

# Denmark to fund new limb for shot pirate

**Nigerian who lost leg in  
a fight with navy is  
given residency deal and  
assistance to find work**

**James Rothwell**

A NIGERIAN pirate who lost his leg in a shoot-out with Denmark's navy will have his new artificial limb funded by the Danish taxpayer as part of a residency deal granted by the government. Lucky Frances, who lost a gunfight with the Danish navy in 2021, will receive an education plan, guidance on

employment and an "integration contract" to ensure that he becomes a productive member of society. The Right-wing Danish People's Party (DF) said the decision made a mockery of the country's migration and security policy.

Mikkel Bjørn, the DF's integration spokesman, said: "This is absolutely absurd. That man should never have been in Denmark and to imagine that he can now be meaningfully integrated in Denmark is completely beyond the pale."

Frances' run-in with the navy has gripped Denmark since 2021 when he was severely wounded in a firefight with the Danish frigate Esbern Snare in

the Gulf of Guinea. The vessel was taking part in international anti-piracy efforts. Four of his fellow pirates were killed but Frances himself received medical treatment, including the amputation of his bullet-riddled leg. Three other survivors were set free by the Danish navy.

Frances was brought back to Denmark due to his severe injuries, where he recovered before being found guilty of endangering Danish lives. Nonetheless, he was spared jail and later attempted to claim asylum in Denmark.

His application sparked a lengthy and complex government process, which culminated in him receiving a resi-

dence permit and the integration plan. This includes a language programme so that Frances can become fluent in Danish, as well as assistance in finding a job

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as an amputee, BT, a local news outlet, reported. He will also receive an allowance for his new leg. Frances must also sign an "integration contract", which "contains a number of set goals that he

must meet in order to be integrated and otherwise continue to receive his self-support and repatriation benefits", the news outlet reported.

Frances' case is so far estimated to have cost the public 4.2 million Danish Kroner (£300,000) in addition to his medical bills, according to DR, another local media outlet.

The former pirate said last year that he initially wanted to recover in Denmark before returning to Nigeria, but later changed his mind and applied for asylum.

"Going back to Africa will not be good for me," he said. "I have thought about my situation. I have also spoken

to my family and explained to them about my physical condition. They are okay with me applying for asylum, but if my daughter is not completely satisfied, even less pleased than Lucky's daughter, with the state's generosity."

Steffen Larsen, a spokesman for Denmark's Liberal Alliance, said the case shows that [famous Danish comedian/writer] Erik Balling's Denmark is not as well. It looks like a satirical story in an Olsen Banden film.

"After we have shot the man's leg off in battle, we must then send him to a work trial and teach him Danish. I am lucky with that."