



## LEGAL AND JUDICIAL INFORMATION ON MIGRANT SMUGGLING

# TÜRKIYE

Last update 31/10/2023

### GENERAL INFORMATION ON MIGRATION



#### MAIN FIGURES AND TRENDS

Due to its location, Türkiye is one of the countries most affected by migration mobility, both as a transit and destination country.

When irregular migration routes to Türkiye are examined, it is seen that immigrants targeting our country from different geographies leave their countries and head towards Türkiye with different motivations. For example, it is known that immigrants from North and Central African countries use our country mostly for transit purposes and their ultimate goal is to reach Europe. On the other hand, political instability, war, oppression and the threat of persecution are among the reasons that push immigrants from the Middle East and Asian countries to migrate. In addition, groups that take action due to reasons such as economic problems and unemployment in their countries and constitute the concept of economic immigrants, also come to our country through these routes.

It can be stated that the effects of irregular migration are grouped under three main headings: economic effects, criminal effects and socio-cultural effects. Considering the economic effects; it is known that financing the fight against irregular migration creates a serious burden on the budget, that working without permission causes a decrease in employment and creates tax losses. When we look at its criminal effects; it is evaluated that irregular migration may open a channel to terrorism and there may be a serious increase in migrant smuggling and human trafficking offences. Finally, when socio-cultural effects are examined, it is possible to talk about the existence of risks such as social conflict, ghettoisation and infectious diseases.

When our country's irregular migration statistics are examined; irregular immigrants, which were around 50,000 until 2015, have increased significantly in recent years, rising to 268,003 in 2018 and 454,662 in 2019. Although this number decreased to 122,302 in 2020 and 162,996 in 2021 due to the impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic, our country is still exposed to serious irregular migration pressure. The number of irregular immigrants, which was 285,027 in 2022, was recorded as 182,303 as of October 12, 2023.

Activities are carried out both in the legal and operational fields in the field of combating migrant smuggling, which is one of the most important elements of the fight against irregular migration. In this context, with the amendment made to the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 5271, "migrant smuggling" and "human trafficking" offences were included in the scope of catalog offences. The lower penalty limit for migrant smuggling was increased and a provision was

# COUNTRY FACTSHEET\* – Smuggling of migrants



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included to seize vehicles used in migrant smuggling. Law enforcement units caught 4,358 migrant smuggling organisers in 2020, 7,942 in 2021, 9,149 in 2022 and 7,398 in 2023.

In order to combat irregular migration effectively, it has been acted within the framework of a specific strategic plan since 2015.

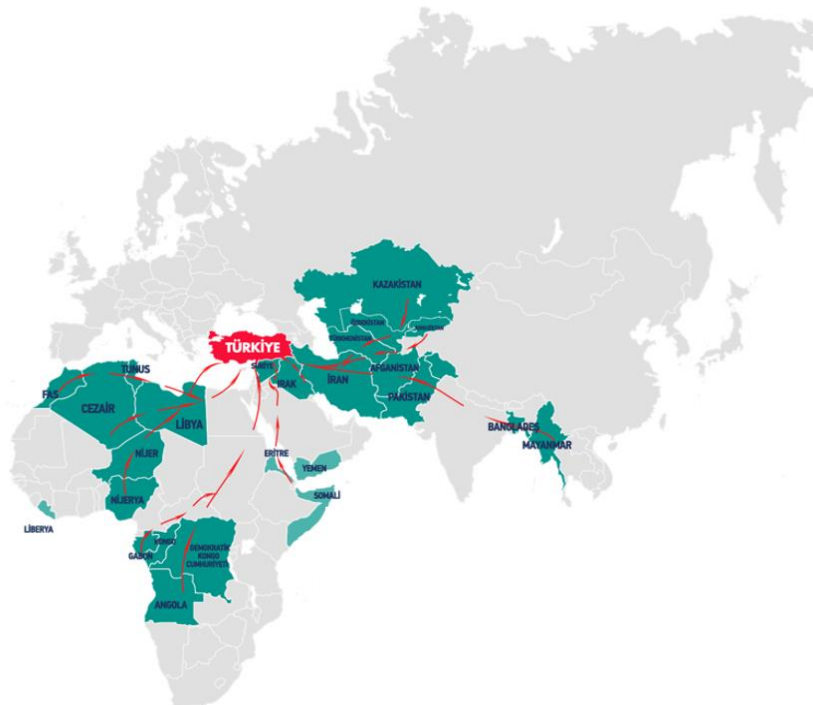
In this context, first the 2015-2018 Türkiye Irregular Migration Strategy Document and National Action Plan were approved, and then the **2021-2025 Türkiye Irregular Migration Strategy Document and National Action Plan** were approved by the Migration Board on 18 December 2020 and entered into force.

Within the framework of the afore-mentioned Strategy Document, a strategy is being followed in the field of combating irregular migration, which covers the following issues and **starts in the country of origin**:

- Humanitarian and development-oriented assistance to solve the problem at its source,
- Effective border security measures,
- Effective measures taken within the country,
- Combating irregular labor force,
- Establishment of healthy feedback mechanisms.



## MIGRATORY ROUTES



**Irregular migration movements towards our country** occur for the following reasons:

- Our country's geopolitical location and the geographical structure of its borders;
- Desire to work in our country and economic reasons;
- Political instability and war environment in neighboring countries;
- The threat of oppression and persecution in the countries of the region.



## INSTITUTIONAL ORGANISATION

The operational combat against migrant smuggling is primarily the responsibility of the **Ministry of Interior**. Within the Ministry, the General Directorate of Security undertakes the combat in provincial/district center settlements (urban), the Gendarmerie General Command undertakes the combat in rural areas, and the Coast Guard Command undertakes the combat in port cities and beaches, jointly.



## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The offence of migrant smuggling is enacted in the Article 79 of Turkish Penal Code No. 5237.

Turkish penal code no. 5237

*Migrant smuggling*

### **Article 79.**

**(1)** A person who, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, ensures:

- a) the illegal entry into or stay in a country of which the person is not a national;
- b) the illegal exit abroad of a Turkish citizen or an alien;

shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment from five to eight years and to a judicial fine of one thousand days to ten thousand days. (Sentence added on 22/07/2010 by Law No. 6008 Art. 6) Even if the offence remained in attempt, the perpetrator shall be punished as if the offence had been completed.

**(2)** (Paragraph added on 22/07/2010 by Law No. 6008 Art. 6) Where the offence:

- a) poses a threat to victim's life;
- b) is committed in a degrading way;

the penalty to be imposed shall be increased by one-half to two-thirds of this term.

**(3)** (Amended on 06/12/2019 by Law No. 7196 Art. 56) Where the offence is committed jointly by more than one offender, the penalty to be imposed shall be increased by up to one-half. Where the offence is committed within the framework of the activities of a criminal organization, the penalty to be imposed shall be increased by one-half to one-fold.

**(4)** Where the offence is committed within the framework of the activities of a legal entity, the relevant security measures shall be imposed upon that legal entity.



## JUDICIAL FRAMEWORK

In the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 5271, the offence of migrant smuggling is included among the catalog crimes in terms of arrest, seizure of real estate, rights and receivables, appointment of a trustee for company management, detection, wire-tapping and recording of communications, monitoring with technical means, seizure for coercive purposes.



## Code of Criminal Procedure No. 5271

### **Article 100. Grounds for arrest with a warrant**

*(1) If there are facts that tend to show the existence of a strong suspicion of a crime and an existing "ground for arrest", an arrest warrant against the suspect or accused may be rendered. There shall be no arrest warrant rendered if arrest is not proportionate to the importance of the case, expected punishment or security measure.*

*(2) At the below mentioned instances, a "ground for arrest" may be deemed as existing:*

*a) If the suspect or accused had fled, eluded or if there are specific facts which justify the suspicion that he is going to flee.*

*b) If the conduct of the suspect or the accused tend to show the existence of a strong suspicion that he is going to attempt;*

*(3) If strong grounds for suspicion are present, that the below mentioned crimes have been committed, then "the ground for arrest with a warrant" may be deemed as existing:*

*1. Genocide and crimes against humanity (Arts. 76, 77, 78);*

*2. (Added with Art. 58 of the Law No. 7196 on 6/12/2019) Migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Arts. 79 and 80);*

*...*

*(4) In cases where the committed crime is punishable with judicial fine or except for the offences committed deliberately against bodily integrity, or with imprisonment not more than two years at the upper level, no arrest warrant shall be issued.*

### **Article 128. Seizure of immovable goods, rights and credits**

*(1) The following items belonging to the suspect or the accused may be seized in cases where there are strong grounds of suspicion tending to show that the crime under investigation or prosecution has been committed and that they have been obtained from this crime;*

*a) Immovable goods,*

*b) Transport vehicles of land, sea or air,*

*c) All kinds of accounts in banks or other financial institutions,*

*d) All kinds of rights and credits by real or juridical persons,*

*e) Valuable documents,*

*f) Shares at the firm where he is a shareholder,*

*g) Contents of the rented safe,*

*h) Other assets belonging to him.*

*Even in cases where these immovables, rights, credits and other values of belongings are in possession of individuals other than the suspect or the accused, the seizure is also permitted.*

*(Added sentence with Art. 10 of the Law No. 6526 on 21/2/2014) In order to take a seizure decision within the scope of this article, a report on the value obtained from crime is obtained from the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency, Capital Markets Board, Financial Crimes Investigation Board, Undersecretariat of Treasury and Public Oversight, Accounting and Auditing Standards Authority, depending on its relevance. This report is prepared within three months at the latest. When special reasons make it necessary, this period can be extended for another two months upon request.*

*(2) The provisions of subparagraph one are only applicable to the following crimes:*

*a) The following crimes as defined in the Turkish Penal Code;*

*1. Genocide and crimes against humanity (Arts. 76, 77, 78),*

*2. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Arts. 79, 80),*

*...*

*(3) A decision on the seizure of an immovable shall be enforced by taking a note in the title.*



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- (4) A decision on the seizure of vehicles operating on land, sea and air shall be enforced by taking a note in the title, where they are registered.*
- (5) A decision on the seizure of accounts at banks and other financial institutions shall be enforced by immediately informing the bank or financial institute by technical communication means. The related decision shall also be notified to the bank or financial institution separately. The interactions at the bank account, aimed to make the decision of seizure ineffective, which are conducted after the decision has been rendered, are void.*
- (6) A decision on the seizure of shares at a firm shall be enforced by notifying the administration of the related firm and the head of the commerce title by technical communication means immediately. The related decision shall also be notified to the related firm and to the directorate of the financial institution separately.*
- (7) A decision on the seizure of rights and credits shall be enforced by immediately notifying the related real or juridical person by technical communication means. The related decision shall also be notified to the real or juridical person separately.*
- (8) In cases where there are violations of the requirements of the decision on seizure, Art. 289 of the Turkish Penal Code related to the “misusing of the power of protection” shall apply.*
- (9) (Amended with Art. 25 of the Law No. 6763 on 24/11/2016) Only a judge can decide on the seizure in accordance with the provisions of this article and the appointment of a trustee in accordance with the tenth paragraph.*
- (10) (Added with Art. 13 of the Statutory Decree No. 674 on 15/8/2016) When it is necessary to manage the real estate, rights and receivables seized in accordance with this article, a trustee may be appointed to manage these asset values. In this case, the provisions of Article 133 are applied by analogy.*

## **Article 133. Appointing a trustee for the administration of a firm**

- (1) In cases where there are strong grounds of suspicion that the crime is being committed within the activities of a firm and it is necessary for revealing the factual truth, the judge or the court is entitled to appoint a trustee for the administration of the firm with the aim of running the business of the firm, for the duration of an investigation or prosecution. The decision of appointment shall clearly indicate that the validity of the decisions and interactions conducted by the organ of the administration depends upon the approval of the trustee, or that the powers of the organ of the administration has been transferred to the trustee. The decision on appointing the trustee shall be announced by the newspaper for the record of the trade and by other suitable means.*
- (2) Fees for the trustee estimated by the judge or the court, shall be compensated by the budget of the firm. However, in cases where there is a decision on no ground for prosecution has been rendered about the investigated crime, or if there is a judgment of acquittal, the total sum of money paid as the fee of the trustee shall be compensated by the state treasury, with interest.*
- (3) The related persons are entitled to apply to the competent court against the interactions of the trustee, according to the provisions of the Turkish Civil Code dated 22.11.2001, No. 4721 and of the Turkish Commerce Code dated 29.6.1956, No. 6762.*
- (4) The provisions of this article are applicable only for the following crimes as listed below:*
- a) Crimes regulated in the Turkish Criminal Code,*
- 1. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Arts. 79, 80).*
- ...*
- (5) (Added with Art. 32 of the Law No. 6723 on 1/7/2016) Compensation lawsuits for the acts and actions of the trustees appointed in accordance with this article regarding their duties are filed against the State in accordance with Articles 142 to 144. The state has recourse within*





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*one year against trustees who abuse their duties by acting contrary to the requirements of their duties, due to the compensation paid.*

## **Article 135. Detection, wire-tapping and recording of communication**

**(1)** (Amended with Art. 12 of the Law No. 6526 on 21/2/2014) *In the investigation and prosecution carried out for a crime, if there are strong grounds for suspicion based on concrete evidence that a crime has been committed and there is no possibility of obtaining evidence in any other way, the communication of the suspect or the defendant via telecommunication may be wire-tapped to, recorded and the signal information may be recorded by the decision of the judge or, in cases where delay is harmful, by the public prosecutor. The public prosecutor immediately submits his decision to the judge for approval, and the judge gives his decision within twenty-four hours at the latest. If the period expires or the judge decides otherwise, the measure is immediately lifted by the public prosecutor.*

**(2)** (Added with Art. 12 of the Law No. 6526 on 21/2/2014) *When making a request, a document or report showing the owner and, if known, the user of the line or communication tool for which an injunction will be issued in accordance with this article, shall be attached.*

**(3)** *The correspondence of the suspect or the accused with individuals who enjoy the privilege of refraining from testimony as a witness shall not be recorded. In cases where this circumstance has been revealed after the recording has been conducted, the conducted recordings shall be destroyed immediately.*

**(4)** *The decision that shall be rendered according to the provisions of subparagraph 1 shall include the nature of the charged crime, the identity of the individual, upon whom the measure is going to be applied, the nature of the tool of communication, the number of the telephone, or the code that makes it possible to identify the connection of the communication, the nature of the measure, its extent and its duration. The decision of the measure may be given for maximum duration of 3 months; this duration may be extended one more time. However, for crimes committed within the activities of a crime organization, the judge may decide to extend the duration several times, each time for no longer than one month, if deemed necessary. (Added with Art. 17 of the Law No. 5353 on 25/5/2015) However, if deemed necessary in relation to crimes committed within the framework of the activities of the organization, the judge may decide to extend the period for not more than one month at a time and not to exceed three months in total, in addition to the above periods.*

**(5)** *The location of the mobile phone may be established upon the decision of the judge, or in cases of peril in delay, by the decision of the public prosecutor, in order to be able to apprehend the suspect or the accused. The decision related to this matter shall include the number of the mobile phone and the duration of the interaction of locating (the establishment). The interaction of locating shall be conducted for maximum of three months; this duration may be extended one more time.*

**(6)** (Added with Art. 42 of the Law No. 6572 on 2/12/2014) *The determination of the communication of the suspect and the defendant via telecommunication is carried out by the judge at the investigation stage or, in cases where delay is harmful, by the public prosecutor, based on the court decision at the prosecution stage. The decision states the type of crime charged, the identity of the person against whom the measure will be imposed, the type of communication tool, the telephone number or the code that allows the detection of the communication connection, and the duration of the measure. (Added with Art. 26 of the Law No. 6763 on 24/11/2016) The public prosecutor submits his decision to the judge for approval within twenty-four hours, and the judge gives his decision within twenty-four hours at the latest. If the period expires or the judge decides otherwise, the records are destroyed immediately.*

**(7)** *Decisions rendered and interactions conducted according to the provisions of this article shall be kept confidential while the measure is pending.*



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**(8)** *The provisions contained in this article related to listening, recording and evaluating the information about the signals shall only be applicable for the crimes as listed below:*

*a) The following crimes in the Turkish Criminal Code;*

*1. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Arts. 79, 80),*

*...*

**(9)** *No one may listen and record the communication through telecommunication of another person except under the principles and procedures as determined in this Article.*

## **Article 140. Surveillance with technical means**

**(1)** *If there are strong indications of suspicion that crimes listed below have been committed, and if there is no other available means of obtaining evidence, the activities of the suspect or the accused, conducted in fields open to the public and his working places, may be subject to surveillance by technical means, including voice and image recording;*

*a) Crimes regulated in the Turkish Criminal Code,*

*1. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Arts. 79, 80),*

*...*

**(2)** *(Amended with Art. 28 of the Law No. 6763 on 24/11/2016) The decision to surveil with technical means is made by the judge, and in cases where delay is harmful, the public prosecutor decides. Decisions made by the public prosecutor are submitted to the judge for approval within twenty-four hours. The judge gives his decision within twenty-four hours at the latest. If the period expires or the judge decides otherwise, the records are destroyed immediately.*

**(3)** *(Amended with Art. 14 of the Law No. 6526 on 21/2/2014) The decision to surveil with technical means can be made for a maximum period of three weeks. This period can be extended for another week if necessary. However, if deemed necessary in relation to crimes committed within the framework of the activities of the organization, the judge may decide to extend the period for not more than one week at a time and not to exceed four weeks in total, in addition to the above periods. (Added with Art. 143 of Statutory Decree No. 694 on 15/8/2017) If an undercover investigator is appointed together with the monitoring measure through technical means, the periods specified in this paragraph are increased by one fold.*

**(4)** *The evidence obtained shall only be used for investigations or prosecutions of the crimes listed above, and shall not be used outside of this scope; and the evidence shall be immediately destroyed under the supervision of the public prosecutor, if it is not useful for the criminal prosecution.*

**(5)** *The provisions of this Article shall not be applied within the residence of an individual.*

## **Article 248. Seizure in order to compell and certificate of guarantee**

**(1)** *With the aim of getting the fugitive accused to come to the main hearing, his belongings in Türkiye and his rights and credits may be seized, proportional to the aim by a court decision and a trustee shall be appointed for their administration, if necessary. The decision on seizure and on appointing a procurator shall be notified to his defense counsel.*

**(2)** *The provision of subparagraph one is applicable for the following crimes:*

*a) Crimes in the Turkish Penal Code:*

*1. Genocide and crimes against humanity (Arts. 76, 77, 78):*

*2. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Arts. 79, 80),*

*...*

**(3)** *Regarding the protection of seized property, rights and credits, provisions related to seizure shall be applicable. The court may decide that a summary of the decisions related to the measures shall be announced by a newspaper.*



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- (4) In cases where the fugitive is apprehended, or comes by his own free will and surrenders, it shall be decided to lift the seizure.*
- (5) The justice of the Peace or the court may give a decision of arrest with a warrant according to the provisions of Art. 100 and the following articles in the absence of the fugitive.*
- (6) In cases where the court establishes that if the court rules on seizure, legal dependents under his care may fall into poverty, then the court shall give permission to the custodian to help those with an amount from the property holdings, proportional to their social standards, in order to secure their livelihood.*
- (7) The provision of Article 246 shall also be applicable for fugitives.*
- (8) These decisions may be subject to opposition.*

## **Article 160. Duty of public prosecutor informed of an offense**

- (1) As soon as the public prosecutor is informed of a fact that creates an impression that a crime has been committed, either through a report of crime or any other way, he shall immediately investigate the factual truth, in order to make a decision on whether to file public charges or not.*
- (2) In order to investigate the factual truth and to secure a fair trial, the public prosecutor is obliged, through the judicial security forces, who are under his command, to collect and secure evidence in favor and in disfavor of the suspect, and to protect the rights of the suspect.*

## **Article 161. Duties and powers of the public prosecutor**

- (1) The public prosecutor may conduct any kind of exploration either directly or through the judicial security forces under his command; in order to achieve the outcomes mentioned in the above Article, he may demand all kinds of information from all public servants. In cases where there is a need to make a judicial interaction outside of his judicial district in the course of his judicial duties, the Public prosecutor shall ask the public prosecutor at an other district to conduct that interaction.*
- (2) The members of the judicial security forces are obliged to notify immediately the incidences they have started to handle, the individuals who have been arrested without a warrant, and the initiated measures to the public prosecutor under whose command they perform their duties, and are obliged to execute all orders of this public prosecutor related to the administration of justice without any delay.*
- (3) The public prosecutor shall deliver the orders to the members of the judicial security forces in written form and in exigent cases orally. The oral order shall be notified in written form as well, within the shortest period possible.*
- (4) The other public employees are also obliged to supply the information and documents that are needed during a pending investigation to the requiring public prosecutor without any delay.*
- (5) Public employees who misuse or neglect their duties stemming from the statute, or duties required of them according to provisions in the statute, as well as superiors and officers of the security forces who misuse or neglect to execute the oral or written demands or orders of the public prosecutors, shall be prosecuted by the public prosecutors in a direct way. Governors and administrative chiefs of districts shall be subject to provisions of the Act on Adjudication of Civil Servants and Other Public Employees, dated 2 December 1999, No. 4483, and the highest degree superiors of the security forces shall be subject to the provisions of adjudication, which are applicable for judges while they are under adjudication for crimes related to their offices.*
- (6) (Amended with Art. 9 of the Statutory Decree No. 680 on 2/1/2017) The authority to investigate and prosecute personal crimes of governors and district governors belongs to the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in the province, where the regional court of appeal is located, to which the place of duty of the relevant person is affiliated, and to the Heavy Penal Court in*





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*the same place. In cases of red-handed crime, the investigation is carried out in accordance with general provisions.*

**(7)** *(Added with Art. 21 of the Law No. 6217 on 31/3/2011) In an investigation brought by a decision of lack of jurisdiction, if the public prosecutor decides that he/she is not competent, he/she issues a decision of lack of jurisdiction and in order to determine the competent prosecutor's office, the investigation file must be submitted to the nearest heavy penal court within the jurisdiction, where the public prosecutor works. The court's decision on this matter is final.*

**(8)** *(Added with Art. 15 of the Law No. 6526 on 21/2/2014) With regard to the offences enacted in the Articles 302, 309, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315 and 316 of Turkish Penal Code, even if it is committed during or after duty, a direct investigation is carried out by public prosecutors. The provision of the Article 26 of the State Intelligence Services and National Intelligence Organization Law No. 2937 dated 1/11/1983 is reserved.*

**(9)** *(Added with Art. 146 of the Statutory Decree No. 694 on 15/8/2017) The authority to investigate and prosecute a member of parliament, who is alleged to have committed a crime before or after the election, is vested in the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and the heavy penal court in Ankara. The Chief Public Prosecutor or his/her deputy, assigned by the Chief Public Prosecutor, personally conducts the investigation. The Chief Public Prosecutor or his/her deputy may ask the Public Prosecutor of the place, where the crime was committed, to conduct a partial or complete investigation. In cases where delay is harmful, the public prosecutor of the place, where the crime was committed, collects the necessary evidence and makes a request to the criminal judiciary of peace in terms of the decisions to be taken, if necessary.*



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Security, Department of Fight against Migrant Smuggling and Border Gates within the scope of international cooperation on Irregular Migration and Combating Migrant Smuggling:

- Homeland Road Project in Serbia, aiming at irregular immigrants who want to pass illegally from Serbia to Croatia and Hungary and from there to the target European countries by hiding in the trailers of trucks belonging to transportation companies, and the migrant smugglers who organise them, has been carried out since June 2019.
- Friendship Road Project in Hungary, aiming at irregular immigrants who want to pass through Hungary to target European countries illegally by hiding in the trailers of trucks belonging to transportation companies, and the migrant smugglers who organise them, has been carried out since December 2021.

In addition, within the scope of the **"Memorandum of Understanding on Standard Implementation Procedures"** signed between our country and Italy, for the purpose of **"Assisting the Italian Police in Interviews with Irregular Migrants Going from Türkiye to Italy by Sea"**; two (2) personnel, one (1) from the General Directorate of Security and one (1) from the Presidency of Migration Management, were assigned for two (2) months between 24 July and 21 September 2023.



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## RELEVANT CASES

- ❖ Within the scope of the technically supported planned/project file prepared by our provincial units, as a result of mutual information sharing with the Bulgarian authorities, the measures in the Article 135 of Criminal Procedure Code were implemented against 21 target persons, and it was determined that 6 target persons participated in the actions. In 5 interim arrests, 8 suspects were subjected to the judicial proceedings, 5 of them were arrested, and 77 irregular immigrants were rescued. In the simultaneous operation carried out on 06.09.2023, 5 of the 6 target persons were caught, and 4 persons were ARRESTED by the judicial authorities.

In addition, within the scope of the project file, the information was given by the target persons about the supervised delivery to Greece and Slovakia for two cargo packages containing documents considered to be fake. During the inspections carried out by the Greek authorities, "1 passport, 2 driver licenses and 1 Samsung brand phone", which were considered to be fake, were seized in the cargo package sent, and 1 suspect was released after the procedures. In the response letter received from Slovakia, it was stated that 1 identity document, which was considered to be fake, was captured and 1 suspect was released after the procedures were carried out.

- ❖ As a result of the analysis studies carried out based on the information submitted to the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Security, Department of Fight against Migrant Smuggling and Border Gates regarding the irregular migration incident that took place in Steccato di Cutro (Crotone-Calabria) in Italy on 26 February 2023, in which 67 irregular immigrants died and 79 irregular immigrants were rescued; it was determined that the person named "X" was involved in the incident and he was the organiser of the incident. All information was shared with our provincial units; and in the operation carried out at 2 workplaces of the person on 26.04.2023, the following materials were found:
  - Ledgers, receipts, digital materials used in Hawala transactions.
  - (2) Passports, considered to be fake, and Temporary Protection Certificate issued by Şanlıurfa Governorship.
  - Money in the amount of 1266 Dollars, 320 Euros and 18.320 Turkish Lira (TL).
  - 2 Money Counting Machines.
  - 15 Sleeping Bags.

In the examination of digital materials and other evidence seized during the search; it was seen that the denunciation of the relatives of the victim regarding the death of 69 immigrants in Italy on 26/02/2023, the information received by the Italian authorities from the rescued immigrants, and the images and video recordings obtained from the suspect's mobile phone were compatible. In the examination of the suspect's mobile phone, it was understood that the suspect had phone conversations with immigrant smugglers and he received and sent money for safe-keeping with the guidance of these people. The person named "X" was ARRESTED by the judicial authorities due to the



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offences of "Migrant Smuggling, Counterfeiting Official Documents and Laundering of Assets Acquired from an Offence".

- ❖ In the activities carried out within the scope of the "Project of Organised Migrant Smuggling" investigation carried out by our provincial units: In 12 interim arrests and a simultaneous operation on 13.10.2023, judicial/administrative proceedings were taken against a total of 42 suspects and 517 irregular immigrants. Of the 38 suspects caught during interim arrests and operations, 26 persons were ARRESTED, 9 persons were released on judicial control, and 3 people were released by the prosecutor's office.

As a result of a total of 12 interim arrests and operations, the following materials used in the commission of offence were captured:

- 10 vehicles,
- 1 boat
- 1 sailing boat,
- 5 unlicensed weapons,
- 133.500 TL, 4910 Dollars, 725 Euros,
- sleeping bags, storage of living supplies, Hawala books, cryptic notes.