

*The Reality of Irregular Immigration in the Arab World,
“Factors, Causes, and Ways to Address It”*

واقع الهجرة غير الشرعية في الوطن العربي (العوامل-الأسباب-وطرق المواجهة)



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Date of transmission: 14/12/2024 date of acceptance: 05/05/2025 date of publication: 01/06/2025

Abstract: Irregular Immigration is a significant global issue affecting both sending and receiving countries, particularly in the Arab world and Algeria. The complexity of this phenomenon has led to the death of hundreds of young people, particularly in the region. Media and social media portray life on the other side as a rosy dream, causing many to aspire for a better future. However, this dream often ends in the sea. The reality of irregular immigration in the Arab world is that it is driven by criminal networks, driven by young people and adolescents seeking a better life in Europe. The question is: what is the reality of irregular immigration in the Arab world, what factors and causes drive young people towards it, and how can it be addressed? Enter the Abstract here; The Abstract includes the research objective, and an important result.

key words: Immigration; Irregular Immigration; Arab World; Youth; Crime

الملخص: تعد ظاهرة الهجرة غير شرعية أو الهجرة غير النظامية ظاهرة تؤرق أغلب المجتمعات لما لها من آثار خطيرة باتت تهدد أمن الدول المصدرة والمستقبلة للمهاجرين غير الشرعيين في ظل التحولات الدولية الراهنة وهذا ما زاد تعقد ظاهرة الهجرة غير شرعية وزاد تبعاتها وانتشارها في جميع أنحاء العالم سواء دول متقدمة أو دول نامية ، فلا تزال قوارب الموت تزهرق أرواح مئات الشباب في العالم والوطن العربي عامة والجزائر خاصة فصور النجاح والإبهار التي تغذيها وسائل الإعلام المرئي ومواقع التواصل الاجتماعي التي تظهر أن الحياة في الضفة الأخرى أحلام وردية فتجد أغلب الشباب يحلمون بمستقبل أفضل أين تنتهي أحلامهم في أغلب الأوقات في عرض البحر، وخاصة أن هاته الهجرة لم تعد هجرة غير شرعية عادية يقودها بعض الشباب المغامرون بل أصبحت هجرة غير نظامية غير قانونية موجهة تقودها شبكات تعمل في إطار الجريمة والجريمة المنظمة وخاصة أن أغلب المقبلين على الهجرة غير الشرعية هم شباب ومراهقون حاملون بحياة أفضل في أوروبا وعليه نطرح السؤال ما هو واقع الهجرة غير شرعية في الوطن العربي وما هي العوامل والأسباب التي تدفع بالشباب للإقبال عليها وكيفية التصدي لها ؟

الكلمات المفتاحية: الهجرة، الهجرة غير الشرعية، الوطن العربي، الشباب، الجريمة.

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Introduction

Irregular Immigration , or illegal Immigration , is a critical topic that has garnered significant attention from researchers in various fields, including journalists, human rights activists, sociologists, historians, economists, and politicians. This interest has grown especially after alarming news headlines and staggering figures about thousands of young people risking their lives in death boats across the sea or embarking on land journeys from Turkey, through the forests of Bulgaria and Greece, to Italy, and then to other European countries in search of a better life. The phenomenon of irregular Immigration has become a threat to both sending and receiving countries, as well as transit countries. The movement of large numbers of migrants, each with their own unique cultural backgrounds, to societies with distinct and often contradictory characteristics has made social integration a challenge for these migrants in their host countries.

The true suffering faced by both regular and irregular migrants, especially with the rise of ideologies of racism, violence, and rejection of the other, has led international organizations to call for legal accountability and the provision of dignified living conditions and protection for migrants in accordance with international laws and conventions. Moreover, irregular Immigration has serious implications for local communities, as it is often linked to other crimes such as organized crime. This is especially true when the victims are young people who, driven by social conditions such as poverty, deprivation, and a sense of inferiority and lack of value, seek opportunities for a better life in another country.

The widespread social injustices, lack of intellectual freedom, absence of democratic expression spaces, weak economic development, and lack of sound policies addressing youth issues have resulted in social alienation, social subjugation, and feelings of inferiority among marginalized groups in the Arab world in general, and in Algeria in particular. These factors have contributed to pushing thousands of young dreamers towards the death boats in search of a better life on the European shore. Therefore, in this research paper, we aim to explore the reality of irregular Immigration among youth in Algeria and the Arab world, examining the underlying causes driving young people to engage in illegal Immigration by land or sea. This leads us to ask the following question: What is the reality of irregular Immigration in the Arab world, and specifically in Algeria? What are the true factors and causes that push young people to undertake dangerous immigration, and how can we address this issue?

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1-1: Defining Concepts:

- **Immigration:** It is commonly used to refer to all movements, with the implicit assumption that it will result in a change in residence or domicile.¹

2- Irregular Immigration: Irregular Immigration is so named because it occurs outside of legal frameworks, meaning it violates the laws and regulations governing the entry of foreigners into a country's sovereign territory. It involves the movement of individuals or groups across borders outside of legal channels, a phenomenon that emerged at the beginning of the 20th century and intensified, particularly after the implementation of border closure policies in Europe in the last century.²

The term irregular Immigration refers to individuals who migrate and cross international borders illegally, moving from their country of origin to another country where they are not authorized to live.

3- The Arab World:

The Arab World is a geographic-political term used to refer to a region with a shared history, language, and culture. It extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Arabian Sea and the Arabian Gulf in the east, encompassing all the countries that are members of the Arab League in West Asia, North Africa, and its eastern parts.³

The Arab World is a geographic term that refers to twenty-two countries. Twelve of these countries are located in the southwestern part of Asia, and ten are in the northern part of Africa. Its total land area is 14 million square kilometers. These countries share a common language, culture, and history.⁴

4- Crime: It is an act that violates the collective⁵ conscience. Supporters of the positivist school define crime as any act that harms the fundamental interests of society⁶. Crime is any action that goes against the law and the community.

5- Organized Crime: It is a criminal expression that operates outside the framework of the people and the government, encompassing thousands of criminals who work according to an extremely complex and precise system, surpassing the systems followed by even the most advanced and developed institutions. Its members are subject to legal rules that they have established for themselves, imposing severe

¹-Tariq Abdul Hamid Al-Shahawine, *Irregular Migration: A Future Vision*, Dar Al-Fikr Al-Jami'i, Alexandria, 2009, p. 15.

²-Dr. Sahnoun Am El-Kheir, *Irregular Migration among Algerian Youth: Causes and Factors*, Khmiss University, p. 311.

³- Available on the website: <https://ar.wikipedia.org>

⁴-Samiha Nasser Khalif, *The Concept of the Arab World*, Mawdoo3 website, available at [mawdoo3.com](https://www.mawdoo3.com), accessed on 05/11/2024 at 20:56.

⁵ - Émile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method*, translated by Mahmoud Qasim, Cairo, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Misriya, p. 160.

⁶ - Mohammad Mahmoud Al-Johari, *Sociology of Crime and Deviance*, Dar Al-Masira for Publishing and Distribution, Amman, Jordan, p. 17.

penalties on anyone who deviates from the group's code. They carry out their criminal activities according to detailed plans and generate massive profits from them.¹

6-Youth: Ahmed Zaki Badawi defines this group as individuals whose ages range from eighteen to twenty-four years, who have completed their general education.²

According to Foucherd and Daranche, scientists have defined the beginning of this stage as the years between 12 and 18 years of age, while its end ranges from 24 to 30 years, depending on the objective conditions of each country and the different environments of individuals.

Sociologists believe that the youth stage is the phase in which the social structure attempts to prepare the individual to occupy his position and perform his role within the social context.³ Youth is a life stage that occurs during adolescence, typically from 18 years to the end of the thirties, up to 35 years.⁴

1-2- Factors and Causes of Irregular Immigration among Youth in the Arab World:

Push and Pull Factors:

Through specialized studies on the causes of Immigration and irregular Immigration in Arab countries, we observe that there are several factors influencing youth Immigration.

These include pull factors that attract youth to migrate towards certain destinations, and push factors that repel them, prompting them to flee. These factors can be economic, social, political, and even religious.

A- Pull Factors: Pull factors, which serve as motivators for irregular Immigration, can be classified according to several criteria:

1. Economic Factor: All national and international studies confirm that the primary reason for Immigration and an individual's desire to leave their country is economic. Often, this makes them indifferent to whether their Immigration occurs through legal means. This is further exacerbated by the lack of sufficient job opportunities in their home country, leading them to search for livelihood elsewhere.⁵

2. Higher Living and Economic Standards: The resources available in the countries they migrate to offer a decent life in terms of income, housing, services, and essential living needs. This enables individuals to live in both material and psychological comfort, preserving their dignity and granting them a social status.

¹ - Dr. Abdullah Aqlan Al-Dosari, *Organized Crime: Its Causes and Prevention Measures*, Journal of Legal and Economic Studies, Peer-Reviewed Academic Journal, p. 1953.

² - Ahmed Zaki Badawi, *Dictionary of Social Science Terms*, Lebanon Library, 1978, p. 400.

³ - Foucherd and Daranche (Moris), *Survey on Youth*, Paris, Gallimard, 1968, p. 300.

⁴ - Ibrahim Mazzakour, *Dictionary of Social Sciences*, Egyptian General Authority for Libraries, 1975, p. 402

⁵ - Mohammed Reda Al-Tamimi, *Irregular Migration through National Legislation and International Covenants*, Journal of Politics and Law, Issue 4, 2011, p. 260.

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3. Availability of Job Opportunities and High Wages for Workers: The countries they migrate to offer better employment prospects and higher wages for workers.¹

4. Cultural, Civilizational, and Scientific Advancement: Advanced countries encourage workers and researchers, providing an environment suitable for work, research, innovation, and creativity. This environment contributes to the Immigration of skilled professionals and innovators.

5. Educational Opportunities: The availability of educational opportunities at all levels and in various fields attracts individuals and groups seeking stability in an advanced social environment.²

2. Social Factor:

- Availability of healthcare and social services.
- Better job opportunities than those in the country of origin.
- Availability of educational or training opportunities for migrants or their family members.
- Higher standard of living in the countries of Immigration.

3. Political Factor:

Political stability, democratic thinking, and freedom of speech and expression are attractive factors for migrants, especially when they are living in their country amid political and security crises. These circumstances push people to migrate to more stable and secure areas.

- The search for freedom, particularly intellectual freedom, is one of the main reasons people migrate, seeking their political, social, and intellectual freedoms in various aspects of life.

B. Push Factors: These factors encourage individuals to migrate and engage in irregular Immigration for several reasons:

1. Economic Factor:

Economic conditions are one of the most important reasons leading to irregular Immigration. These include a lack of job opportunities, low wages, and poor economic and living standards in migrant-exporting countries.³ Low wages and poor economic and living conditions in these countries push individuals to search for employment opportunities in other countries.

- The disparity in economic levels between migrant-sending and migrant-receiving countries is linked to fluctuations in the pace of development in the former, which

¹-*Irregular Migration: How Can It Be Reduced?*, Al-Mashhad, accessed on 13/09/2024 at 23:50, available at <https://almashhad.com/article/7>.

²-Kadem Jamila, *The Contribution of Social Media Networks to the Growth of Irregular Migration in Algeria: An Analytical Review of Causes and Impacts*, Volume 07, Issue 02, 2022, p. 590.

³- Hadeel Taleb, "Causes of Irregular Migration," available on the website mawdoo3.com, accessed on 05/11/2024 at 22:20.

still rely on agriculture and mining—sectors that do not guarantee stable development due to dependency on rainfall for the former and international market conditions for the latter. This affects the labor market and contributes to high demographic pressure in these countries, leading to an increased working-age population and thereby exacerbating unemployment issues. For example, according to the National Economic and Social Council, the unemployment rate in Algeria is 23.7%, and 15% in Tunisia, which puts pressure on the job market and fuels Immigration, especially in its irregular form.¹

2. Social Factor:

This includes family breakdown and the absence of social ties, as well as a lack of consensus on the customs and traditions of society, or even the existence of disparities and discrimination among people within the same community, in terms of different social classes, groups, or affiliations, which encourages Immigration.²

The existence of social issues, such as unemployment and young people's reluctance to marry due to living conditions, has encouraged youth, especially university graduates, to consider irregular Immigration.

- Weak sense of belonging to family and community, stemming from deficiencies in social upbringing programs.
- Feelings of frustration, social isolation, irrational daydreaming, love of adventure, and susceptibility to believing rumors about societal shortcomings and the potential opportunities abroad, as well as the desire to emulate other young migrants.
- Internal alienation caused by an inability to adapt to the surrounding society, including family and friends.³

3. Political and Religious Factors:

The deterioration of political conditions in some countries contributes significantly to the emergence of irregular Immigration among their populations. This is evident in various forms, such as religious persecution, instability, and frequent political turmoil.⁴

Political crises, lack of stability in the home country, wars, crises, and political conflicts, along with oppression of intellectual, political, and even religious freedoms, generate instability and insecurity, pushing individuals to seek refuge in more stable and secure environments.

¹- Mohamed El Khashani, "Causes of Irregular Migration to Europe," Aljazeera.net, accessed on 13/09/2024 at 21:56

²Illegal Migration: How Can It Be Reduced? Referenced earlier, accessed on 13/09/2024 at 23:55, available on the website <https://almashhad.com/article/7>.

³-Hadeel Talib, Op.Cit., p. 170.

⁴-Ibid, p 169.

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4. Political and Security Factors:

Political and security factors are fundamental drivers of irregular Immigration. The Arab countries, such as Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen, serve as prime examples of political and security deterioration that have propelled young people to migrate, particularly to European countries.

Many Arab nations suffer from political instability, weak political participation, widespread corruption, resource mismanagement, and recurring regional wars. Political unrest in the migrants' home countries, along with authoritarian regimes, political oppression, violations of freedoms, and fear of attacks due to security instability, collectively act as catalysts for irregular Immigration in search of safety and stability.¹

1-3. Promotive Factors

1. Images of Social Success:

When migrants return to their home countries for vacations, they often display signs of wealth—luxury cars, expensive gifts, and investments in real estate. These displays, amplified by visual media, create a strong allure for others to emulate their apparent success.

2. The Role of Media: The expansion of internet usage has significantly influenced Immigration trends worldwide. Social media platforms have become a catalyst for irregular Immigration, as they shape youth motivations and provide strategies for circumventing security and legal barriers.² Platforms like Facebook and TikTok feature stories of migrants (Haraga) crossing the Mediterranean on death boats and reaching European shores. These accounts, detailing everything from the risky planning phase to successful arrivals, inspire adventurous youth to undertake the same perilous journeys.

The renowned French demographer Alfred Sauvy encapsulates the Immigration dilemma, stating:

“Either wealth moves to where people are, or people move to where wealth is.”³

This sentiment reflects the harsh reality of young people pursuing wealth in Europe, drawn by resources that were once part of their own plundered homelands.

¹ Drifil Saada, "Irregular Migration: Pull and Push Factors and Its Risks," *Sociology Journal for Social Studies and Research*, Ziane Achour University of Djelfa, Algeria, p. 169, available at asjp.cerist.dz/en/article, accessed on 05/11/2024 at 23:00.-

² - Dr. Jamila Kadem, *The Contribution of Social Media Networks to the Growth of Irregular Migration in Algeria: An Analytical Reading of Causes and Implications*, Afaq Journal of Sciences, Vol. 07, No. 02 (2022), p. 585.

³ - Drifil Saada, *Op.Cit.*, p. 163, accessed on 05/11/2024 at 23:30.

3- Causes of Irregular Immigration in Some Arab Countries:

1. Egypt:

One of the reasons behind Egyptian Immigration is the increase in this phenomenon as a reaction by young people and their families to the government's failure to meet their needs. The government's continued reliance on the private sector alone to create job opportunities for youth has exacerbated the unemployment crisis, driving young people to collective suicide in the Mediterranean Sea.

Since 1984, the government has canceled the appointment of graduates, whether they hold intermediate qualifications or university degrees.¹ This has pushed young people to board death boats to reach the other shore, with Italy being one of the preferred destinations. This prompted the Egyptian and Italian governments to sign a bilateral agreement to discuss ways of exchanging data between their ministries (the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration in Egypt and the Ministry of Labor in Italy).²

Egypt is striving to cooperate on multiple levels, both locally, by raising awareness among young people about the dangers of irregular Immigration, and internationally, by signing international agreements for economic development with various countries, such as Sweden, the UAE, and Italy, to discuss ways to curb the phenomenon.

In addition to this, several factors have made irregular Immigration among Egyptian youth a phenomenon. Perhaps the most significant are the high levels of poverty, deteriorating economic conditions, widespread unemployment, and lack of job opportunities.

Dr. Magdy Ahmed Mohamed Abdullah emphasized that, in light of the deteriorating economic and living conditions, the report indicates that young people fall into the trap of relying on market brokers, illegal travel offices, and Immigration intermediaries who charge each youth approximately 30,000 Egyptian pounds for travel. Fraud gangs are prevalent along the borders with Libya or in some governorates of Upper Egypt. They exploit young people, charging large sums under the pretense of providing them with job opportunities in Italy or Europe before fleeing with the money.

The youth's journeys often end in death, imprisonment, or deportation. Due to a lack of awareness among these young individuals about the dangers of irregular Immigration, many perish while on their way to an Italian port. They are transported aboard old and dilapidated boats, resulting in their drowning in the Mediterranean

¹ - Magdy Ahmed Mohamed Abdullah, "Alienation and Irregular Migration: A Comparative Psychometric Study," Alexandria University, Dar Al-Ma'arifa Al-Jami'iya, 2013, p. 275.

² - Ibrahim El-Sayed Ahmed, "Op.Cit.," p. 174.

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Sea. Even those who manage to reach their destination are considered violators of Italian laws and are returned to Egypt.¹

The professor of sociology at Ain Shams University stated that one of the main reasons for irregular Immigration is the opening up of countries to one another through the internet and social media networks, which has made young people dream of making money. While this is a right for every individual, she emphasized that establishing a project in one's own country is far better than dying drowned in the sea. She also pointed out the significant role of the media in raising awareness among young people and warning them about the dangers of irregular Immigration.²

There are many ways to smuggle irregular migrants, including land routes through infiltration in Libya, where migrants are smuggled to Italy and Malta, and through Jordan, where they are smuggled to Cyprus, Greece, or Turkey. This section of the Egyptian report emphasizes the importance of getting closer to the tangible reality by listening to the testimonies of victims of irregular Immigration and their families. As a result, the region sent missions to investigate the facts in various Egyptian governorates (Dakahlia, Fayoum, Qalyubia, Sharqia) that witnessed tragic cases of youth Immigration through illegal means. In Fayoum governorate, the mission encountered five cases of death³ among the youth. To this day, the death boats continue to claim the lives of thousands of young Egyptians searching for a better life on the European shores, exposing themselves to various dangers. Particularly, death boats are now operated by criminal networks associated with organized crime, such as migrant smuggling, trafficking them for labor with criminal groups, weapons trafficking, organ smuggling, slavery, or even exploitation in prostitution, enslavement, or involving them with outlawed groups, or eliminating them in open seas if they refuse to comply with the group.

2- Sudan:

One of the reasons for Immigration in Sudan is the harsh living conditions that most Sudanese youth face, which do not guarantee a decent life. Thousands of Sudanese youth insist on taking the risk and paying high prices to reach European countries through migrant smugglers. Often, hundreds of youth, aged between 20 and 40, line up daily at passport issuance centers in the capital, Khartoum. Most of them do not know their exact destination, but what matters most is leaving the country at any cost, even if it costs them their lives. Social researcher Thuraya Ibrahim adds that

¹ - Magdy Ahmed Mohamed Abdullah, "Alienation and Irregular Migration: A Comparative Psychometric Study," Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University, Dar Al-Ma'arifa Al-Jamia'iya, 2013, p. 320.

² - Ahmed Mohamed Hisham Al-Rais, Media and Irregular Migration, the Fourth Scientific Conference titled "Law and Media," April 23-24, 2017, p. 12.

³ - Magdy Ahmed Mohamed Abdullah, previously cited reference, p. 321.

the economic factor is the major driver behind the decision of most youth to choose irregular Immigration. Other factors, such as frustration and excessive ambition, also play a role. Thuraya explains to Sky News Arabic that most youth cannot find suitable job opportunities that would allow them to settle in the country¹. In addition, the unemployment rate exceeds 40%, which has pushed many university graduates and holders of higher degrees to seek a better future abroad. Therefore, the socio-economic conditions are a driving force behind Sudanese youth's choice of irregular Immigration, as they seek to improve their living conditions and live a dignified life away from poverty, unemployment, and a miserable existence. Especially due to the difficulty of obtaining visas to European countries,² the only available path for most Sudanese youth is the dangerous route of irregular Immigration.

In addition to the political and security circumstances that have also contributed to the displacement of thousands of Sudanese citizens amidst the ongoing armed conflict between the army and the Rapid Support Forces, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has called on the global community to increase donations to address the world's largest displacement crisis. The organization warned that inaction could lead to thousands of Sudanese people, who lack basic living necessities, being forced to flee.

The conflict in Sudan, which erupted in April 2023, has triggered waves of ethnic violence and created famine-like conditions across the country³. This is compounded by natural disasters, the latest being floods that displaced 20,000 people, destroyed critical infrastructure, and hindered vital humanitarian aid. In addition, the humanitarian situation is among the worst globally, marked by harrowing levels of rights violations, ethnic targeting, massacres of civilians, and gender-based violence.⁴

Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stated that Sudanese refugees might head to Europe if adequate humanitarian aid is not provided to the population of the war-torn country⁵. Since the onset of the Sudanese crisis and the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, more than three million people have been forcibly displaced in search of asylum in neighboring countries. Currently, Egypt has become

¹ - Idrees Al-Tayeb, "Sudan... For These Reasons, Youth Fall Into the Trap of Illegal Migration," Sky News Arabia, published on August 10, 2022, accessed on December 2, 2024, at 00:35, available at skynewsarabia.com/amp.

² - Ibid.

³ - Tens of thousands of Sudanese face death, International Organization for Migration, published on August 13, 2024, at 16:37, accessed on December 2, 2024, at 22:40. Available at france24.com/ar.

⁴ - Lisa George, Sudan on the Brink of Collapse, International Organization for Migration (IOM), published on August 12, 2024, accessed on December 2, 2024, at 22:34. Available at mena.iom.int/ar/news.

⁵ - Fears of Sudanese Refugees Heading to Europe, published on April 13, 2024, accessed on December 2, 2024, at 22:50. Available at skynewsarabia.com/middle.

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the largest host country for Sudanese fleeing the ongoing conflict. Recent data from the Egyptian government indicates that over 1.2 million Sudanese people have fled to Egypt since the war erupted in mid-April 2023.

The scale of this humanitarian crisis has placed immense pressure on Egypt's resources and infrastructure¹. Egyptian authorities recently intercepted seven buses carrying Sudanese refugees attempting to enter the country illegally in the Qena governorate in Upper Egypt, deporting them back to the Sudanese border under tight security.

Sudan has also become a transit point for irregular Immigration from West African countries. Human traffickers exploit Sudan's routes to Libya, from where thousands migrate to Italy, Malta, and other European nations, while others head to Morocco en route to Spain.²

Sudanese Minister Khalil Basha revealed that the European Union had halted its support for the Rapid Support Forces, which was previously intended to curb irregular Immigration, prior to the outbreak of the war. He also disclosed Libya's demands to deport approximately 13,000 mercenaries in eastern Libya to their home countries, some of whom have been involved in the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Furthermore, the Sudanese Minister of Interior announced plans for an agreement with the European Union to regulate irregular Immigration.³

3-Tunisia: One of the main reasons behind the Immigration of Tunisian youth is the political and economic conditions experienced by the country. In the spring of 2011, Tunisia witnessed an unprecedented wave of irregular Immigration in its modern history. ⁴Tens of thousands of young people, primarily from diverse genders, ages, regions, and social backgrounds, took to the sea in what is known as Harqa (illegal Immigration).

Following the Tunisian revolution of freedom, the birth of the Arab revolutions, and the widespread protests against injustice, exclusion, unemployment, and marginalization, as well as the overthrow of the regime and the state of insecurity that gripped Tunisian streets, the number of irregular migrants to Europe—especially Italy—soared. They risked their lives on so-called death boats from Tunisian shores in search of better living conditions.

¹ - Egypt Now the Largest Host Country for Sudanese Refugees, published on November 8, 2024. Available at unhcr.org/eg/ar/48955-bi, accessed on December 3, 2024, at 1:03.

² - Sudanese Deportations from Egypt, Al Arabiya, available on alarabiya.net, accessed on December 3, 2024, at 00:45.

³ - Sudan, Arrangements with the European Union to Sign an Agreement on Irregular Migration, available on sudantribune.net/article2.

⁴ - Abdel Sattar Sahbani, Youth and Irregular Migration in Tunisia: A Field Study on Social Representations, Practices, and Expectations, p. 9.

In Tunisia, according to statistics from the Italian Ministry of Interior regarding irregular Immigration along Tunisian coasts in 2022, 581 victims and missing persons were recorded. The number of Tunisians arriving in Italy through irregular means was approximately 18,148.¹

Most Tunisians involved in irregular Immigration journeys are primarily students or pupils rather than unemployed individuals. The majority of them come from marginalized neighborhoods and are victims of economic and social exclusion.²

In the latest statistics, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced a 60% decrease in the number of irregular migrants arriving in Italy in 2024 compared to 2023. Meloni stated that agreements signed with North African countries, particularly Tunisia and Libya, contributed to achieving this result, according to a government statement. She added that her government would only allow entry to Italy for those with employment contracts.³

4-Libya:

Regarding the phenomenon of irregular Immigration in Libya, the country is considered both a source and a hub for Immigration due to the ongoing chaos, presence of militias, and terrorist groups on its territory. These factors have naturally led to the rise of irregular Immigration among Libyan youth as a result of the ongoing conflict. Libya also serves as a transit point for African migrants aspiring to reach the European Union, as well as a destination for some African migrants. This dual role has made Libya an attractive destination for migrants from neighboring African countries, exacerbated by the lack of stringent Libyan laws against irregular Immigration and the challenges in border monitoring.⁴

The economic and political conditions in Libya are the primary drivers of the increasing number of migrants within its borders. Libya is among the countries that place significant focus on the issue of irregular Immigration, given its critical role as a gateway for African migrants heading to Europe and as a source of such Immigration flows. The International Organization for Immigration (IOM) reported that the number of irregular migrants in Libya during 2018–2019 reached 679,897. Most of these migrants originate from Africa, representing 42 different nationalities. Among them, 6% came from Sub-Saharan Africa, 28% from North Africa, and 6% from Asia and the Middle East. The top nationalities migrating to Libya include: - 18% from Niger - 16% from Egypt - 12% from Chad - 10% from Sudan - 9% from

¹ - Statistics on irregular migration for 2022 are available on the website ftdes.net/ar/statistique.

² - Abdel Sattar Sahbani, Op. cit., p. 29.

³ - Meloni: A 60% Decrease in Irregular Migrants to Italy, available on the Al Jazeera News website at aljazeera.net/tnews.

⁴ - Nada Jamal Harhour, Libya and Irregular Migration, Al-Arabi Publishing and Distribution, p. 14. Available on google.books.com.

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Ghana, despite the lack of a shared border between the two countries. Additionally, the organization noted that 20,859 migrants reached Italy by sea, with Libya as their departure point.¹ This highlights Libya's role as a transit zone for Africans attempting to cross to Europe.

Causes of Irregular Immigration in Libya:

- Political Persecution and Ideological Divergence: One of the main political reasons for the Immigration of many Libyan youths from their country is political persecution and ideological differences. These causes can be summarized as follows:

1. Internal Conflicts: The social fabric of most North African countries, including Libya, is tribal, which often leads to conflicts between tribes. This situation prompts individuals to seek safety and peace through Immigration, primarily to Europe.

2. Chaos and Insecurity: The spread of chaos, lack of security, widespread administrative and financial corruption, the control of dictatorial regimes, the high rates of arrests, and the increase in revolutions have driven many people to flee, migrate, and escape military coups. These conditions formed the basis for leaving their countries.

3. Search for Freedom: Freedom is one of the most essential human needs, even in the face of poverty. A significant reason for Immigration is the pursuit of religious and political freedom. This desire stems from escaping the persecutions faced by individuals under their regimes, particularly ethnic, religious, and ideological minorities, who are often denied the right to practice their religious rituals. These reasons have contributed to irregular Immigration.²

Strategic Reasons: The strategic reasons related to Libya's location along the European and Italian coasts, in particular, include the following:

1. Libya's proximity to the Italian coasts.

2. Security breakdown: The absence of security, chaos, and the lack of control by the Libyan government over its borders have encouraged irregular migrants.

3. The absence of Libyan authority in enforcing regulations and laws encourages the entry of migrants and facilitates their movement, despite the difficult journey which is often subjected to piracy by irregular sailors, leading to the drowning and death of many. Particularly after the fall of Gaddafi's regime, Libya witnessed the absence of a righteous ruler and a security breakdown that affected all sectors. 'Due to these previous conditions, Libyan territory has turned into a transit and launch point for all

¹ - Moussa Ahmed Abdi Omar, Legal and Security Mechanisms to Limit the Phenomenon of Irregular Migration in Libya, Journal of Human and Natural Sciences, a peer-reviewed academic journal, Vol. 1, Issue 5, published on 01/11/2020, p. 100.

² - Moussa Ahmed Abdi Omar, Op. cit., p. 105.

forms of organized crime (arms trade, drug trafficking, irregular Immigration), negatively impacting the Mediterranean coastal regions.'¹

Immigration is not limited to Libyans only; even Africans follow routes that gradually lead them to the other shore. 'There are other Immigration routes connecting Sudan to the Korfa oasis in southeastern Libya, and other routes linking Chad to Libya, frequently used by Cameroonians, Nigerians, and Congolese.'²

We conclude that Libya is a transit area for Africans, and we often hear about the adventures of 'harraga' (irregular migrants) at sea, with some reaching the European shore. Sometimes, 'the journey to European shores ends in battles between the trip organizers and the migrants, due to various reasons such as disagreements over the intended destination or the landing spot, which leads to the drowning of many migrants at times.'³

5. Algeria: Like many other countries, Algeria witnesses the phenomenon of irregular Immigration. Algerian society has known both legal and illegal Immigration for a long time, especially during the colonial period, as confirmed by the military administrative archives between France and Algeria, as well as the property archives (les domaines), municipal archives, and the archives of former prefectures. This is also evident in the memos and writings of French military officers and civil servants during the colonial period, and the archives held by the first and second generations of migrants. Additionally, there are the audiovisual archives of the Algerian Radio and Television (programs following Algerian migrants in the 1960s and 1970s). However, the phenomenon of Immigration took on a more serious dimension, particularly after the introduction of laws regulating legal Immigration , especially to France.⁴

The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights reported in a report received by The Anadhol press that 'the Coast Guard forces of the Navy intercepted 665 irregular migrants attempting to migrate from Algeria's shores, which extend over 1200 km, between January 1 and June 30, 2017, monitored by maritime and aerial surveillance.'

By the end of December 2016, a report by the same organization mentioned that 'the Coast Guard of the Algerian Navy intercepted 1,206 irregular migrants

¹ -Dr. Ashour El-Shawail, "The Security Implications of the Arab Spring on Libya: Reality and Perspective," Kangy Center for the Middle East, January 23, 2014, p. 4.

² -Dr. Abdelkader Denden, "The Impact of Irregular Migration on the Stability of Maghreb Countries," p. 24.

³ -Abdelsttar Al-Sahbani, "Op. cit.," p. 31.

⁴ -Sahnoun Am El-Kheir, "Irregular Migration Among Algerian Youth: Causes and Factors," University of Khemis Miliana, available at <https://www.univ-chlef.dz/eds/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Article-17-N7.pdf>, accessed on 13/09/2024 at 23:23.

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attempting to migrate since the beginning of January 2016.¹ As for the most frequently used Algerian beaches, the beaches of Mostaganem are the main departure point for Algerian 'harraga' heading to Spain.²

This indicates the widespread presence of the phenomenon in Algeria, with large numbers, and highlights the need to investigate the causes and provide effective solutions. Regarding Algeria's rank in relation to irregular Immigration, it ranked fifth among nationalities most likely to migrate irregularly to Europe, with 6% of the total migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea to Europe between July and September 2017, according to a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. According to the same source, the rate of irregular Immigration from Algeria to Europe places the country in the fifth position, following Syria at 15%, then Morocco at 9%, and followed by Nigeria and Iraq at 7%. Additionally, 29,700 migrants of various nationalities crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Italy and Spain during the third quarter of 2017, including 7,800 heading to Spain and 21,700 to Italy.³

The causes of irregular Immigration among Algerian youth vary, encompassing economic, social, political, and even security reasons.

5. Economic Reasons: The disparity between migrant-exporting and migrant-receiving countries is attributed to the economic level, which is clearly evident between the sending and receiving countries. Due to the decline in development factors in the sending countries and the fluctuating pace of development, the economies of most of these countries still rely on agriculture and mining. There is also a significant gap in the economic level and development between European countries and the countries of the South (with Algeria as an example). We observe that the development rate is weak, and the absence of productive investments has led to a reduction in economic growth, resulting in poverty and marginalization.

Algeria's reliance on hydrocarbons, accounting for 95%, has affected the underutilization of agricultural lands, thus limiting job opportunities for Algerian youth. Furthermore, the recent drop in oil prices has exacerbated unemployment, increasing the desire among youth to migrate irregularly.

Labor Market: Despite the noticeable decrease in the unemployment rate in Algeria, which has fallen from previous years—reaching 14.04% in 2020 and 12.5% in 2023, according to statistics reported by Independent Arabia from the specialized agency Statista—the available figures indicate that the introduction of the unemployment

¹ -Abdallah Choukri, Karima Ben Zina, "Irregular Migration in Algeria: An Analysis of the Phenomenon's Statistics and Security Aspects," *Journal of Legal and Social Sciences*, published on 01/12/2022, Volume 7, Issue 4, December 2022, p. 518.

² -Sahnoun Am El-Kheir, "Irregular Migration Among Algerian Youth: Causes and Factors," University of Khemis Miliana, Algeria, p. 10.

³ - Abdallah Choukri, "Op. cit.," p. 516.

allowance has not led to an increase in unemployment rates in Algeria, but rather it has decreased significantly since its implementation. In 2021, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced an increase in the unemployment allowance to preserve the dignity of Algerian youth and integrate them into the labor market.¹ Despite the programs offered by the Algerian state to support youth employment, such as the National Agency for Youth Employment Support (ANSEJ) and the National Agency for Microcredit Management (ANGEM), the phenomenon of 'harraga' (irregular Immigration) continues to trouble Algerian society, with death boats still claiming thousands of lives at sea.

Political and Security Reasons: In addition to the transformations that Algeria experienced during the 1980s and early 1990s, including the shift towards political pluralism, which was accompanied by acts of violence, riots, destruction, and horrific terrorist operations known as the 'Black Decade,' linked to the political crisis that left victims, the disappeared, and migrants, it can be said that Algeria, like many other countries, suffered greatly due to the political and security situation. The Black Decade, in particular, led to numerous problems, chief among them irregular Immigration.² This was exacerbated by the tightening border policies of the European Union in light of the rise of the far-right in the European Parliament, which views southern countries as a threat to its security and stability, especially after the waves of the Arab Spring.

In response, the Algerian government established the Central Office for Combating Irregular Immigration (OCLCIC), which is part of the General Directorate of National Security. This central body coordinates and leads efforts among various regional investigation teams. Its responsibilities include combating support networks and cells that harbor foreigners in an irregular status, and devising a preventive and deterrent strategic plan to combat irregular Immigration.

Additionally, regional investigation teams for irregular Immigration (BRIC) were established, with their mission being to combat irregular Immigration networks through research and monitoring.³

Algeria is also facing a different type of irregular Immigration today, as large numbers of Africans have recently arrived in the country due to the dangerous security situations in some neighboring southern countries like Mali and Niger. This has turned Algeria into a destination and transit country, even a host country for Africans fleeing their own nations. The diversity of land and sea entry points has contributed to this serious phenomenon.

¹ -Amira Khato, "Decline in Unemployment Rate in Algeria... Here are the Figures," Awras website, available at awras.com, accessed on 15/09/2024 at 18:00.

² -Suleiman Al-Rayshi et al., *The Algerian Crisis: Political, Social, Economic, and Cultural Backgrounds*, Center for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut, 1999, p. 184.

³ -Dr. Sahnoun Am El-Kheir, *Irregular Migration: Causes and Factors*, Op. cit., p. 12.

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Due to its geographical location, Algeria has become a transit point and destination for waves of African migrants. It now hosts large numbers of migrant tribes that infiltrate through the southern borders, using areas like El Oued, Tamanrasset, Adrar, and Tindouf. This situation poses a security threat to the state. Irregular Immigration originating from Africa represents a significant danger to Algeria, as it has shifted from being a mere transit country for them to becoming a country of settlement and demands for rights. Furthermore, this has led to the emergence of various forms of crime, including assaults, thefts, drug trafficking, and even murder.

Conclusion:

The reality of illegal Immigration in the Arab world, particularly in Algeria, reflects the true suffering of young people in their home countries, where they lack basic necessities and dream of a better future. This necessity compels governments to find solutions to this dilemma. Although the reasons and motivations for illegal or irregular Immigration vary among Arab youth, the pursuit of a better quality of life, especially with the images of social success, wealth, and the rosy life enjoyed by expatriates in Europe shared on social media, is the primary reason for illegal Immigration. The despair of finding job opportunities and a decent life pushes young illegal immigrants to risk their lives on death boats as a last hope.

Since the phenomenon of illegal Immigration is widespread across both Arab and Western countries, and threatens the security and stability of all nations, it has contributed to the emergence of several social, economic, demographic, political, and security factors, as indicated in the previously presented research paper and national and Arab statistics. This phenomenon affects the development of these countries as it has become a major concern that threatens the social life of individuals and countries. It is linked to organized crime, which leads to other crimes such as murder, armed threats, the formation of criminal groups, human trafficking, theft, violence, organ trafficking, and other crimes. All efforts must be combined to combat this issue by establishing international and Arab agreements to address it and limit its spread.

Therefore, the following measures must be taken to confront illegal Immigration:

1. Raising public awareness and informational capacity related to the issue of illegal Immigration.
2. Securing land and sea borders, particularly those involved in illegal Immigration.
3. Educating young people about the dangers of illegal Immigration, as migrants are exposed to all forms of exploitation by criminal organizations running these dangerous ventures, often with a complete lack of humanity.
4. Signing international agreements with countries experiencing this phenomenon and finding effective solutions to combat and address it.

5. Focusing on youth and providing both psychological and material support to help them achieve their aspirations in reality, not just on social media, particularly those with qualifications and credentials.
6. Providing employment opportunities for youth according to their educational, scientific, and academic qualifications, with the suggestion of positive alternatives such as offering small investments for youth.
7. Eradicating favoritism and ensuring equal opportunities, fairness, and justice.
8. Encouraging youth to express themselves freely and participate in various events and political life.
9. Strengthening international and regional cooperation to combat illegal Immigration.
10. Enforcing strict and deterrent laws to reduce the phenomenon and punish those responsible for it.

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