

MONTHLY REVIEW: JULY 2023

This monthly press review covers Eurafrican migration control, migration and displacement in African countries and news on the European border regime. In case there is a news item, report, or campaign you would like to flag for in next month's review please write us to: migr-contr@ffm-online.org or on Twitter [@MigControl](https://twitter.com/MigControl).

NEW ON MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS ONLINE.

On <http://migration-control.info>, we observe, document & critically comment on externalization policies. We would like to thank Balder Overtag and Tchili Alindiamao for creating the Python-based website.

Guest Comment in the Echoes from the Central Mediterranean: A Critical Look at the Situation in Tunisia and the New EU-Tunisia-Deal by the *migration-control.info* collective: "The economic crisis in Tunisia is worsening and racist attacks against Tunisia's Black population are again escalating. Especially in Sfax, Black people are suffering from racially motivated violence. Systematic collective expulsions to the desert of the Libyan-Tunisian and Algerian-Tunisian border zones are carried out by Tunisian security forces – while the EU is visiting Tunisia with more millions to stop migration at any costs." **German Version.**

Blog 22.07.23: Radiobeitrag zur Situation in Tunesien (Radio report on the situation in Tunisia) by the *migration-control.info*

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collective: In the **morning show of Radio Corax** we talked about the deportation of thousands of sub-Saharan to the desert zones on the Algerian-Tunisian and Algerian-Libyan borders by Tunisian security forces that took place in the beginning of July and the new EU-Tunisia deal that was concluded at the same time. With audio voices from Black people living in Tunisia.

Blog 23.07.23: Internal EU-Document: „Update on State of Play of External Cooperation“, July 2023 by the *migration-control.info* collective: "The Commission Services of the European Council regularly edit Updates "on the state of play" to the

Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration, which is a preparatory body of the European Council. We have published the Update January 2022, May 2022, February 2023 on this website. We have now received a new document, **Update on the state of play, 14. July 2023.**

Blog 24.07.23: Leaked document: Migratory situation in Senegal and The Gambia by the *migration-control.info* collective: "Migration-control.info received a leaked document from the Council of the EU Presidency to its Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP) from July 14, 2023. The brief document **Migratory situation in Senegal and Gambia** maps out what the EU considers important developments and cooperation in regard to migration in both countries."

Blog 02.08.23: Find our **Tunisia Monthly Special** on the blog covering ongoing events

and developments.

Library 31.07.23: Cooperation on Readmission in the Euro-Mediterranean Area: This study investigates the working of the European Union (EU) readmission system in the Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African contexts, as well as its implications for interstate cooperation, human rights observance and migrants' conditions.

Library 31.07.23: European Politics of Border Externalization in Lebanon: The research presented intends to be a first step to increase visibility and accountability of European policies in Lebanon, especially regarding their consequences for the human rights situation. This is particularly important as European border externalization practices have been increasing in Lebanon, resulting in human rights violations being repeatedly committed by the Lebanese authorities with the support of the EU and European States.

ALL AFRICA

28.07.23: Tagesschau: Afrikanischer Friedensappell an Putin verhallt (African appeal for peace to Putin goes unheeded): "South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa stressed that "constructive engagement and negotiations" could bring an end to the war. A group of African Presidents presented the peace plan to Putin last month. Egypt's President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi called on Russia to resume the agreement on exporting Ukrainian grain across the Black Sea, which was suspended around ten days ago. Although the African representatives did not criticize Russia directly, on the second day of their summit they expressed their deep concern about the consequences of the war, especially for food prices".

See also

19.07.23: Tagesspiegel: Preisexplosionen und Proteste: Was Afrika nach Putins Getreide-Stopp droht (Price explosions and protests: What Africa faces after Putin's grain freeze);

27.07.23: taz: Putin lädt zum Russland-Afrika-Forum: Afrikas bedrohlicher Freund (Putin invites to Russia-Africa Forum: Africa's threatening friend).

NORTH AFRICA

25.07.23: The National News: 'Humiliating': North Africans complain of Schengen visa red tape restricting travel [Background Report]: "In recent years, traveling to the EU, especially France, has become nearly impossible for Tunisians, Algerians and Moroccans, many have said. [...] Despite the right to freedom of movement guaranteed by the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, many feel they are deprived due to their nationality."

Algeria

24.07.23: Al Jazeera: Wildfires in Algeria kill dozens, force hundreds to flee homes: "Wildfires raging across Algeria have killed more than 30 people [...] and forced the evacuation of hundreds of people from their homes along the country's Mediterranean coastal region. The reports of the deaths came on Monday [July 24] as temperatures hit 48 degrees Celsius (118 Fahrenheit) in parts of the North African country."

See also

27.07.23: The National News: 'We cannot leave our people scared': Tunisians rally together to heal after wildfires.

Libya

12.07.23: TAZ: Libyen lässt Geflüchtete nach Monaten frei (Libya releases refugees after months): "After months of protests, the Libyan government began releasing some 225 refugees from the Ain-Zara camp in western Libya on Tuesday [July 11]. The people had been detained in January 2022. They had previously protested for three months against the internment of refugees outside the headquarters of the UN refugee agency UNHCR in the capital Tripoli. On Tuesday morning, they were allowed to leave the Ain-Zara camp one by one. Representatives of the UNHCR took them by bus to a reception facility."

See also

11.07.23: AJE: Libya jails 38 over deaths in Mediterranean Sea smuggling case.

CENTRAL AND SUBSAHARAN AFRICA

Kenya

14.07.23: AJE: Kenya's Ruto says tax-hike protests will not be permitted: "More than 300 people were arrested in the aftermath of this week's rallies, but the party of the

main opposition leader, Raila Odinga, called for three more days of protests starting on Wednesday against tax hikes that Ruto signed into law last month."

EAST AFRICA

Sudan / UK

13.07.23: TAZ: Großbritannien verhängt Sudan-Sanktionen (Great Britain imposes Sudan sanctions): “Following in the footsteps of the United States, the United Kingdom has now also imposed sanctions on companies in Sudan whose activities serve to finance the government army or the insurgent militia RSF (Rapid Support Forces). On the government side, the sanctions apply to the state-owned defense conglomerate DIS (Defense Industries Systems), its subsidiary Zadna International and the supplier Sudan Master Technology. On the RSF side, the company conglomerate Al-Junaid, founded by RSF chief Hamdan Daglo Hametti, the arms supplier Tradive General and the financial company GSK are affected. DIS includes 200 companies with annual profits in the billions, according to U.S. figures. The EU is expected to follow the example set by London and Washington.”

Sudan

24.07.23: Al Jazeera: RSF atrocities pile up in Darfur after 100 days of Sudan fighting: “After 100 days of war in Sudan, the most harrowing atrocities have occurred in West Darfur where reports of mass graves, summary executions and burned villages have been documented and verified by the United Nations and rights groups.”

See also

11.07.23: NYT: Sudanese City (Omdourman) Becomes Center of ‘New Phase’ of War;

13.07.23: AJE: Mass graves discovered in Darfur as Egypt hosts Sudan summit;

21.06.23: MPC Blog: Overview of displacement in Sudan: The causes, dynamics, and consequences;

20.07.23: Concern: The latest from Sudan: “This is the worst crisis I’ve ever come across”;

24.07.23: AJE: 100 days of fighting in Sudan and no peace in sight: What to know.

WEST AFRICA

G5 Sahel

10.07.23: DW: Germany takes over presidency of Sahel Alliance: “The 18-member Sahel Alliance was founded by Germany, France and the European Union in 2017 to assist Burkina-Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger — collectively known as the G5 Sahel Group — in their struggle against poverty and terrorism. Since its creation, the Sahel Alliance has spent more than \$28 billion (\$30.71 billion) in a region stretching from

the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea south of the Sahara. Germany is the group's fourth-largest donor behind the World Bank, France and the EU — having spent €2.73 billion on 181 projects.”

Mali

03.07.21: AJE [Background Report]: Analysis: What’s next for Mali after MINUSMA withdrawal?: “One in four Malians is already

at risk of starvation due to insecurity and the impact of climate change. According to the UN, at least 7.5 million people in a country of 22 million are in need of humanitarian assistance. 'The humanitarian situation will probably get worse,' Melly said. 'We may see more displaced populations and greater problems in ensuring the safe and reliable delivery of aid to vulnerable people.'

See also

24.07.23: AJE: Rights group says Mali army, foreign fighters executed civilians.

Morocco/Senegal

28.07.23: africanews: Senegal announces plan to tackle illegal migration: "Senegal announced a 10-year plan to tackle illegal migration on Thursday, following a recent surge in migrant-related deaths. The country aims to "drastically reduce the phenomenon by 2033" with its new National Strategy to Combat Irregular Migration (SNLMI), according to Interior Minister Antoine Felix Abdoulaye Diome."

See also

24.07.23: Reuters: At least 15 migrants drown off coast of Senegal capital Dakar;

27.07.23: Spiegel: Senegal holt Dutzende Migranten per Flugzeug aus Marokko zurück (Senegal brings back dozens of migrants by plane from Morocco).

Niger

12.07.23: The Defence Post: Thousands Flee Homes in Jihadist-Hit Niger: "Local authorities in Niger's Say department reported that over 10,800 people from nine villages in the Ouro Gueladjo area "were forced to flee their homes" from July 3-9."

Niger

13.07.23: Defencweb: Egypt donates vehicles, howitzers and other hardware to Niger: "Egypt has donated a large amount of military hardware to Niger's military to help it combat jihadist terror groups operating in the region. The consignment was handed over on 7 July and according to Niger's Ministry of National Defence, included 30 BRMD-2 armoured reconnaissance vehicles, 12 122 mm M-30 howitzers, 12 mortars, 50 AK-47 assault rifles, 300 assault rifles (apparently FN FALs), 1 900 pistols, and a significant quantity of ammunition."

Niger

26.07.23: The Guardian: Niger soldiers announce coup and president's removal on national TV: "Soldiers in Niger say they have removed President Mohamed Bazoum from power, after armed troops earlier blockaded the presidential palace in Niamey, the capital in one of the world's most unstable nations. A group of soldiers appeared on the west African country's national television late on Wednesday [26 July], a few hours after the president had been detained. Reading from a statement, Colonel Amadou Abdramane, seated and flanked by nine other officers wearing fatigues, said the defence and security forces had decided to 'put an end to the regime that you know due to the deteriorating security situation and bad governance'. He said the country's borders were closed and all institutions of the republic suspended, and announced a national curfew. The soldiers warned against any foreign intervention."

See also

27.07.23: TAZ: Möglicher Putschversuch in Niger: Europas letzter Freund in Gefahr (Possible coup attempt in Niger: Europe's last friend in danger);

27.07.23: TAZ: Putsch in Niger: Militär unterstützt die Putschisten (Coup in Niger: Military supports the coup plotters);

27.07.23: AJE: Timeline: A history of coups in Niger;

28.07.23: AJE: Despite anti-coup rhetoric, can the West exit Niger, its latest Sahel hub?;

31.07.23: TAZ: Wer ist Nigers neuer Militärmachthaber? (Who is Niger's new military ruler?).

Senegal

27.07.23: africanews: Senegal repatriates 50 migrants from Morocco: "Senegal repatriated some 50 of its nationals intercepted in recent weeks in Morocco, trying to emigrate to Europe. The group was repatriated from Dakhla, Western Sahara."

Senegal

28.07.23: africanews: Senegal announces plan to tackle illegal migration: "The country aims to "drastically reduce the phenomenon by 2033" with its new National Strategy to Combat Irregular Migration (SNLMI), according to Interior Minister Antoine Felix Abdoulaye Diome. [...] The SNLMI will have five focuses: prevention,

border management, repression measures (against traffickers), measures to support and protect migrants, and the return and reintegration of irregular migrants. The plan will be financed by the national budget and external partners."

See also

12.07.23: TAZ: Hunderte Flüchtlinge aus Senegal gesucht (Hundreds of refugees wanted from Senegal).

Senegal

01.08.23: AJE: Senegal authorities arrest opposition frontrunner, ban his party and cut internet: "Senegal's government has dissolved a major opposition party within hours of the party's popular president and opposition leader saying a judge had ordered his arrest. Ousmane Sonko, a charismatic opposition figure widely supported by Senegal's youth, was in prison on Monday [July 31] as he awaited trial on new criminal charges."

See also

04.07.23: AJE: Senegal's Macky Sall rules out third term after deadly protests.

WEST ASIA

Syria

15.07.23: AJE: UN says Syria cross-border aid conditions 'unacceptable': "The United Nations has described conditions placed by the Syrian government on aid deliveries to the country's northwestern areas from Turkey as 'unacceptable'.

Syria conditioned life-saving support on the "full cooperation and coordination with the government".

See also

14.07.23: The Guardian: Syria reopens key aid corridor after Russian veto of UN deal.

Turkey/Syria

28.07.23: TNH: The heavy toll of violence at the Syria-Türkiye border: “[...] hundreds of people have reportedly been severely injured or killed by Turkish border guards while attempting the crossing in recent years. [...] While violence at the border has been ongoing for years, according to

human rights groups, a recent incident put a spotlight on the issue: On 11 March, eight Syrians were reportedly apprehended by Turkish guards after crossing irregularly into Türkiye; two of them were killed, and the six others were returned to Syria with serious injuries.”

EUROPE

Germany

23.07.23: Der Spiegel: Viele Ankünfte über Belarus-Route: Bundespolizei registriert mehr unerlaubte Einreisen nach Deutschland (Many arrivals via Belarus route: Federal police register more unauthorized entries into Germany): “From January to June inclusive, police registered 45,338 people entering the country without permission, compared to 29,174 in the first half of 2022, according to the Federal Police. Of the people registered in the first half of the year, 12,331 crossed the German-Polish border and another 4551 crossed the German-Czech border, the federal police added when asked.”

river on this bridge on their way to Germany from Słubice in Poland and ending up in Frankfurt (Oder) on the other side.

Greece

10.07.23: The Guardian: Greek shipwreck: hi-tech investigation suggests coastguard responsible for sinking: “Attempts by the Greek coastguard to tow a fishing trawler carrying hundreds of migrants may have caused the vessel to sink, according to a new investigation by the Guardian and media partners that has raised further questions about the incident, which left an estimated 500 people missing.”

Germany

08.07.23: TAZ: Der lange Weg zur Oder (The long way to the Oder): The flight to Europe is still mostly via the Mediterranean, but an increasing number of people are now choosing a different route: it leads via Russia and Belarus to the EU's external border in Poland, where there is a high metal fence, and if they manage to get over it, on to Germany. In the months of May and June, 4,489 of 13,547 people registered as "unauthorized entrants" came via this "eastern route," 900 of them crossing the

See also

07.07.23: counter-investigations: The Pylos Shipwreck.

Greece

12.07.23: TAZ: Griechenlands Justiz gegen Schlepper (Greece's justice system against traffickers): “Trials against suspected smugglers in Greece last an average of 37 minutes - and end with 46 years in prison. This is the result of a recent study by Borderline Europe.”

Italy

25.07.23: TAZ: Internationale Konferenz über Migration in Rom (International Conference on Migration in Rome): "Conference on Development and Migration' hosted by the Italian government in Rome on Sunday [July 23]: The agreement concluded between the EU and Tunisia only last Sunday was the inspiration for the meeting hastily drummed up by Meloni, headed by the formula that the EU will pay 255 million euros to Tunisia, but in return expects Saied to be more efficient in preventing the departure of irregular migrants in the future. No decisions of operational nature were made at the conference. Only the United Arab Emirates held out the prospect of \$100 million."

See also

23.07.23: Standard: Giorgia Meloni hofft auf weitere Migrationspakete (Giorgia Meloni hopes for more migration pacts).

Italy

11.07.23: TAZ: Realistischer Rassismus (Realistic Racism): "Italy's far-right government under Giorgia Meloni refuses

to abandon its xenophobic rhetoric. But an aging population and lousy working conditions are creating facts - massive immigration is now the motto."

Lithuania

26.07.23: TAZ: Die Grenze von Litauen nach Belarus: Pushbacks sind der Normalfall (The border from Lithuania to Belarus: Pushbacks are the norm) [Background Report]: "Lithuania has completely modernized its border with Belarus. Refugees keep coming - and are brought back. A visit to the border."

UK

18.07.23: The Guardian: UK illegal migration bill will have profound consequences, warns UN body: "This bill sets a worrying precedent for dismantling asylum-related obligations that other countries, including in Europe, may be tempted to follow, with a potentially adverse effect on the international refugee and human rights protection system as a whole," said the UN high commissioner for human rights, Volker Türk."

EUROPEAN UNION

EU

09.07.23: nd: Festung Europa: Ein Brief aus der Hölle (Fortress Europe: A Letter from Hell): "In a letter, that was published by Statewatch, to the 27 EU states, von der Leyen outlined her tough course on migration policy and announced measures that had previously only leaked out in rudimentary form. The focus is on further securing the external borders."

10.07.23: digit36: "Force majeure": EU tightens laws for migration defence, with even external borders to be sealed: "With a new regulation, the controversial "border procedures" are to be extended in case of a "mass influx of migrants". The renewed Schengen Border Code could even partially close off Fortress Europe - an absolute novelty in the history of the EU."

20.07.23: DW: EU streitet weiter um Asyl-Reform (EU continues to argue about asylum reform): “Just six weeks ago, almost all EU interior ministers praised their agreement on reformed laws on migration and asylum procedures as “historic”. Now the whole package of six laws is in jeopardy again. EU ministers were unable to agree on the last remaining detail during renewed informal consultations in the Spanish wine-growing town of Logroño. But only if everything is agreed and watertight will the entire package go into the not easy negotiations with the skeptical European Parliament.”

See also

30.06.23: DW: Erbitterter Streit um Migration

prägt EU-Gipfel (Bitter dispute over migration characterizes EU summit).

EU/North Africa/Sahel

28.07.23: Middle East Eye: North Africa a 'testing ground' for EU surveillance technology: “Controversial surveillance technologies are being outsourced by the European Union to countries in North Africa and the Sahel region with no transparency or regulation, according to two new reports. Funding, equipment and training is funnelled to third countries via aid packages, where autocratic governments use the equipment and techniques to surveil the local population.”

REPORTS

July 2023: EuroMedRights: Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the EU's Border Externalisation Strategy: “A study on the use of Artificial Intelligence and other types of technologies in the external dimension of EU migration, with a focus on the deployment of EU-funded technologies for border control.”

07/2023 EuroMedRights: Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the EU's Border Externalisation Strategy: “This report aims at building an understanding of how this new line of funding to fragile democracies and authoritarian governments is used by the European Union to manage borders and curb migration, without regard for possible human rights violations against people on the move as well as local populations.”

06.07.23: Bundeszentrale Politische Bildung: Syrische Geflüchtete in der Türkei Fakten, Diskurse, Herausforderungen, Perspektiven (Syrian Refugees in Turkey Facts, Discourses, Challenges, Perspectives): “More than 12 years after the outbreak of war in Syria in 2011, Turkey's open-door policy seems to be over. The pressure on Syrian refugees to leave Turkey is likely to increase significantly in the coming years.”

13.07.23: Washington Post: When the migrants vanished from this desert outpost, so did the jobs: “[...] eight years after the government banned foreigners from traveling north from here, the development assistance that many believed would make up for the lost business has amounted to little more than a trickle, Agadez residents say.”

13.07.23: HRW: Mali: Mounting Islamist Armed Group Killings, Rape: “Islamist armed groups have carried out widespread killings, rapes, and lootings of villages in northeast Mali since January 2023 forcing thousands of people to flee. Security has deteriorated sharply amid clashes between two armed Islamist groups as they seek to control supply routes and increase their influence. The UN peacekeepers’ departure makes things worse.”

19.07.23: HRW: Tunisia: No Safe Haven for Black African Migrants, Refugees. Security Forces Abuse Migrants; EU Should Suspend Migration Control Support: A new in depth report about the mass expulsions to the Tunisian-Libyan and Tunisian-Algerian border zones by Tunisian authorities and the EU’s externalisation in Tunisia.

21.07.23: Mondafrique: Sahel, l’Etat islamique installe son califat (Sahel: the Islamic State establishes its caliphate): “In the central Sahel, the Islamic State is carving out its caliphate on the borders of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The jihadist organization now controls vast spaces, sometimes emptied of their inhabitants. It fights in terror on two fronts: in Mali and Burkina Faso, its rival Al Qaeda, and in Niger, the national army supported by France.”

See also

26.07.23: ABC News: West Africa recorded over 1,800 terrorist attack in first six months of 2023, regional official says.

26.07.23: In These Times: How Europe Outsourced Border Enforcement to Africa: A long read about European externalization policies and the role of the EU agency Frontex in West Africa, especially in Senegal.

31.07.23: Alarmphone: Continuous landings, increasing violence and deaths at sea. Central Mediterranean Analysis, 1 January to 30 June 2023: “In this analysis, which covers developments and the experiences we have made over the first half of the year, we first turn to the situation in Tunisia. [...] We then turn to the situation in and off the coast of Italy. Italy continues to do what it can to prevent boat departures from Libya and Tunisia, not least through dirty agreements with authoritarian leaders and cooperation with their security forces at sea. [...] Afterwards, our analysis turns to the role of Malta and its armed forces at sea. [...] We then discuss migration movements from Egypt to Libya, seeking to embark on boat journeys from eastern Libya. [...] Finally, we provide a detailed chronology of the events that have unfolded in the central Mediterranean Sea over the past six months.”

CAMPAIGNS

Petition by the European Citizens' Initiative: Article 4: Stop torture and inhuman treatment at Europe's borders: The initiative calls for "appropriate regulations to ensure that Article 4 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is applied effectively and that the use of violence, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment is banned

at EU borders and in non-EU countries which the European institutions or one or more Member States have concluded agreements with restricting the entry of migrants or asylum seekers into Europe, as well in the Member States themselves in managing reception, with penalties imposed for non-compliance with the obligations laid down."