

# Illegal Migration

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## Abstract:

Various and interconnected phenomena emerge during specific periods, shaped by the circumstances and data that constitute them and according to the circumstances imposed by the reality that humans contribute to forming. Our contemporary historical era is characterized by the diversity and differences of these phenomena. Since the end of World War II, several factors have emerged that threaten human and humanitarian entities due to the multiplicity and overlap of human interests. These problems pose a danger to security and stability, such as environmental pollution, arms race, drugs, terrorism, and especially illegal migration (Haraga), which has worsened and spread since the 1990s to the present, taking new and previously unknown forms.

Illegal migration to Europe has worsened due to the harsh reality experienced by the people of the African continent, including political instability, lack of security, and widespread poverty in most countries on the continent. Algeria, like other Arab countries, has not been immune to this phenomenon. The situation has been exacerbated due to migration from impoverished North Africa, where the northern side is reluctant to receive more migrants.

**Keywords:** Illegal migration, Historical era, Human entity, Northern bank, North Africa, Haraga.

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## Introduction:

Throughout human history, migration has been and continues to be a significant contributor to the development of the Earth. It plays a crucial role in bringing together diverse groups of people from different cultures, enabling cultural exchange and the construction of a shared human civilization. Migration expresses individual aspirations and the desire to overcome challenging circumstances, escape poverty, and start a new life that affords them the right to a dignified existence.

In this context, the issue of migration has deepened, mainly from North Africa, which serves as a gateway for the impoverished South, to Europe, which is reluctant to receive migrants. Previously, Europe desperately needed migrant labor to rebuild itself after World War II.

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However, due to the complexity and widespread nature of migration and its various forms and methods, it raises several issues and topics requiring scientific and objective study and analysis.

Among the most critical issues is illegal migration, which is regarded as one of the most complex challenges due to the overlap of its causes, aspects, and dimensions. Consequently, this phenomenon has acquired a new dimension in international relations. It has become one of the most pressing questions in the Mediterranean scene and the most perplexing focal point for political calculations on both sides. Almost every governmental or non-governmental meeting between the two banks of the Mediterranean is influenced by the shadow of illegal migration.

This signifies the issue's sensitivity and symbolic and material strength in shaping future policies. From the perspective of Western countries, illegal migration has now become a threat to their interests and a danger to their political and social stability.

Studying illegal immigration serves as a compelling model for understanding the transformations occurring within this phenomenon and the extent of its impact on the political and security relations between countries. Europe shares relationships with the Arab Maghreb countries characterized by historical and geographical specificities, where migration holds a prominent position. This has created a network of relationships and interests with psychological, social, economic, and cultural dimensions. However, despite this, it undergoes a challenging examination due to the European countries' stance aimed at halting both legal and, mainly, illegal migration flows to their territories.

Moreover, migrants in Europe face mistreatment and discrimination in the application of laws towards them. Algeria is not isolated from this phenomenon, especially in recent years. The phenomenon of "Haraga" (illegal migration) in Algeria has spread alarmingly among the youth, especially along most Algerian coastlines, affecting various societal groups ([see map number 01](#)).



Source: Mostaganem State Coast Guard Division

### **I. Illegal Migration Nature:**

Since ancient times, humans have understood migration through their search and pursuit of adaptation to environments that provide a means of living for themselves, their families, or their tribes. Most immigrations were inevitable, with no other alternative for humans except to move to a place suitable for living.

Illegal migration, in its general sense, involves clandestinely crossing land and sea borders and residing in another country through unauthorized means. Migration may initially be legal but later transform into illegal migration, characterized by secret movement, and it has become a global phenomenon. It ranks third in terms of criminality after drug and arms trafficking. The phenomenon has intensified in the post-Cold War era since 1990 due to technological advancements in communication and transportation, porous border surveillance, ethnic conflicts, and forced displacement. These new aspects have driven individuals to seek a better life in foreign countries, giving rise to various forms of migration. Criminal organizations and gangs, especially from the African and Asian continents, have emerged, specializing in clandestine migration networks.

#### **1-Migration Definition:**

Since illegal migration is a subset of migration in general, it is necessary to 2-define the term broadly and then proceed to define its illegal aspect.

##### **1-1-Linguistic Definition:**

*Migration* is a noun derived from the verb (hajara), which means to migrate. Ibn Fas explained it as follows: "The letters (ha), (jeem), and (ra) are two roots, one indicating discontinuity, and the other indicating the tightness and binding of something<sup>1</sup>." People migrate from one place to another, leaving the first, as Ibn Mandhur explained, and meaning moving from one land to another.<sup>2</sup>

##### **1-2-Terminological Definition:**

*Migration* is a geographical phenomenon that reflects population dynamics in the form of the movement of people from one place to another, involving a change in the usual place of residence. It is part of the general movement of populations<sup>3</sup>.

Internal migration also called domestic migration encompasses the process of individuals or communities shifting from rural regions to urban areas, potentially resulting in a transformation in their employment circumstances.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ohewar.org/debat/show.art.asp?old=144798>.

<sup>2</sup> Borhane Din Ibrahim al-Baqai: Information on the Year of Migration to Greater Syria, Dar Khurram, 1st edition, Lebanon 1997, page 9.

<sup>3</sup> Salah al-Din Omar Basha: Introduction to the Study of Human Geography, Al-Matba'a Al-Jadida, 1st edition, Damascus 1965, page 203.

Migration can also be defined temporally based on whether it is "temporary" or "permanent." Permanent migration represents a transition from the usual place of residence to another area, accompanied by a complete change in the living conditions of the settled migrants who permanently leave their original residence<sup>5</sup>.

Conversely, temporary migration pertains to the temporary relocation of individuals or groups from one location to another. This includes labor migration to countries offering employment opportunities and higher wages. Such a category is commonly referred to as "returning migrants"<sup>6</sup>.

### 1-3-Sharia Definition of Migration:

For the Sharia-based definition, there are two aspects:

**First Aspect:** The transition from a place of fear to a place of safety occurred in the migration from Mecca to Medina.

- **Second Aspect:** Migration from a place of disbelief to a place of safety, after the Prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him, settled in Medina until the conquest of Mecca.<sup>7</sup>

### 2- Legal Definition:

According to international legal scholars, *migration* is defined as an individual permanently leaving his country's territory to another state. Based on this perspective, if the individual leaves the territory and establishes a domicile elsewhere for a certain period, whether long or short, returning to their original territory, according to the view of international legal scholars, would not be considered migration.<sup>8</sup>

Illegal migration, in the eyes of international borders, refers to crossing borders without the authorities' consent of both the origin and destination countries. Foreigners do not have the right to enter any country except under the laws of their country and the laws of the destination country. This involves completing all necessary legal procedures for migration. With such procedures, the migration becomes legal, regardless of the means used, whether through document forgery or other methods, whether by land, sea, or air, and it occurs without security and customs scrutiny.<sup>9</sup>

## II. Patterns of Illegal Migration and Their Trends:

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<sup>4</sup> Kadim Nadjib: Maghreb Migration and the Reality of Racism and Hostility towards Foreigners in Some European Union Countries, Second Book, Without a Country

<sup>5</sup> Ali Abdul Razaq Jabali : Sociology of Population, Dar Al-Ma'arif Al-Jami'ia, Egypt 2005, page 261."

<sup>6</sup> Ali Abdul Razaq Jabali; Previous reference, page 262

<sup>7</sup> Borhane al-Din Ibrahim al-Baqai; Previous reference, page 10.

<sup>8</sup> Mohammed Rida Al-Tamimi; Unauthorized Migration Through National Legislation and International Conventions, Policy and Law Journals, Issue Four, January 2011, page 20

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.djelfa.info/vb/showthread.php?T=573478>

Migration encompasses various implications, including clandestine, illegal, and irregular migration. Therefore, it constitutes a comprehensive framework containing all of these cases and the consequences of this phenomenon. It refers to the "movement of an individual or a group from one place to another through secret means that violate immigration laws as internationally recognized."<sup>10</sup>

Additionally, there is a pattern of migration to Europe closely linked to African, South American, and Asian countries with European countries, which they used to colonize before gaining independence. North Africa serves as a crucial and traditional transit point for African migrant labor heading to Europe due to historical and geographical reasons. Naturally, countries like France, Spain, Italy, Greece, and others have become destinations for migrants from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt.<sup>11</sup>

Given Algeria's direct role in the map of illegal migration towards Europe, the number of illegal migrants reaching the country has increased significantly. In a short period, the numbers surged from 2806 individuals in 2000 to 4273 individuals in 2001, reaching 6217 individuals in 2004, 8925 individuals in 2010, and doubling to 17309 individuals in 2020. In this context, illegal migration is no longer limited to citizens of neighboring African countries. However, it extends to Asian countries, which have also become sources of clandestine migrants to the Arab Maghreb countries, including Algeria, particularly from India and Bangladesh.

Despite the difficulties, small and ill-equipped boats daily cross the Mediterranean Sea towards Europe. This route is known as the "Bleu Route" and is one of the main channels for illegal migration from North Africa to Europe, including Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, and other countries.<sup>12</sup>

### III. Migration Statistics and Illegal Immigration in Algeria:

According to statistics from the year 2000, there were approximately 20.5 million migrants in Europe, while globally, the number exceeded 185 million.<sup>13</sup>

In Algeria, the phenomenon of clandestine migration has worsened. In the year 2000, 740 cases were addressed, leading to the apprehension of 2,806 undocumented migrants. By comparison, the year 2008 saw an increase in the number of cases, reaching 1,755, with 7,824 individuals apprehended. Most of them followed routes through Niger and Mali, then temporarily settled in

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<sup>10</sup> Abdel-Nour Badji; Military Dimensions of Security in the Mediterranean: The Phenomenon of Illegal Migration in the Arab Maghreb, Constantine Forum 2008, page 119.

<sup>11</sup> Ali Al-Haouat: Unauthorized Migration to Europe through the Arab Maghreb Countries, Arab University Publications, 1st edition, Tripoli 2007, page 55

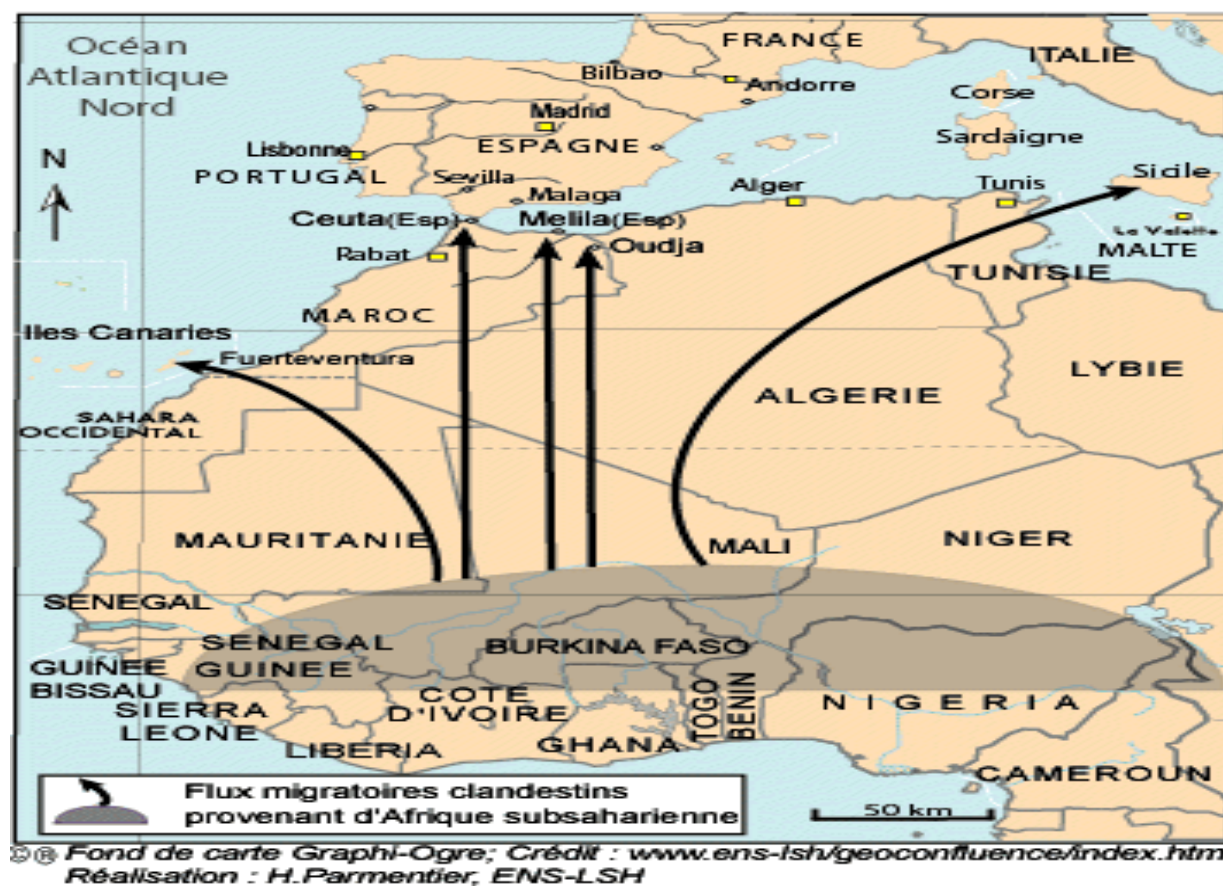
<sup>12</sup> Dr. Aziz Mohammed Ali Bader: Currents of Migration to Europe, North African Case, Paper presented at the seminar (Arab Expatriates from North Africa in European Diaspora), Cairo, Arab League University, and the Egyptian-African Studies Program, April 2007, page 09

<sup>13</sup> For more information, browse the website of the newspaper 'Sawt Al-Ahrar' at the following link: [www.sawt.alahrar.net/onlinennodules.php:name:news](http://www.sawt.alahrar.net/onlinennodules.php:name:news).



the Tamanrasset province to organize the second phase of their journey. They subsequently headed to Ghardaia, Algiers, and western provinces such as Oran, Mostaganem, Ain Temouchent, and Tlemcen, aiming to reach Europe via the sea route.

The reason behind the significant and dangerous influx of undocumented migrants, posing a threat to Algeria, can be attributed to its vast territory and its proximity to seven neighboring countries that migrants traverse on their way to Algeria and subsequently embark on the perilous sea journey known as "Al-Harga" from coastal regions. This proximity is evident as there is only a distance of 100 kilometers separating Algeria from the opposite coast, around 180 kilometers from Spain, and approximately 217 kilometers from Italy. Moreover, 55% of those involved in "Al-Harga" are under 26 (see Map 02). Indicates the departure points of "Al-Harga" boats from the maritime routes departing from Algeria



#### IV. The Reality of Illegal Migration in Algeria:

The issue of illegal migrants from the southern bank of the Mediterranean to Europe has witnessed rapid and controversial developments. It has evolved from a problem to a topic concerning the European Union, African countries, and the African coastal regions. Similar to other African nations, Algeria has also been affected by this phenomenon. It has become a preoccupation and a source of concern due to political and security transformations. It is worth

mentioning that the 1990s in Algeria gave rise to numerous social and economic problems, insecurity, and instability. Consequently, illegal migration became a refuge for individuals seeking to achieve future aspirations and an easier, more comfortable life despite facing risks and hardships such as death, drowning, imprisonment, expulsion, and exile.

#### IV. Causes and Motivations for Illegal Migration in Algeria:

Some studies emphasize that human trafficking in Algeria is a significant problem and concern, resulting from high unemployment rates and the deterioration of social, economic, and cultural conditions for young people, making it difficult for them to integrate into the local community.<sup>14</sup>

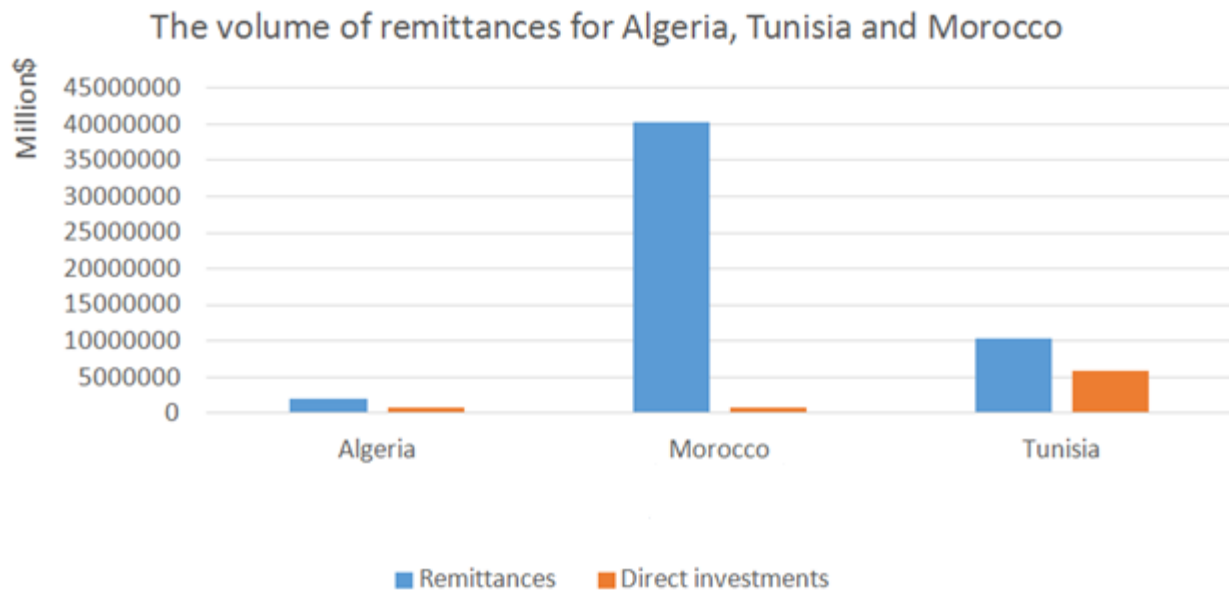
##### 1. Economic Reasons:

- Unemployment and the job market: Unemployment affects many people, especially young people with university qualifications. The unemployment rate in Algeria was estimated at 10% in 2008, while it decreased to less than 7% in 2020. In Tunisia, the rate was 15% in the same year.
- Need for remittances: The Maghreb countries need remittances abroad, which constitute a crucial source of foreign currency. These transfers are essential for implementing their development projects. Table (01) illustrates the volume of remittances for the three countries - Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia - in 2010<sup>15</sup>, measured in millions of dollars.

Countries	Remittances	Direct investments
Algeria	2046999	881900
Morocco	40220800	786892
Tunisia	10432000	5930352

<sup>14</sup> Donatella giubilaro migration from the Maghreb and migration process ures consummation and future prospects of 1997

<sup>15</sup> World/Bank development indicators database.



- **The Phenomenon of Poverty:** One of the causes of increasing poverty is the repercussions of the unemployment phenomenon. The percentage of people living below the poverty line in Algeria reached 12.2%. This percentage would have increased significantly without Algeria's efforts to improve national income. Despite the improvement in the living standards of Algerian individuals, the illiteracy rate remains remarkably high<sup>16</sup>, estimated at over 20%. Illiteracy and a lower educational level can be contributing factors to illegal migration.
- **Social Reasons:** Social motivations are directly linked to economic motivations. The failure to address social problems such as poverty, famine, unemployment, and diseases, coupled with individuals' awareness of the severity of these issues, leads them to dream of illegal migration, exposing themselves to various risks, with death being the harshest consequence.<sup>17</sup> Legal and illegal youth migration carry profound societal implications, expressing explicit protest against current conditions and their rejection. This has strongly contributed to driving illegal migration towards European countries.<sup>18</sup>
- **Political and Security Reasons:**

One of the most critical factors that have accelerated and increased the phenomenon of illegal migration, especially since the '90s, is the outcry of the youth in the face of administrative corruption. The security reasons have exacerbated the situation, playing a significant role in attracting migration flows. Wars, a distinctive feature of the African continent, along with ethnic conflicts and terrorism, are among the significant factors influencing illegal migration. Like other

<sup>16</sup> Issam Tawfiq Omar, Abeer Abdul-Munaim Faisal: The Secret of Solving Contemporary Social Problems, Modern Thought House, 1st edition, Oman 2008, page 22.

<sup>17</sup> Kamel Al-Shirazi: Calls for Urgent Legislation on the Phenomenon of Unauthorized Migration in Algeria, dated 01/01/2008.

<sup>18</sup> The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA): Summary of Social Policies Regarding Youth Migration in Arab Countries, Issue 03, 2009, page 08



African countries, Algeria underwent a political transformation on October 5, 1988, leading to a new constitution that acknowledged political pluralism. This resulted in a deterioration of the security situation, the rise of terrorist brutality in the "Black Decade," and the spread of mass killings and massacres. These factors drove the youth towards illegal migration for security and stability. Consequently, young people started seeking new ways to secure their future with minimal harm.<sup>19</sup>

- **Geographic and Demographic Reasons:**

Geographic and environmental factors significantly impact increasing outward migration rates due to harsh environmental conditions, including heat, drought, and natural disasters. These conditions have turned certain areas into expulsion zones for the population, including floods, volcanoes, droughts, and epidemics, all compelling people to migrate.<sup>20</sup>

Geographic proximity also plays a crucial role in the short distance between the two banks of Africa and Europe at the Strait of Gibraltar, merely 1 km away.<sup>21</sup> Algeria serves as a link between Africa and Europe. This geographical location has facilitated the transit of sub-Saharan Africans and Moroccans to the northern bank.<sup>22</sup>

In this context, geographical and environmental factors play a significant role in the migration of many individuals outside their homeland, seeking refuge from the harsh conditions they endure.

The demographic growth factor, which constitutes the heaviest factor in migration in the western Mediterranean, also creates problems<sup>23</sup>. The increase in population, coupled with a decrease in living standards and unstable economic conditions, led to a vast migration to Europe, including legal and illegal means.

According to reports from the United Nations, Europe, between 1995 and 2050, needs an influx of immigrants at an annual rate of 860,000 migrants, totaling 700 million migrants over the next 50 years. The southern bank of the Mediterranean, with the age group 15-65 years, represents the most significant demographic segment, accounting for more than 58.4% in 2010, as shown in Table (02).<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Al Seknari Al Ghlizouri Illegal Migration in Morocco cannot be isolated from protest movements (from Al-Sahara newspaper), (Date not specified), 05/03/2005.

<sup>20</sup> Mohammed Hasan Sadiq: External Migration and its Impact on Social Structure - A Field Study in the Villages of Hizam and Al-Abbas in the Fayoum Governorate - A Master's Thesis in Sociology, Faculty of Arts, South Valley University, 1998, page 44.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., p. 45.

<sup>22</sup> Al-Hadi Abou Raqma - Population Explosion, Libya, University Publications, April 7th, 1993, page 35.

<sup>23</sup> Abd al-Nour Badji: Previous reference, page 120.

<sup>24</sup> Ghalia Ben Zibouche: Migration and Mediterranean Cooperation since the mid-nineties - Master's Thesis in Political Science and International Relations, Library A.W.S. & I.G., Algeria, 2005, page 38.

This unprecedented phenomenon, particularly in recent years, has proven challenging for security authorities to eradicate. Illegal migrants use various methods—air, land, and sea—making it difficult to eliminate this problem.

- **Air Routes:** Illegal migration through air borders at airports is minimal, if not non-existent. The only solution is document forgery. Tightening surveillance and security at airports is crucial to safeguard citizens. Migration through air routes is complicated and nearly impossible, as forged documents can be detected using modern technology.<sup>25</sup>

- **Land Routes:**

The extensive length of Algeria's borders has been a key factor motivating migrants to opt for illegal migration. Algeria shares borders with Niger (1300 km), Mali (1280 km), Libya (1250 km), Morocco (1523 km), Tunisia (955 km), Western Sahara (143 km), and Mauritania (520 km). The vastness of the border makes monitoring difficult, encouraging illegal migrants to cross. The phenomenon has worsened since 1990 with the influx of migrants from more than 34 African and Asian nationalities aiming to reach Europe through Spain, passing through the Kingdom of Morocco. What further fueled migrants to take this route was the settlement of the legal status of Algerian migrants by Spanish authorities during a unique period in the 1990s, marked by humanitarian and social calls.<sup>26</sup>

- **Maritime Routes:**

Considering the Algerian maritime border stretching approximately 1320 km, illegal migrants use various means to attempt the crossing, including swimming in the middle or seeking help from sailors for passage. Some migrants climb aboard vertical ships, hiding inside. Illegal migration by sea has become the preferred method for migrating to Western countries due to the shorter distance and travel duration (See numbers 01, 02.)

## **V. Mechanisms to Counteract Illegal Migration According to the Algerian Approach:**

### **1. Security and Political Mechanisms to Combat Illegal Migration:**

The Algerian government has adopted a strategy to address the phenomenon of illegal migration, focusing on the following three priorities:

- **Identifying the Flows:**

The Algerian state stressed the need to be informed to control the flows. Accordingly, since 2000, the national police regularly publishes bulletins to record statistics related to the movement of foreign populations on Algerian territory. Moreover, an institute for research and studies on

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<sup>25</sup> Dr. Fatima Karkouche: Unauthorized Migration in Algeria - A Psychological and Social Analytical Study, University of Saad and Aleppo, Blida, page 64.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., p. 46

migrations has been established. The controversy over the entity to which it belongs is no longer an obstacle to this project after the decision of the President of the Republic to establish a center for documents and statistics on migration flows, with the assistance of reliable sources affiliated with bodies responsible for managing the movement of foreign populations, namely the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, Labor and Social Solidarity, Local Units, National Police, General Administration, National Security, Customs, and the National People's Army.<sup>27</sup>

- **Controlling Migration Flows:**

The National Police and Border Security Guards are tasked with controlling illegal migration. The data related to the control of foreigners present in Algeria illegally are distributed through the following methods:

- Arrests.
- Imprisonment and deportation.
- Tolerant judgments.

In the context of its efforts to combat migration flows, the Algerian authorities place significant emphasis on regional and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation to achieve tangible results on the ground, including:<sup>28</sup>

- Cooperation with European Countries: Whether at the level of the European group or the bilateral level (France-Italy-Spain), the aim is to deport illegal migrants and strengthen the capabilities of the Algerian government in controlling migrations.
- Regional Cooperation: Algeria seeks to link the control of illegal migration to promote regional dynamics by engaging Sahel countries. This includes collaboration with neighboring countries, such as the security cooperation agreement with Mali. Algeria has also worked on enhancing the effectiveness of combating and resisting illegal migration through appropriate measures, such as:
  - Developing mechanisms to resist networks involved in illegal smuggling and human trafficking.
  - Supporting technical cooperation in terms of training and equipping border surveillance means.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> MEHDI-Pahlou: *The Maghreb and Migration of Sub-Saharan Africans* - Casablanca, 2003.

<sup>28</sup> Philippe Farge: *Mediterranean Migration: 2005 Report (The Case of Algeria)*, Translated by: Anwar Moghith and Cherif Younis, European Commission, MEDA Program, European University Institute, 2007, page 47.

<sup>29</sup> Osman Hussein Mohammed Nour, Yasser Awad Mubarak: *Unauthorized Migration and Crime*, Riyadh, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, 2008, page 17

- Encouraging adherence to international agreements, especially the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

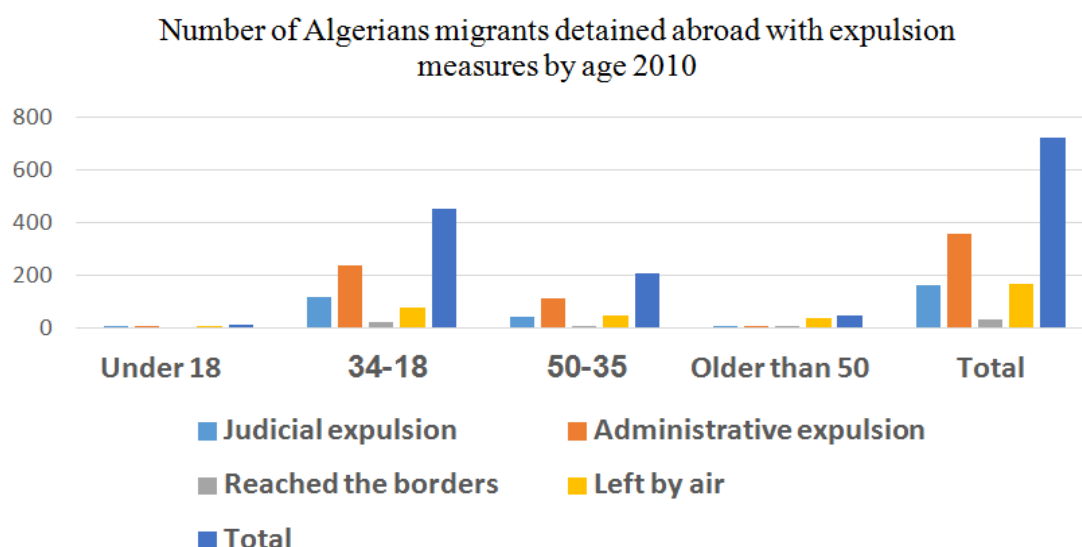
## V. Legal and Economic Mechanisms to Combat Illegal Migration:

### A. Legal Mechanisms:

The need to deal with foreigners falls within the framework of the law combating illegal migration, according to the Law of July 21, 2008, concerning the entry and movement of foreigners in the country.<sup>30</sup> This new law addresses migration within a legal framework to deter migration flows. Additionally, the evolution of organized crime and the phenomenon of terrorism has compelled Algeria to confront these challenges, especially as the number of arrests abroad has multiplied. According to statistics from 2010, as illustrated in Table (03) and the accompanying figure:

	Judicial expulsion	Administrative expulsion	Reached the borders	Left by air	Total
Under 18 years	02	02	0	07	11
18-34	118	237	24	76	455
35-50	42	113	06	48	209
Older than 50 years	03	07	03	37	50
Total	165	359	33	168	725

Source: National Gendarmerie Command for Eastern Region - Algeria.



### Secondly - Economic Mechanisms:

<sup>30</sup> The law number 11-08 was published on July 21, 2008, concerning the entry, exit, residence, and movement of foreigners in Algeria, in the Official Gazette, issue number 232, dated July 22, 2008.

Given that economic motivation is one of the prominent reasons for Algerian youth migrating illegally to Europe, Algeria has worked to reduce youth unemployment rates. This is achieved by activating the National Policy for Employment Promotion and Unemployment Combat, launched in 2009. The policy aims to promote, support, and develop small enterprises owned by unemployed youth with projects to minimize illegal migration. The coastal states have been the focus of this effort, directed toward the northern bank.

The results obtained from this approach include:

- Coordinating security cooperation between Algeria and concerned European countries and exchanging information to dismantle networks and frameworks facilitating illegal migration across borders.
- Encouraging investments in medium- and long-term projects that provide employment opportunities reduces the desire for illegal migration.
- Creating national mechanisms in Algeria to attract migrants and their savings for participation in investment projects, attempting to reclaim migrant talents, raising awareness among these potentials, and benefiting from them in various fields to contribute effectively to the establishment of a national project aiming to achieve human security by enhancing and achieving its various levels.
- Developing the work and mission of civil society institutions and activating their role in supporting and strengthening human development programs so that they become an effective partner in developing and implementing a national strategy to support and develop human security in Algeria, considering that achieving human security requires harnessing the efforts of all state institutions, whether in its official aspect represented by public institutions and bodies or in its non-official aspect through emerging civil society institutions active on the national scene.
- Reconsider the phenomenon of illegal immigration, as combating it requires, in the medium and long term, facing the causes that lead to it, such as poverty, unemployment, lack of prospects or wars and disasters of all kinds, by creating a national developmental policy that takes advantage of human potentials and the diverse natural resources available in Algeria.

### **Conclusion:**

Illegal migration, regardless of its names and concepts, shares a common essence: the presence in the receiving country by violating systems and laws. Like some other countries, Algeria suffers from the widespread phenomenon of illegal migration among various segments of society due to a lack of serious focus on new levels of solutions beyond security and superficial economic solutions.

Legal measures and strict security procedures alone are insufficient to address this phenomenon and its negative effects. Poverty and a decline in living standards, on the one hand, and a

deterioration in the levels of humanitarian security indicators, on the other, are the significant drivers of illegal migration in Algeria.

The illegal migrant, before becoming a criminal, is a victim of diverse circumstances, reflecting the failure and shortcomings of the political system. A comprehensive and integrated strategy is necessary to combat this phenomenon effectively, centered around building an economic partnership by establishing a free exchange zone and providing financial aid to Southern countries. Such measures have the potential to narrow the gap and disparities in development between the two sides of the Mediterranean.

The phenomenon of illegal migration is a complex and dangerous issue in all its legal and social dimensions. Therefore, it can only be eliminated partially through security measures or crackdowns. In order to effectively address illegal migration, it is necessary to combat the underlying causes from various angles, with sustainable development being the foremost priority.

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