

On the Move – Latest migration news

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN MOROCCO

10/05/2022-24/05/2022

- Sub-Saharan migrants in Laayoune, are subjected to constant harassment by Moroccan authorities. Since the city is a common departure point for people who want to reach the Canary Islands, Moroccan authorities have increased security operations considering that the summer months are approaching, and number of departures is believed to increase. Authorities are knocking on doors and stopping migrants in the street to arrest them and send them to the desert without food nor water. InfoMigrants reports that [40 to 90 people](#) are being arrested on a daily basis.

05/04/2022-10/05/2022

- On 26 April 2022, Alarm Phone launched a distress signal about [52 people](#) at risk in the Atlantic. After more than 40 hours at sea, the people returned independently to Morocco. According to Moroccan authorities, no casualties were registered.
- Between 16-18 April 2022, the Moroccan Navy assisted [97 people](#) in distress at sea, mostly from sub-Saharan countries, but also Bangladesh and Yemen.

22/03/2022-05/04/2022

- In the latest revised [draft action plan](#), EU invited Morocco to sign a working arrangement with Frontex that could also be extended to a status agreement with the EU. The next meeting of the Frontex-Morocco Comité Mixte is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2022.
- On March 28, [Moroccan authorities reported](#) over the weekend that two migrants were found drowned in a shipwreck. And more than 200 exiles were intercepted in the south of the country as they were about to embark for the Spanish Canary Islands.

08/03/2022 – 22/03/2022

- On 12 March 2022, at least 44 people [drowned](#) off the coast of Tarfaya (southern Morocco) while they were trying to reach the Canary Islands. There were 61 people on board, including women and children.
- On 9 March 2022, [StateWatch published](#) a revised draft action plan by the European Commission on a “comprehensive migration partnership” with Morocco, suggesting that the country should be informed of “the potential

benefits of a status agreement with the European Union” that would allow the deployment of Frontex officials on its territory.

- Since the beginning of 2022, [applications](#) for residence permits have been subject to stricter enforcement, particularly for nationals of sub-Saharan African countries.
- On 12 March 2022, 22 Yemeni refugees were [arrested](#) in Nador and pushed back to the desert at the Algerian border. They declared that, after Algeria refused to receive them, they were brutalised by Moroccans with dogs.

22/02/2022–08/03/2022

- On 24 February 2022, Alarm Phone launched the distress signal for a boat carrying [58 people](#) in the Atlantic. Spanish authorities were contacted, but said that Moroccan authorities should intervene, even if the waters in front of Western Sahara are under Spanish responsibility. In the end, the 58 people were intercepted by Moroccan authorities.
- On 21 February 2022, Moroccan authorities rescued a group of [40 migrants](#) in the Atlantic after they had spent nine days at sea. Two of them were found dead. The survivors are young Moroccans mostly from the city of Beni Mellal. On 23 February 2022, another boat capsized in the Atlantic: three people died and [47 were rescued](#).
- On March 2 and 3, 2022, more than [800 migrants managed to enter Melilla](#), compared to 1,092 in the whole of 2021, according to figures from the Spanish Ministry of the Interior. “The aggressiveness that we have witnessed, yesterday as well as today [...] had not been seen on other occasions,” the prefect denounced on public television. According to local authorities, 27 members of the police force were injured on Wednesday and 20 on Thursday. For its part, the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH) reported on Wednesday that around 30 migrants were injured. According to AdMDH, 250 migrants were arrested on March 3 and placed in a youth center, transformed into a detention center, in the Moroccan town of Kariat Arekmane, and will be removed by the authorities from the area.

08/02/2022 – 22/02/2022

- Moroccan academic Abdelkrim Belguendouz [published](#) a new book that exposes a critique of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, especially as concerns return and readmission agreements.

25/01/2022 – 08/02/2022

- [63 people](#) were rescued by Moroccan authorities after an alarm was raised by Alarm Phone about the distress case.

11/01/2022 – 25/01/2022

- On 16 January 2022, Alarm Phone [launched](#) an alarm about a boat carrying 55 people that was sinking off the coasts of Tarfaya. Despite authorities being promptly informed, they intervened about 11 hours later and on their arrival, they were only able to rescue 10 people and found 2 bodies. The remaining [43 people](#) – 26 men, 14 women, and three babies – are still missing.
- On 12 January 2022, Portugal and Morocco signed a [migration agreement](#) to open legal pathways for Moroccan citizens to work in Portugal, and fight trafficking networks.
- On 9 January 2022, [27 people](#) went missing in the Alboran Sea after they left from Nador in Morocco to reach Spain. Moroccan, Algerian and Spanish authorities have searched for them, but they were not able to find any of them.
- The Barcelona Center for International Affairs published the paper *The double logic of European outsourcing: protection and deportation in Morocco*, which is available [here](#).

14/12/2021 – 11/01/2022

- In 2021, Moroccan authorities intercepted over [12,00 migrants](#) trying to cross the land borders to Spain. Many more were intercepted at sea, including [two groups](#) of migrants who were trying to reach the Canary Islands on 30-31 December 2021, and [four groups](#) of migrants on 3 January 2022.

30/11/2021 – 14/12/2021

- On 1 December 2021, Alarm Phone reported that about [60 people](#) were in danger in the Atlantic including 5 children. Later in the day, they were rescued by Moroccan authorities.
- In the end of November, the Moroccan authorities arrested [230 migrants](#) who were trying to reach the Canary Islands from southern Morocco.

16/11/2021 – 29/11/2021

- Between November 12th and November 16th 2021, the Moroccan Coast Guard and Navy have rescued [331 migrants](#) in distress. The boats were headed both toward the Canary Islands and mainland Spain, where arrivals have been on the rise since the beginning of the year. In the same period, at least ten migrants have died.

- After more than 24 hours since Alarm Phone launched the distress signal, [53 people](#) who were in distress off the coasts of Morocco were rescued by the [Moroccan Navy](#).
- The recently released EU Commission Action Plan on Migration aims to strengthen a [peer-to-peer](#) partnership with Morocco. Morocco is described in the Commission's draft as a key partner in the "shared challenges" posed by migration. In particular, the EU intends to support Morocco in the areas of governance and migration management, to promote a greater engagement of Morocco with EU border control agencies and renew joint efforts to tackle the root causes of migration.

25/10/2021 – 15/11/2021

- On the 10th of November, the Moroccan Royal Navy rescued [117 migrants](#) in danger at sea. They were mostly from sub-Saharan Africa.
- On the 11th of November, the Security Services reported a [shipwreck](#) of a migrant's boat in a river near **Rabat**. They have recovered four bodies so far.

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.

8/06/2021 – 21/06/2021

- On 7 June 2021, Morocco [threatened](#) to suspend its cooperation with the European Union if the European Parliament voted on Thursday 10 June 2021 the [resolution](#) "on the breach of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and the use of minors by the Moroccan authorities in the migratory crisis in Ceuta".