# UK-based migrant smuggler ran £12 million Mediterranean operation from taxpayer-funded flat



When Ahmed Ebid, an Egyptian-born fisherman, arrived in the UK in October 2022, he secured a position that many might envy: a taxpayer-funded flat in the desirable Isleworth area of southwest London, home to a family environment and a vibrant community. However, his story took a dark turn that has raised significant concerns about immigration policies and the exploitation of asylum systems.

Upon settling in the UK with his wife and daughter, Ebid was able to take advantage of the accommodation while simultaneously orchestrating a large-scale migrant smuggling operation, reportedly worth £12 million. Inhabitants of high-risk regions such as Libya were offered a perilous journey to Europe facilitated by Ebid, who had a prior criminal record in Italy involving drug smuggling.

Described as 'Captain Ahmed' on social media, Ebid's criminal activities were extensive. Over a series of operations, he is believed to have masterminded the illegal transportation of approximately 3,800 migrants across the Mediterranean on overcrowded fishing vessels. Tragically, the Mediterranean crossing is notorious for its dangers, with nearly 25,000 people reported dead since 2014, highlighting the humanitarian crisis underlying such operations.

The National Crime Agency (NCA), often referred to as Britain's equivalent of the FBI, gained crucial evidence linking Ebid to these smuggling operations. Investigators discovered that distress calls from the overcrowded vessels were linked to his London-based phone number. Using sophisticated surveillance techniques, the NCA gathered intelligence that indicated Ebid was not just a figurehead but a 'virtual skipper', closely managing the logistics of the smuggling from his flat.

Ebid's tactics revealed a calculated approach to evading law enforcement, incorporating coded language and operational secrecy. He instructed associates to refer to boats as 'cars' and made chilling declarations regarding dissent, including threats to physically punish anyone who disobeyed his orders. The NCA uncovered notebooks and various electronic devices during a raid in June 2023, further solidifying their case against him. Ultimately, he faced charges of conspiracy to assist unlawful entry into the European Union, having pleaded guilty to his involvement in the operation.

What stands out in this case is not only the extent of Ebid's smuggling network but also the broader implications for immigration policies in the UK. This case aligns with a strategic shift by the government under Sir Keir Starmer to combat smuggling at its source rather than merely responding to challenges within Britain or on European shores. Recent efforts have seen British authorities coordinate with their Italian counterparts to dismantle these networks upstream, aiming to prevent the exploitation of vulnerable individuals seeking a better life in Europe.

Rick Jones, a deputy director at the NCA, emphasized that the fight against organised immigration crime extends beyond the English Channel, stating that they aim to disrupt and dismantle these networks wherever they operate. This coordinated effort has already resulted in several arrests in Libya, signalling a commitment to tackling this complex and often dangerous issue on multiple fronts.

As Ebid awaits sentencing, his case encapsulates the grave risks associated with human trafficking and poses critical questions about the integrity of asylum processes. With the ongoing debate regarding immigration policy in the UK, the combination of Ebid’s criminal enterprise and the response from law enforcement underscores the urgent need for more effective strategies to safeguard vulnerable migrants while combatting organised crime.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraph 5
3. Paragraphs 3, 5, 6
4. Paragraphs 5, 6
5. Paragraphs 5, 6
6. Paragraphs 5, 6
7. Paragraph 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14724227/asylum-seeker-captain-migrant-smuggling-taxpayer-funded-flat.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ansa.it/english/news/world/2023/06/24/migrant-trafficker-in-italo-uk-intelligence-op-indicted_fc5c4faa-61ee-46e5-a84a-1464612c3289.html> - On June 24, 2023, British authorities formally indicted Ahmed Ramadan Mohamad Eibd, a 40-year-old Egyptian migrant trafficker, following a joint intelligence operation between Italy and the UK. Eibd is accused of orchestrating numerous crossings of fishing boats from Libya to Italy, operating from his residence in London. The operation highlights the ongoing efforts to combat migrant smuggling networks active between Libya, Egypt, and Italy. ([ansa.it](https://www.ansa.it/english/news/world/2023/06/24/migrant-trafficker-in-italo-uk-intelligence-op-indicted_fc5c4faa-61ee-46e5-a84a-1464612c3289.html?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/illegal-immigrant-who-came-to-uk-on-small-boat-helped-smuggle-thousands-of-others-into-europe-from-london-home-13330976> - Ahmed Ramadan Mohamad Eibd, an Egyptian national, arrived in the UK illegally in October 2022. From his west London home, he played a pivotal role in a £12 million operation, facilitating the smuggling of approximately 3,781 migrants from North Africa to Italy. Eibd provided boats, crews, and technical advice during Mediterranean crossings, maintaining communication with criminal associates throughout the journeys. ([news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/illegal-immigrant-who-came-to-uk-on-small-boat-helped-smuggle-thousands-of-others-into-europe-from-london-home-13330976?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2023/06/25/british-court-charges-egyptian-man-with-running-human-trafficking-operation/> - On June 25, 2023, a British court charged Ahmed Eibd, a 40-year-old Egyptian, with running a human trafficking operation. Eibd is accused of masterminding the smuggling of thousands of migrants across the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy. The charges followed an international investigation involving UK and Italian authorities, highlighting the extensive nature of the smuggling network. ([thenationalnews.com](https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2023/06/25/british-court-charges-egyptian-man-with-running-human-trafficking-operation/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/49921/uk-arrests-suspect-accused-of-masterminded-smuggling-of-thousands-of-migrants-into-eu> - The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) arrested Ahmed Ramadan Mohamad Eibd, a 40-year-old Egyptian national, near his west London home. Eibd is accused of masterminding the smuggling of thousands of migrants from North Africa into Europe. The arrest followed an international investigation involving UK and Italian authorities, underscoring the collaborative efforts to dismantle human trafficking networks operating across the Mediterranean. ([infomigrants.net](https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/49921/uk-arrests-suspect-accused-of-masterminded-smuggling-of-thousands-of-migrants-into-eu?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.voanews.com/a/uk-police-charge-egyptian-over-mediterranean-migrant-crossings-/7151403.html> - British police charged Ahmed Ramadan Mohamad Eibd, a 40-year-old Egyptian, with facilitating illegal immigration. Eibd is accused of masterminding the smuggling of thousands of migrants across the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy. The charges followed an international investigation involving UK and Italian authorities, highlighting the collaborative efforts to combat human trafficking networks operating across the Mediterranean. ([voanews.com](https://www.voanews.com/a/uk-police-charge-egyptian-over-mediterranean-migrant-crossings-/7151403.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/man-charged-with-organizing-illegal-boat-crossings-from-africa-to-europe/> - The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) charged Ahmed Ramadan Mohamad Eibd, a 40-year-old Egyptian national, with people smuggling offenses. Eibd is accused of organizing illegal boat crossings from Libya to Italy, each involving hundreds of migrants. The charges followed an international investigation involving UK and Italian authorities, underscoring the collaborative efforts to dismantle human trafficking networks operating across the Mediterranean. ([hstoday.us](https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/man-charged-with-organizing-illegal-boat-crossings-from-africa-to-europe/?utm_source=openai))