

ABC's Good Morning America

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7:01:04 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Deadly Chaos]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Shocking images. Chaos as thousands of people are seen swimming around border fences to claim asylum in Europe. Spain deploying its military. Why this is happening.

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7:11:08 a.m.

1 minute and 13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Thousands of Migrants Rush Spanish Border]

REBECCA JARVIS: We turn now to breaking news overnight. Chaos overseas as thousands of migrants surge into a Spanish enclave in north Africa. Many swimming there, some losing that their lives in the attempt. Chief international correspondent James Longman is tracking the latest. Good morning, James.

JAMES LONGMAN: Yeah, good morning, Rebecca. These images are shocking. Almost 50,000 people are now known to have rushed the border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta and the situation is still not fully under control. This is on the northern tip of Africa and the only land border with Europe and so these people are doing this to claim asylum and you can see thousands of people swimming around border fences or using boats, a number of them we know have drowned. Officials say they know about at least 19 people who have died. Spain has deployed its military try to restore order here. Why is this happening now? Well, it could be for a few reasons. Only a few weeks ago, Spain's supreme court ruled those who reached the area by sea cannot be immediately returned without due process. The border has been a flashpoint in the past. Morocco does not recognize Ceuta as Spanish territory and it uses this as leverage in what is often a strained relationship. It's unclear if any of these people will be able to claim asylum or reach mainland Europe, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: It is a dramatic development. Okay, James, thanks very much.