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FRONTEX DRONES HELPED LIBYA AND TUNISIA FORCIBLY RETURN AT LEAST 33,000 PEOPLE IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

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EU Observer (3 November 2026)

Nikolaj NIELSEN

Aerial surveillance by the EUs border agency Frontex over the central Mediterranean has directly led to the interception and return of over 33,000 people to Libya and Tunisia between late 2018 and 2024.

The findings, revealed on Tuesday (3 November) by the EU-funded Liminal project, comes as the Warsaw-based Frontex is set to get more deportation powers and greater pre-frontier intelligence gathering capabilities.

In 2021, the year with the most complete data available, detection by Frontexs aircraft accounted for at least 36 percent of all recorded pushbacks, according to Liminal.

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Kaynak/Source: