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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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## Global News Dispatches: 5 Stories

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**Credit Line:** from the [Globetrotter News Service](#)

**Note to Editors:** This is a selection of news wire reports that have been edited to be relevant for audiences for the next two weeks. You are welcome to select and publish individual items or the whole stack.

**Headlines in This News Package:**

- **UN: More Than 2,500 People Lost or Dead Crossing Mediterranean Thus Far in 2023**
- **Far-Right Gunman Shoots Protestor at Reinstallation of Conquistador Statue in United States**
- **Nigeriens Demand Exit of French Troops From Country**
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- **Tens of Thousands in Latin America March for Safe Abortions**

[NEWS ITEM TEXT]

**UN: More Than 2,500 People Lost or Dead Crossing Mediterranean Thus Far in 2023**

[264 words]

According to a September 29 article by [Al Jazeera](#), the United Nations has said that more than 2,500 migrants and refugees have gone missing or lost their lives trying to cross into

Europe across the Mediterranean in in 2023. This is a nearly 50 percent increase in the number of refugees missing or dead compared to the same period in 2022, based on the figures in the article.

“We continue to bear witness to the tragedies of lives lost at sea and on land routes with no end in sight,” [said Ruven Menikdiwela](#), the director of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in New York.

She pointed to incidents of racism in and expulsions from North African countries as well as other oppressions experienced “in a broader context of deterioration in the security situations of several countries neighboring North Africa,” which has led to an increase in the number of refugees making their way to Europe. According to Menikdiwela, about 186,000 migrants arrived in southern Europe by sea from January to September 24, 2023. Al Jazeera [reported](#) that 83 percent of them landed in Italy.

Europe, which has one of the [world’s highest standards of living](#), [continues to be a destination of choice](#) for migrants and refugees from the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Africa. However, European countries, also known colloquially as “Fortress Europe,” have [made migrating to the continent more difficult](#). Partly as a result, the people attempting to reach there “risk death and gross human rights violations at every step,” said Menikdiwela, according to [Al Jazeera](#).

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### **Far-Right Gunman Shoots Protestor at Reinstallation of Conquistador Statue in United States**

**[204 words]**

[“Democracy Now!” reported](#) that a gunman wearing a red “Make America Great Again” cap shot and injured a protester at the reinstallation of a statue of Spanish conquistador Juan de Oñate on September 28. The shooter, identified by the [Albuquerque Journal](#) as Ryan Martinez, was detained after attempting to flee the scene.

Oñate, who was New Mexico’s first colonial governor, ordered a massacre in 1599 that killed up to 1,000 Indigenous people. Ironically, the person shot at the protest is Indigenous, [stated](#) the report.

“I’m very, very concerned with what’s transpired here today,” [said](#) County Manager Jeremy Maestas to the Albuquerque Journal. “The county... definitely supports people expressing their opinions through their First Amendment right, but we do not by any means condone people expressing that when they’re causing hurt or harm to other people physically.”

This is the [second time](#) since 2020 that someone has been shot at a protest in New Mexico over an Oñate statue, [reported the Albuquerque Journal](#). Some, like Rio Arriba County Commissioner Alex Naranjo, see the conquistador as “one of our founding fathers.” But others, like Jennifer Marley, say he “stood for violence, for genocide, for rape.” Marley was in attendance at the protest as a speaker.

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### **Nigeriens Demand Exit of French Troops From Country**

**[178 words]**

[“Democracy Now!” reported](#) on September 29 that Nigeriens had again gathered outside a French military base in Niamey, the capital, to demand that the European country’s troops leave Niger.

The news organization quoted the Beninese activist KémiSéba, who addressed the crowd and said: “To taste freedom—every [person] has the right to taste independence. Every people has the right to regain its dignity. And if France won’t let Africans breathe, we’re going to force it to listen to us!

France, which was the colonial power in Niger, [has said](#) it would withdraw 1,500 troops from the country by the end of the year. “We are ending our military cooperation with the de facto authorities in Niger, because they no longer want to fight terrorism,” French President Emmanuel Macron said in an interview on French television, [reported](#) the New York Times.

Niger is one of the many countries in the Sahel that has seen a military coup establish a new regime. [French influence](#) over internal Nigerien affairs has been a major flashpoint in shaping opinion toward the coup.

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### **Sinophobia Reemerges in Kazakhstan**

**[194 words]**

According to a [study](#) reported on by [Vlast](#), negative attitudes toward China remain widespread in Kazakhstan despite close official ties between the two countries. The article cites numerous causes for the problem, including Soviet propaganda against China in the 1960s and 1970s, the repression of Muslims in China, and the flow of Kazakh natural resources to China.

Beyond the macro roots of the problem, though, an issue of ineffective governance by local Kazakh government agencies is a source of the problem. “Against this backdrop, residents see a foreign investor as a way to solve pressing problems, even if this does not

fall within the scope of social corporate responsibility,” Vlast [reported](#). Compounding the problem is poor communication by the local governments of the country.

The result is mistrust. For example, residents near the Zhanatas wind farm, the most efficient in Kazakhstan, refuse to believe that Chinese investments can be [environmentally friendly](#).

[According to Wikipedia](#), Kazakhstan is “China’s key partner in the Central Asian region due to its location, size, and substantial energy resources.” Kazakhstan produces oil, gas, uranium, and coal. [As of April 2020](#), Kazakhstan has the 12th largest oil reserves in the world.

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### **Tens of Thousands in Latin America March for Safe Abortions**

**[136 words]**

Tens of thousands of abortion rights protesters marched in Latin American cities to celebrate a recent judicial victory in Mexico and push for further changes, [reported Common Dreams](#).

“[N]ow we have another even more important fight—decriminalizing abortion in the minds of the people,” said Fernanda Castro of the Mexican feminist organization *Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida* (GIRE) [to the Associated Press](#).

The tone was not celebratory everywhere, though, noted the AP. In Argentina, the news wire service said, feminists fear the potential election of right-wing candidate Javier Milei as president.

The Latin American abortion rights movement, which involves groups in several countries coordinating together for greater legal access to safe abortions, is known as the “[green wave](#).” The AP [noted](#) that Brazil may be next in line to decriminalize abortions, with a few exceptions.