

## On the Move – Latest migration news

# MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN EGYPT

### 10/05/2022-24/05/2022

- Since the beginning of 2022, 2,819 Egyptians disembarked in Italy and they represent the [first nationality](#) of people who arrive to Italy by sea. Even if Egyptians always constituted one of the main nationalities of people arriving to Italy, this year their numbers passed those of Tunisians (the first nationality in 2021).

### 5/04/2022-10/05/2022

- UN human rights experts [condemned](#) the collective expulsion of Eritrean asylum seekers from Egypt that have taken place recently. As reported, “since October 2021, Egyptian authorities have deported at least 68 Eritrean nationals, including children, without assessing the risks they may face of human rights violations at their return to Eritrea. Several of those deported have not been seen or heard from since their return to Eritrea, and are believed to be held in incommunicado detention.”

### 08/03/2022 – 22/03/2022

- According to the [Refugees Platform](#) in Egypt, in just one week, 31 Eritrean asylum seekers were deported to Eritrea and Egypt threatens to deport dozens of detained migrants more

### 22/02/2022–08/03/2022

- Migration Control Info published an [Egypt Discussion Paper](#) from the EU Council’s Presidency on EU-Egypt migration cooperation mentioning the aim of the EU to “strengthening Egyptian capacities in migration management” and to enhanced cooperation on return and readmission. The document also mentions that a “regional programme (Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Egypt) on protection, return and reintegration in North Africa was adopted at the end of last year under the NDICI for an amount of EUR 60 million”.

### 08/02/2022 – 22/02/2022

- According to the Refugees Platform in Egypt, security forces [arrest Sudanese refugees](#) and force them to work for free for many hours under torture, and then leaves them in the desert.
- According to [Egyptian media](#), during President Al-Sisi’s visit to Brussels for the EU-AU summit between 16-18 February 2022, EU Commission

President **Ursula Von Der Leyen** praised “Egypt’s success in combating irregular migration”, despite the serious human rights situation for migrants and refugees in Egypt.

#### **25/01/2022 – 08/02/2022**

- Human Rights Watch [reports](#) that Egypt is deporting Eritrean asylum seekers, including children, without assessing their asylum claims. The UNHCR has registered over 20,000 Eritreans living in Egypt, but the number is likely higher as many are unregistered. Recently, on 24 December 2021, 21 Eritreans were forcibly deported against international law.

#### **11/01/2022 – 25/01/2022**

- President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi [criticised](#) Europe’s handling of migrants, lamenting an uneven share of responsibility as Egypt hosts millions while Europe keeps rejecting migrants at its borders.

#### **14/12/2021 – 11/01/2022**

- A delegation of the Italian Preventive Mechanism Against Torture [monitored](#) the forced expulsion of nine Egyptian citizens on 16 December 2021 to Cairo.

#### **30/11/2021 – 14/12/2021**

- The Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation launched a [project](#) with the Egyptian government on migration and border management. The project – whose objective is to strengthen the capacity of Egyptian authorities working on migration – has a three-year duration and is financed by the EU with a 3 million euros budget.
- Migreurop published an [observatory report](#) on the EU-Egypt migration cooperation following a 5-month field visit in Cairo beginning of 2020.

#### **16/11/2021 – 29/11/2021**

- Amnesty [reports](#) that seven Eritrean citizens in Egypt, including children, were forcibly returned to Eritrea on the 18th of November 2021 against international law. Previously, on [October 31st](#), Egypt had deported eight people to Asmara: it was the first time in 13 years that Egypt carried out a deportation to Eritrea. Since then, the fate of the eight people remains unknown. The [OHCHR](#) also expressed grave concern about expulsions to Eritrea. Both groups of asylum-seekers had entered Egypt in 2019 and were subsequently detained for two years until they were deported. As the OHCHR reports, “Individuals who have fled Eritrea and subsequently forcefully returned are considered as “traitors” and are often detained upon arrival to Eritrea, questioned, tortured, held in extremely punitive conditions and disappeared”.

- According to the Disclose [investigation](#) on Operation Sirli, France has been part of a clandestine military operation in the desert zone between Egypt and Libya for the past five years. The evidence from Disclose shows that France abused the scope of the mission, formally targeted to fight terrorism at the Libyan border, and was complicit in state crimes committed by Egyptian government. As reported, the information provided by the French was used by the Egyptian government to kill civilians accused of smuggling. In particular, French forces were involved in at least 19 bombings against civilians between 2016 and 2018. As the strikes often destroyed several vehicles, the number of victims could be in the hundreds.

#### **25/10/2021 – 15/11/2021**

- On 15th November 2021, Commissioner **Ylva Johansson** [visited Egypt](#) and met with Egyptian Minister of Immigration and Minister of Foreign Affairs, among others, to discuss EU-Egypt migration management dialogue. According to Johansson, the EU “is ready to deepen cooperation, with financial support, on migration in all its aspects”.
- On the 12th of October, the Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt opened the “[EASO](#) Regional Conference on International Protection and persons with specific protection needs in North Africa and Niger”. He positively spoke about the cooperation between **EASO** and Egypt on migration and asylum both bilaterally and in the region. This is not the first time EASO is in the country: last year, it organized a [virtual study visit](#) of EU Member States asylum practices that was attended by Egyptian and Member State’s officials.
- On the 4th of November, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN launched the [Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees](#). The platform brings together the Egyptian government, the UN, donors and other stakeholder and has the aim to “enhance coordination, ensuring better delivery and mobilizing resources to realize long term, sustainable development gains for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and their host communities”.
- Egyptian President [Al-Sisi](#) attended the conference on Libya held in Paris on November 12th.

#### **05/07/2021 – 27/07/2021**

- On 12 July 2021, EU Home Affairs Commissioner, Ylva Johansson, and Egypt’s Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, met in Brussels and [discussed](#) cooperation on migration and asylum.

**10/03/2021**

- On 15 February 2021, the Misdemeanour Court [returned](#) the case of 10 Sudanese refugees to the Public Prosecution for re-investigation and referred it to the Emergency State Misdemeanour Security Court. This is the first time that the refugee case is referred to the Emergency State Security Misdemeanour Court. This case relates to protests following the killing of a 12-year-old Sudanese child on 29 October 2020, when the 10 Sudanese refugees were arbitrarily arrested by Egyptian security forces while peacefully demonstrating.