

On the Move – Latest migration news

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN ALGERIA

10/05/2022-24/05/2022

- [191 sub-Saharan migrants](#), including 45 children, who were living in Oran were repatriated to their countries of origin. As reported by Algeria Watch, the overall number of sub-Saharans staying irregularly in Oran is increasing despite the numerous repatriations carried out by the government.
- [Eleven people](#) died on 15 May 2022 off the coasts of Algeria. In total, 16 people were on board the boat and five were rescued. Between 21-22 May 2022, the Algerian Coast Guard found [three male bodies](#) that were allegedly part of a group of eight *harraga* who had left five days before. The bodies were identified and buried in the cemetery of Annaba.
- According to Algeria Watch, since January 2022, Algeria authorities have intercepted nearly [1,200 people](#) who were attempting to cross the Mediterranean.

05/04/2022-10/05/2022

- The Algerian Coast Guard has been [accused](#) of shooting at a smuggler boat, possibly coming back after smuggling people from Oran to Spain.
- Some Syrian migrants, who escaped the country at the beginning of the war and established themselves in Algeria are now [trying to cross](#) the dangerous Mediterranean route to reach Europe.
- On 15 April 2022, a Tunisian court in El Kef [summoned](#) the families of 39 Algerian harragas who went missing in 2008, after trying to cross the Mediterranean. The families have long believed that their relatives were intercepted and then secretly detained in Tunisian prisons. In the written summons received by the families, Tunisian authorities recognised for the first time that the harragas were still alive. Nonetheless, once the families arrived at the court in Tunisia, they were [informed](#) that no trial was going to be held, leaving the families with no answers on the fate of their missing relatives.

22/03/2022-05/04/2022

- On 19 March, more than [700 Nigerien migrants](#) arrived at a migrant transit site in Tamanrasset to be repatriated from Algeria.

08/03/2022 – 22/03/2022

- On 15 March 2022, Spanish authorities [arrested](#) Mohamed Benhlima, activist of the Hirak movement and asylum seekers in Spain and transferred him in a deportation centre. Amnesty International launched a [petition](#) and asked Spanish authorities to immediately stop his deportation as he risks torture and other inhumane and degrading treatments if deported to Algeria.
- On 14 March 2022, Alarm Phone [denounced](#) the forced deportation of Malians from Algeria to Niger.
- Since the end of February 2022, four meter-high concrete walls have been built on the coast of Ain el Turk, west of Oran, explains [InfoMigrants](#) in an attempt to prevent groups of migrants from reaching shore with small boats.

22/02/2022–08/03/2022

- On February 16, 2022, on the sidelines of the visit of the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the president of the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) said in Tindouf that Algeria had decided [to provide health care for migrants in the border areas](#).

08/02/2022 – 22/02/2022

- In the whole of 2021, at least [413 Algerians](#) went missing at sea while trying to reach **Spain**. This is a sharp increase compared to 2020, when the number of people who went missing at sea was 291.

25/01/2022 – 08/02/2022

- The families of a group of Algerian migrants, who went missing in September 2020 after they took the sea to reach Spain, now [believe](#) they are detained in Tunisia.

11/01/2022 – 25/01/2022

- On 8 January 2022, [17 harraga](#) drowned off the coasts of Oran. Among the victims are a Syrian minor, five Moroccan citizens including a girl, and 11 Algerians.

14/12/2021-11/01/2022

- On 31 December 2021, [13 people](#) left Annaba in Algeria to reach Sardinia. They were rescued on the 3 January 2022 by Italian authorities.
- [Three boats](#) left Algeria to reach Sardinia and Spain on New Year's Eve. One of them was rescued off Ibiza, but there is no information about the fate of the other two.

- In the last week of December 2021, due to good weather conditions, the departures from Algeria to Spain accelerated. Algeria Watch reports that almost [150 people](#) left for Spain in small boats in the days before 25 December.
- On International Migrants Day, the Algerian organization *Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights* (LADDH) once again [called](#) for an end to forced expulsions of migrants seeking refugee status in Algeria. The organization stressed how these expulsions are illegal unless they are carried out on a case-by-case and voluntary basis, with a guarantee of access to appeal the decision.
- Since 2016, the number of migrants irregularly entering Algeria has been increasing and reached a peak in 2021. According to sources in the National Gendarmerie Command, the numbers of arrests of irregular migrants in 2021 was [10,889](#) compared to the 5,825 of 2020.

16/11/2021 - 29/11/2021

- On the 17th of November 2021, around 30 Algerians were [expelled](#) from Spain and returned on a ferry that left from Almeria and disembarked in Oran. Similarly, some days before, 26 Algerians were returned by ferry to Ghazaouet.

25/10/2021 - 15/11/2021

- An increasing number of Algerians are crossing the dangerous sea route to reach **Spain**. Spanish authorities estimate that around 10,000 Algerian [migrants](#) have arrived in Spain since the beginning of 2021, 20% more than last year. At the same time, Algerian authorities have intercepted 4,704 migrants since the beginning of the year, mostly in September. The number of women, children, disabled people and pregnant women crossing the sea is also increasing.

05/10/2021 - 25/10/2021

- The Interior Minister, Kamel Beldjoud, [declared](#) that investigations were underway in order to shed light on the networks that exploit both migrant women and children of Sub-Saharan countries by forcing them to beg.

23/09/2021 - 05/10/2021

- According to the association "Assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations", around [40 Moroccan migrants](#) have been handed over to Moroccan authorities from Algerian authorities at the Zouj Bghal crossing point at the land border between Algeria and Morocco. It is the first time since the closing of borders between the two countries in 1994.

21/06/2021 – 05/07/2021

- In just four days, at the beginning of July 2021, more than **800 Algerians**, including many women and children, [arrived](#) in Almeria, **Spain**. In just a few days between end of June and beginning of July 2021, more than 1 100 people landed in Southern Spain (Motril, Almería, Cartagena, Alicante, Baléares) from Algeria.