EXEMPLARY SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY TO MENA: IMPACT AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) has dedicated budget for border control-related projects and the use of international cooperation support is a legitimate and important part of the comprehensive approach to the root causes of migratory flows. The EU funds have been channelled into capacity building for law enforcement agencies in non-EU countries and EU projects in MENA focus on migration restriction, rights and services promotion, and border management.

FUNDING INSTRUMENTS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The EU Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) for Africa, initiated in 2015, addresses migration-related challenges. Its priorities include migration restriction, rights and services promotion, and border management. It was able to make financial allocations for various countries over the years. Meanwhile, NDICI-Global Europe (NDICI-GE) from 2021.

EU PROJECTS IN MENA

Projects funded under the NDICI-Global Europe Instrument (NDICI-GE) include migration restriction, rights and services promotion, and border management. Capacity building programs funded by non-EU countries.

CONSEQUENCES AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The outsourcing of surveillance technology to MENA countries presents significant challenges. It not only jeopardizes privacy and freedom of expression but also can lead to discrimination and freedom restrictions. It may push migrants toward perilous routes, violating their rights to life and freedom of movement. Privacy breaches, freedom of expression limitations, and potential misuse of spyware further complicate the situation.

CONCLUSION

Responsible technology transfer and a commitment to safeguarding human rights are crucial in addressing the human rights implications of the outsourcing of surveillance technology to MENA countries. It is essential to ensure that human rights are protected and respected throughout the implementation of EU-funded initiatives in these MENA countries.