to eliminate unemployment. Areas where illegal migration prevails were the target of these projects.*

*In recent years, especially since 2015, the Egyptian government has taken special measures to eliminate death boat and blockaded the phenomenon with certain solutions and tightened control over Egyptian airports, ports and borders. In addition, Egypt has worked upon three main axes: legislations, security and development.*

*The Egyptian government has established an institutional entity to concern with solving the issue of illegal migration which is the National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration. Since its establishment, the committee has worked to put a legislative framework to clearly define the crime of smuggling migrants. Then the law no. 82 of 2016 in regard to combating illegal migration and smuggling migrants was issued to help bodies of law enforcement to eliminate smuggling networks.*

*The axes of the national strategy of combating illegal migration 2016/2026 focused on raising awareness regarding issue of illegal migration, mobilizing necessary resources to support efforts of combating illegal migration, supporting development as basis for combating illegal migration and providing positive alternatives of job opportunities in Egypt. This strategy also has protected the most vulnerable categories to the risks of illegal migration, improved the information capacity in the field of illegal migration, built up and activated the legislative framework supporting activities of combating illegal migration and enhanced the regional cooperation. The Egyptian judicial security bodies concerned with combating migrants' smuggling cooperate with foreign counterparts through sharing information, aids ...etc.*

*Moreover, the Egyptian authorities have aggravating the penalties of illegal migration and migrants' smuggling crimes. Among these penalties, for example, is sentencing to imprisonment or a fine with not less than 50.000 EGP and not more than 200.000 EGP against whoever commits or mediates the crime of smuggling migrants. Egypt also approved the penalty of aggravated strict imprisonment and fine of not less than 200.000 EGP and not more than 500.000 EGP if the criminal has established, organized or run a criminal group working in smuggling migrants, whether he is the leader or one*





*of its members. In addition, there are more strict measures if it is proved that the crime is committed by a criminal organization or to achieve a terroristic goal.*

*From security side, Egypt was able to prevent penetrations which were taking place across the eastern borders via Israel and stop now because of intensive security presence in North Sinai as the Ministry of Interior and the Armed Forces cooperated in securing borders very well. In addition, brokers of illegal migration were blockaded as they were facilitating Africans crossing through Egypt.*

*The Egyptian government has created development outlets in areas and focal points of illegal migration in Egyptian governments such as Kafr Al Sheikh and Al Fayoum where fish farms were opened in Ghalyoon Industrial Area to provide thousands of direct job opportunities for fishermen and universities graduates who are the most categories resort to illegal migration. Besides, there were media awareness campaigns, studies and official researchers about migration among which are “Ankiz Mohagir” (Save Migrant) campaign and “Kabl Matahgr Shower” (Consult before you Leave) campaign. These campaigns addressed social categories with different cultural levels and backgrounds to decrease and eliminate this phenomenon and face it on social level.*

*After Egypt succeeded in controlling its borders, the result of this success was an agreement with the European Union with unpaid grants 60 million Euro as an appreciation for the Egyptian efforts and to enhance the government’s course in funding developmental projects which in turn contributes to treat the root causes behind why citizens resort to migration and endanger youth lives at sea and so that those youth will not fall as victims of human trafficking and inhuman gangs.*

*Following efforts of Ministry of Exterior, there were long agreements with the European Union which concluded package of medium and small projects to support development and create job opportunities for youth in their country in addition to another project to develop youth skills by providing technical and professional training opportunities for them in coordination with the Ministry of Education (technical education sector) and the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Industry. Also there was an agreement with the National Council for Women to develop projects which create job opportunities for women and youth especially in the most exported governorates of migration. Besides, a project has been approved to support institutional capacities to deal with challenges of migration in coordination with National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking.*



## ***Security Egyptian European Cooperation.... Italian Ministry of Interior***

*Italy is one of the strictest and most rejecting countries for migration as it suffers from pressures on its economy and infrastructure because of great numbers of illegal migrants it receive. So the Italian Ministry of Interior concluded a security agreement with its Egyptian counterpart in the headquarter of the Ministry of Interior in the field of combating organized crime and illegal migration.*

*The protocol is funded by an Italian European fund to train 360 of senior African police calibers from 22 nationalities on the most modern techniques of combating illegal migration and organized crime. In addition, new administrations for combating organized crimes have been created and introduced to train African calibers on combating crimes in Police Research Center. Two training workshops were held during the 2018/2019.*

*In fact, the Egyptian experience in combating illegal migration gained a clear international admiration and appreciation since the German minister of defense praised Egypt's success in preventing any boat carrying migrants towards Europe from leaving Egyptian coasts since September 2016, this was during her meeting with the Egyptian minister of exterior in Munich Security Conference in the period from 15 -18 February 2018. Also the program coordinator in the United Nations Office for Migration in Cairo praised the Egyptian efforts in regard to decreasing illegal migration assuring the successful policies adopted by Egyptian authorities to address migration file since 2010 to 2016 to eliminate human and migrants smuggling or human trafficking in addition to these policies' relations to Egypt's vision 2030.*

*The National Strategy for Combating Illegal Migration launched by Egypt has been widely welcomed internationally especially as Egypt is a main and important factor in combating illegal migration in addition to approving law; the matter which assures the government's commitment to face illegal migration.*

### ***Recommendations***

- *The necessity of generalizing the Egyptian experience in a number of countries, yet it is still a dilemma because it requires real and true desire by crossing countries for illegal migrants to face the crisis and not to export more pressure.*



- *Expand implementing regional programs inside Egypt including working with African, European and Arab countries to research and discuss new ways to stop human trafficking.*
- *Give the Interpol confrontational authorities and powers to face and address human trafficking gangs especially the main crossing countries for migrants.*
- *Implement projects in cooperation with civil society organizations to raise youth's awareness in regard to tricks of smuggling gangs and how they exploit youth's ambitions.*
- *Starting in enacting legislations oblige countries which allow migrants smuggling gangs to be on their lands.*
- *The necessity of activating peace initiatives such as "Iskat Al Banadik" (Silencing Guns) initiatives in Africa to secure people's lives there.*
- *The necessity of facing terrorism by international cooperation especially in the affected areas and punishing countries which export weapons to terroristic groups in West Africa in particular and jihadist groups.*
- *Start in rehabilitation programs for refugees and settle them in an organized way so that they will not be a burden on the host countries.*
- *Civil society programs to face the phenomenon and support youth in their country.*