

CBS Mornings

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7:01:00 a.m. [TEASE]

6 seconds

MICHAEL GEORGE [on *CBS News Mornings*]: Spain has mobilized its military after thousands of immigrants from Morocco broke through border fences.

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7:09:57 a.m.

2 minutes and 20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Thousands of Migrants Swarm Morocco-Spain Border]

NATALIE MORALES: Well, the world's latest immigration crisis is a long way from the U.S. Happening right now in North Africa, thousands of migrants hoping to get to Europe have swarmed over the border between Morocco and two tiny Spanish territories in just the past two days. At least 24 people have died, some of them swimming to get there. Aidan Stretch is at their intended destination, the southern coast of Spain.

AIDIAN STRETCH: Good morning. Spain's government has deployed its army as migrants have overwhelmed its border with Morocco in northern Africa. Over the last 48 hours, thousands of people, most of them Moroccans have made the dangerous swim around sea walls and climbed fences separating Morocco from the Spanish territories of Ceuta and Melilla. The two enclaves sit on Morocco's northern coast, but are Spanish territory, making them the European Union's only land borders with Africa. Local officials have blamed the surge on a recent Spanish Supreme Court ruling, which makes it harder to turn away migrants arriving from Morocco by sea. Crossing the border does not mean free movement across Europe. To get across the channels where we are now in mainland Spain, migrants would have to pass additional border controls. Still, the crossings have drawn scrutiny from conservative leaders across Europe, including Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni, who said she is prepared to take extraordinary measures to defend Italy's borders and its citizens. This is not the first time that Spain has faced a crisis like this. In 2021, Moroccan authorities relaxed border enforcement following a diplomatic dispute with Spain, allowing 6,000 migrants to cross into Souta in a single day. Back to you.

NATE BURLESON: Aidan Stretch in southern Spain, thank you.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: So, we just got a statement from the Prime Minister of Spain, who says that they're speeding up repatriation of the migrants who have entered Ceuta, irregularly since

yesterday. But – and we should note that a country has the right and the obligation to control its borders –

MORALES: Right.

DUTHIERS: – but when you watch thousands of people like you’re watching here on your screens –

BURLESON: Right.

DUTHIERS: – willing to risk their death, willing to risk drowning just for the chance of a better life, it’s also worth asking, “What are they running for?”

MORALES: Right.

BURLESON: That is true.

MORALES: And this is part of Spain – Cueta – this is like a 10 miles swim –

DUTHIERS: – right.

MORALES: – as well. So, you imagine the degree of danger involved. Look at these little kids on floaters out there. It’s horrific.

DUTHIERS: You have to think to yourself –

MORALES: Right.

DUTHIERS: – no one wakes up and says, “Today I want to risk my life swimming to another country.”

BURLESON: Yeah.

DUTHIERS: People only do that when they feel the alternative is worse.

MORALES: Absolutely, in desperation.

BURLESON: Yep, well said.