

# NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES - AUGUST 5, 2020

## LATEST STATISTICS

### Number Of Confirmed Covid-19 Cases Among ICE Staff And Detained Immigrants

By U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement – August 5, 2020

As of **July 31, 2020**, the total detained population is: **21,888**<sup>1</sup>. There have been **862** confirmed cases of COVID-19 among those in ICE custody as of **August 4, 2020**<sup>2</sup>. To date, there have been **21,085** total detainees tested.

Custody/AOR/Facility	Confirmed cases currently under isolation or monitoring	Detainee deaths <sup>3</sup>	Total confirmed COVID-19 cases <sup>4</sup>
<b>Atlanta Field Office</b>			
Charleston County Detention Center	2	0	2
Columbia Regional Care Center	1	0	1
Folkston ICE Processing Center	39	0	41
Irwin County Detention Center	21	0	29
Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center	0	0	1
Stewart Detention Center	20	1	153
<b>Boston Field Office</b>			
Bristol County Detention Center	0	0	1
Franklin County House of Corrections	5	0	7
Strafford County Corrections	2	0	2
Wyatt Detention Center	0	0	2
<b>Buffalo Field Office</b>			
Buffalo (Batavia) Service Processing Center	0	0	49
<b>Chicago Field Office</b>			
Chase County Detention Facility	4	0	1
Lincoln County Detention Center	0	0	1
McHenry County Adult Correctional Facility	2	0	3
Pulaski County Detention Center	3	0	51
<b>Dallas Field Office</b>			
Bluebonnet Detention Facility	7	0	293
Johnson County Law Enforcement Center	1	0	1
Kay County Detention Center	1	0	1
Moore Detention Center	11	0	20
Prairieland Detention Facility	20	0	70
Rolling Plains Detention Center	0	0	55
<b>Denver Field Office</b>			
Aurora Contract Detention Facility	3	0	20
<b>Detroit Field Office</b>			
Calhoun County Correctional Center	3	0	7

Custody/AOR/Facility	Confirmed cases currently under isolation or monitoring	Detainee deaths <sup>3</sup>	Total confirmed COVID-19 cases <sup>4</sup>
<b>Detroit Field Office Cont'd</b>			
Morrow County Correctional Facility	0	0	48
Saint Clair County Jail	2	0	10
<b>El Paso Field Office</b>			
Cibola County Correctional Center	1	0	1
El Paso Service Processing Center	10	0	165
Otero County Processing Center	8	0	150
Torrance County Detention Center	0	0	55
<b>Houston Field Office</b>			
Houston Contract Detention Facility	2	0	124
IAH Polk Adult Detention Facility	2	0	18
Joe Corley Detention Center	9	0	50
Montgomery Processing Center (Houston)	0	0	206
<b>Los Angeles Field Office</b>			
Adelanto ICE Processing Center	3	0	11
<b>Miami Field Office</b>			
Baker County Detention Center	0	0	3
Broward Transitional Center	28	0	59
Glades County Detention Center	11	1	149
Krome North Service Processing Center	34	0	132
Wakulla County Jail	1	0	2
<b>Newark Field Office</b>			
Elizabeth Detention Center	0	0	18
Essex County Jail	4	0	8
<b>New Orleans Field Office</b>			
Adams County Correctional Center	5	0	41
Alexandria Staging Facility	32	0	112
Allen Parish Detention Center	0	0	1
Catahoula Correctional Center	14	0	116
Etowah County Jail	19	0	21
Jackson Parish Correctional	3	0	5
LaSalle ICE Processing Center - Jena	2	0	20
LaSalle ICE Processing Center - Olla	14	0	23
Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center	32	0	63
Richwood Correctional Center	5	0	70
River Correctional Center	7	0	11

Custody/AOR/Facility	Confirmed cases currently under isolation or monitoring	Detainee deaths <sup>3</sup>	Total confirmed COVID-19 cases <sup>4</sup>
<b>New Orleans Field Office Cont'd</b>			
South Louisiana Correctional Center	3	0	3
Winn Correctional Center	21	0	149
<b>New York City Field Office</b>			
Bergen County Jail	1	0	3
Hudson County Jail	5	0	14
<b>Philadelphia Field Office</b>			
Pike County Correctional Facility	0	0	22
York County Prison	0	0	2
<b>Phoenix Field Office</b>			
CCA Florence Correctional Center	2	0	18
Eloy Federal Contract Facility	0	0	248
Florence Detention Center	10	0	59
La Palma Correctional Facility	12	0	119
<b>Salt Lake City Field Office</b>			
Henderson Detention Center	4	0	4
Nevada Southern Detention Center	3	0	10
Nye County Jail	29	0	32
Washington County Jail	1	0	2
<b>San Antonio Field Office</b>			
El Valle Detention Facility	21	0	22
Karnes County Residential Center	17	0	72
Limestone County Detention Center	3	0	3
Port Isabel Detention Center	23	0	130
Rio Grande Detention Center	5	0	5
South Texas Family Residential Center (Dilley)	3	0	3
South Texas ICE Processing Center (Pearsall)	14	0	145
Webb County Detention Center (CCA)	51	0	57
<b>San Diego Field Office</b>			
Imperial Regional Detention Facility	0	0	2
Otay Mesa Detention Center (San Diego CDF)	0	1	166
San Luis Regional Detention Center	1	0	10
<b>San Francisco Field Office</b>			
Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center	9	0	9
<b>Seattle Field Office</b>			
Tacoma ICE Processing Center	2	0	8

Custody/AOR/Facility	Confirmed cases currently under isolation or monitoring	Detainee deaths <sup>3</sup>	Total confirmed COVID-19 cases <sup>4</sup>
<b>St. Paul Field Office</b>			
Freeborn County Adult Detention Center	0	0	2
Linn County Jail	2	0	2
Polk County Jail	1	0	12
<b>Washington D.C. Field Office</b>			
Caroline Detention Facility	1	0	5
Immigration Centers of America - Farmville	225	0	290
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4,131</b>

<sup>1</sup> ICE's FY 2019 Average Daily Population was 50,165.

<sup>2</sup> "Currently under isolation or monitoring" includes detainees who tested positive for COVID-19 and are currently in ICE custody under isolation or monitoring. This number excludes detainees who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and were either returned to the general population after a discontinuation of medical monitoring/isolation or are no longer in ICE custody.

<sup>3</sup> "Detainee deaths" includes those who have died after testing positive for COVID-19 while in custody; COVID-19 may not be the official cause of death.

<sup>4</sup> "Total confirmed COVID-19 cases" is the cumulative total of detainees who have tested positive for COVID-19 while in ICE custody since testing began in February 2020. Some detainees may no longer be in ICE custody or may have since tested negative.

\*\*\*Data last reviewed/updated: 8/5/2020

**There have been 45 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among ICE employees working in ICE detention facilities. Data updated on 6/18/2020 at 4:55pm.**

1 at Adelanto ICE Processing Center (Adelanto, CA)  
 15 at Alexandria Staging Facility (Alexandria, LA)  
 2 at Aurora Contract Detention Facility (Aurora, CO)  
 1 in Bergen County Jail (Hackensack, NJ)  
 1 at Butler County Jail (Hamilton, OH)  
 1 at El Paso Processing Center (El Paso, TX)  
 2 at Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility (Elizabeth, NJ)  
 1 at Eloy Detention Center (Eloy, AZ)

1 at Essex County Correctional Facility (Newark, NJ)  
 1 at Florence Correctional Center (Florence, AZ)  
 2 at Houston Contract Detention Facility (Houston, TX)  
 1 at Hudson County Jail (Kearny, NJ)  
 2 at La Salle ICE Processing Center (Jena, AL)  
 11 at Otay Mesa Detention Center (San Diego, CA)  
 2 at Stewart Detention Center (Lumpkin, GA)  
 1 at T. Don Hutto Residential Center (Taylor, TX)

**There have been 153 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among ICE employees not assigned to detention facilities. Data updated on 6/18/2020 at 4:55pm.**

❖ Data Source: <https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus>

### Report: Deportation Flights By ICE Air

By Tom Cartwright – Witness at the Border – August 4, 2020

❖ In the midst of the global pandemic ICE Air continues to initiate and facilitate the seeding, spreading, and exporting of COVID within the U.S. web of 200 detention centers and to other countries through a total of 2,808 likely ICE Air flights including 1,760 domestic flights, and 536 deportation flights to 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

❖ To read the report go to:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e221cacff87ba2d2833cf54/t/5f29586fd82d5345dfac3b93/1596545146662/ICE+Air+Jul+Ytd\\_PDF.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e221cacff87ba2d2833cf54/t/5f29586fd82d5345dfac3b93/1596545146662/ICE+Air+Jul+Ytd_PDF.pdf)

### Proposal Update: Procedures For Asylum And Withholding Of Removal; Credible Fear And Reasonable Fear Review

A Proposed Rule by the Homeland Security Department and the Executive Office for Immigration Review on 6/15/2020

❖ The Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review issued new proposed rules on asylum on June 15, 2020 with comments on the rule due on July 15. The new proposed rules, if promulgated, would allow immigration judges to deny applications before the asylum-seeker can see a judge and raise standards for initial asylum interviews. Special thanks to the many individuals and organizations throughout the country who added to the reported 79,000 public comments recorded on the proposal.

❖ To read the proposal go to: [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/15/2020-12575/procedures-for-asylum-and-withholding-of-removal-credible-fear-and-reasonable-fear-review?utm\\_source=JFI+Week+in+Review+7%2F20%2F20+-+7%2F24%2F20&utm\\_campaign=Week+in+Review+6-12-20&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/15/2020-12575/procedures-for-asylum-and-withholding-of-removal-credible-fear-and-reasonable-fear-review?utm_source=JFI+Week+in+Review+7%2F20%2F20+-+7%2F24%2F20&utm_campaign=Week+in+Review+6-12-20&utm_medium=email)

## DETENTION CENTERS NEWS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### U.S. Won't Expel Migrant Children Detained In Texas Hotel

By Nomaan Merchant – Associated Press – July 27, 2020

- ❖ The administration has agreed not to expel a group of immigrant children it detained in a Texas hotel under an emergency declaration citing the coronavirus and will instead allow them to seek to remain in the U.S., the administration said Monday [July 27]. The move comes days after The Associated Press (AP) first reported on the U.S. government's secretive practice of detaining unaccompanied children in hotels before rapidly deporting them during the virus pandemic. Government data obtained by AP showed the U.S. had detained children nearly 200 times over two months in three Hampton Inn & Suites hotels in Arizona and two Texas border cities. But the administration has not said it will stop using hotels to detain children. The legal groups that sued Friday [July 24] night said they still plan to fight the larger practice in court. Their agreement only covers 17 people known to have been detained as of Thursday [July 23] at the Hampton Inn in McAllen. After the hotel's owner said Friday [July 24] it would end reservations of rooms used for child detention, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) removed the children from the hotel but refused to say where it had taken them. Now, immigration authorities will transfer the children to shelters operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where they will have access to lawyers and should eventually be placed with family sponsors as they pursue asylum cases or other immigration relief to try to remain in the country. The legal groups withdrew their request Sunday [July 25] for a temporary restraining order. Federal anti-trafficking laws and a two-decade-old court settlement that governs the treatment of migrant children normally require that most children be sent to shelters operated by HHS. The shelters are licensed by the states where they're located and generally have bedrooms, recreation areas, and schooling. Instead, more than 2,000 children have been expelled since March, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a declaration allowing immigration agencies to effectively shut down the asylum process out of concern about the spread of COVID-19. The AP found that contractors paid by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement have held children as young as 1 in Hampton Inns. ICE called the contractors from MVM Inc. "transportation specialists" and refused to confirm whether they had passed FBI background checks or had backgrounds in child care. Instead, it said the contractors were "non-law enforcement staff members trained to work with minors and to ensure that all aspects of the transport or stay are compliant" with the court settlement known as the Flores agreement. A spokeswoman for Hilton, which owns the Hampton Inn brand, said franchisees owned all three Hampton Inns and the others in Phoenix and El Paso, Texas, would also stop child detention in its hotels. Hilton said in a statement that the company expected all of its franchisees "to reject business that would use a hotel in this way."
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/us-wont-expel-migrant-children-detained-in-texas-hotel/2020/07/27/b25efc54-d06d-11ea-826b-cc394d824e35\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/us-wont-expel-migrant-children-detained-in-texas-hotel/2020/07/27/b25efc54-d06d-11ea-826b-cc394d824e35_story.html)



Migrants peak out of the window of the fourth floor of a Hampton Inn in McAllen, Texas on Thursday July 23, 2020.  
Photo Credit: Dominic Anthony Walsh/Texas Standard

### U.S. Government Sued After Report Of Detained Migrant Children At Hampton Inn Hotels

By Mary Jo Pitzl – Arizona Republic – July 27, 2020

- ❖ Legal advocacy groups have sued the U.S. government to try to stop the expulsion of children believed to be detained in Arizona and Texas hotel rooms by the administration under an emergency declaration citing the novel coronavirus. An Associated Press report described three Hampton Inn & Suites hotels where a federal contractor has held unaccompanied minors awaiting deportation, which has been fast-tracked amid the global pandemic. The report described children as young as 1 being held for days at a time in hotels before being deported, a service provided by federal transportation contractor MVM Inc. Records showed hotels had been used nearly 200 times in Phoenix, El Paso and McAllen, Texas. The owners of the Hampton Inn & Suites in McAllen, Texas, said on Friday [July 25] night that they had ended any reservations on rooms used to detain minors. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed that all children had been taken away from the McAllen hotel, two days after the Associated Press report. "The Trump administration is holding children in secret in hotels, refusing to give lawyers access to them so it can expel them back to danger without even a chance for the children to show they warrant asylum," said Lee Gelernt, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed suit on behalf of the Texas Civil Rights Project. Gelernt said suing on behalf of unnamed children was necessary "because the government is refusing to provide any information about the children." The lawsuit was filed in Washington federal court, and Gelernt said he would seek to include any minors detained at the hotel as of Thursday [July 23].
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/07/27/arizona-rocky-history-shelters-detained-immigrant-kids/5517309002/>

## FAMILY SEPARATIONS

### Revealed: Rod Rosenstein Advised There Was No Age Limit On Child Separations

By Stephanie Kirchgaessner – *The Guardian* – July 23, 2020

- ❖ Rod Rosenstein, the former deputy attorney general, advised U.S. attorneys implementing the 2018 zero-tolerance policy that there could be no blanket ban on prosecuting migrant parents who had children under the age of five, the *Guardian* has learned. The comments on a conference call in May 2018 privately shocked some border state prosecutors because, in effect, it meant that no child was too young to be separated from its parents under the policy, which called for all migrants entering the U.S. illegally to face criminal prosecution. The family separations that followed are seen today by experts as one of the gravest domestic human rights violations to have occurred under the administration. The policy was in place for six weeks and resulted in the separation of 2,814 children from their parents and guardians, about 105 of whom were under the age of five and 1,033 under 10. Rosenstein issued his guidance to U.S. attorneys from states on the Mexican border about two weeks after the then attorney general, Jeff Sessions, issued an order that there would be an “escalated effort” to prosecute all illegal entries into the U.S. along the southern border, according to sources familiar with the matter who spoke to the *Guardian* under the condition of anonymity. Previously, under the Obama administration, most families who crossed the border illegally were detained together if they were arrested or were released pending an immigration trial, but were only separated if authorities deemed children to be in danger. Under the zero-tolerance policy, hundreds of parents were deported to their home countries without their children and the family separations were later deemed by a federal judge in California to be unconstitutional, “brutal” and “offensive”. The government’s conduct, Judge Dana Sabraw said, arbitrarily tore at the “sacred bond between parent and child”. The policy was in place from 6 April 2018 to 20 June 2018 when, facing intense legal and congressional pressure, it was ended by an executive order by Donald Trump.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/23/child-separation-migrants-prosecutors-rod-rostenstein>



DACA recipients and supporters rallied in celebration of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the program last month outside of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Phoenix.

Photo credit: Thomas Hawthorne/The Republic via REUTERS

## DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

### Trump Administration Won't Accept New DACA Applications

By Sophia Tareen and Elliot Spagat – *The Associated Press* – July 29, 2020

- ❖ The administration said Tuesday [July 28] that it will reject new applications and shorten renewal periods for an Obama-era program [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program] that shields young people from deportation, taking a defiant stance after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to let it be scrapped completely. The move, detailed in a memo from Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, ended a month of uncertainty about how the administration would respond to its Supreme Court defeat in an election year that has President Donald Trump looking for ways to energize his base. Wolf said the administration may try to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program again, casting it as a law enforcement issue that could contribute to illegal immigration. He said the federal government needs more time to consider next steps, presenting the measures as a temporary change. About 650,000 people are part of DACA, which allows young immigrants who were brought to the country as children to legally work and shields them from deportation. Roughly 66,000 more would be eligible if new applications were accepted because they met the age requirement — 15 — after the administration tried to end the program in 2017, according to the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute. The government will deny all new applications, limit renewals to one year instead of two, and deny requests by DACA recipients to visit their home countries unless there are “exceptional circumstances.” Recipients may seek permission to return home for family events, such as funerals or weddings, and other reasons, though the administration has generally denied them. The Supreme Court ruled last month [June] that Trump failed to follow rule-making procedures when he tried to end the program, but the justices kept a window open for him to try again. The White House has been devising plans to make another push to end DACA, though it was not immediately clear whether he would make the politically sensitive move before November’s election. Democratic rival Joe Biden wants to keep DACA unconditionally.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/4410f751345c305676ba82ff1521ed6c>

## MIGRANTS IN MEXICO

### U.N. To Install Asylum-Seeker Housing In Mexico

By Alana Wise – NPR – July 27, 2020

- ❖ The United Nations will provide temporary housing units for asylum-seekers in Mexico experiencing protracted waits for a hearing to gain entry to the United States, the agency announced on Monday [July 27]. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees is sending 48 one-room Refugee Housing Units to help alleviate a current housing shortage, according to the Associated Press. Many migrants in the country have found themselves without places to live after a number of shelters stopped accepting new arrivals because of the coronavirus. Activists in Mexico have called for agency intervention to provide the necessary precautions for unhoused asylum-seekers and deportees from the U.S. to help avoid spreading the virus within shelters. "Our priority is the health and the rights of migrant persons who find themselves housed at our shelters and of the communities around them, and we expect commitments from the authorities as well to take action regarding this public health situation which is important for everyone," spokesman Irineo Mujica said in a statement.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/27/895966483/un-to-install-asylum-seekers-housing-in-mexico>

### Migrant Camp Dwindles As Coronavirus Pulses On Both Sides Of The Border

By Silvia Foster-Frau – The San Antonio Express-News – July 22, 2020

- ❖ An encampment of U.S. asylum-seekers in Matamoros has dwindled to less than half its size as the coronavirus pulses across the Americas. Migrants are leaving the camp, across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, out of fear and futility as immigration courts close indefinitely and cases of COVID-19 began to appear in their community. Some are going to other parts of Mexico to start a life there. Others are returning to the violence and persecution from which they fled in their home countries. As recent as last month [June], the camp of tents and tarps was home to 2,500 asylum-seekers, stuck in the nearly defunct U.S. "Remain in Mexico" (RIM) program. But only about 1,000 migrants are left there. A census by the nonprofit Angry Tias and Abuelas counted 960 migrants at the camp, including at least 300 under the age of 17. An increasing number of migrants are quarantined in the camp. After the first positive coronavirus case, at least four more migrants have tested positive, with many more awaiting test results. Nearly two-dozen are in isolation. Some volunteers think they may have to start "reverse quarantine" procedures - where those who are healthy are isolated from the majority-sick population. On Friday [July 17], the Department of Justice announced that all courts for Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) - the government's term for its "Remain in Mexico" (RIM) policy — will be closed indefinitely citing coronavirus risks.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/us-world/border-mexico/article/Migrant-camp-shrinks-as-hope-for-asylum-dwindles-15426947.php>

## COURT RULINGS/HEARINGS DURING COVID-19

### Judge Declines To Order Release Of Detained Migrant Families

By Nomaan Merchant – The Associated Press – July 22, 2020

- ❖ A federal judge on Wednesday [July 22] declined to order the release of roughly 300 migrant parents and children held in U.S. family detention centers despite what he called immigration authorities' "shortcomings" in controlling the coronavirus. Lawyers for the families had asked U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg to issue a preliminary injunction forcing the release of the families because they fear being infected by the coronavirus. More than 3,700 cases of the COVID-19 virus have been confirmed in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities. The families detained at three facilities in Texas and Pennsylvania and their lawyers say ICE hasn't done enough to protect them. U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee in California last month [June] described the family detention centers as "on fire" due to the virus and ordered the release of children detained for more than 20 days. Her order didn't cover the children's parents, and lawyers had asked Boasberg to free parents as well. Advocates say they're worried ICE will ask parents to give up their children to family sponsors and remain detained themselves or waive their children's rights to release under Gee's order. Boasberg said ICE had shown it was adopting guidance to provide masks, disinfect surfaces, and isolate anyone who had come into contact with an infected person, though he said the agency "continues to fall short of full compliance with its policies in practice." He also cited agency statistics that while dozens of parents and children have tested positive at two family detention centers in Texas, all but one were people newly brought to the facility who likely wouldn't have contracted the virus inside. Ordering the release of all people from what ICE calls family residential centers was too broad an action, he said.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/7950caf56c4d47abf6be34f553556e32>

## Canadian Court Rules Invalid 'Safe Third Country' With The U.S.

By Steve Scherer and Moira Warburton – Reuters – July 22, 2020

- ❖ A Canadian court on Wednesday [July 22] ruled invalid a pact that compels asylum seekers trying to enter Canada via the American border to seek sanctuary first in the United States, saying their detention there violates their human rights. Under the so-called Safe Third Country Agreement between the two neighbors, asylum seekers at a formal border crossing traveling in either direction are turned back and told to apply for asylum in the country in which they first arrived. Lawyers for refugees who had been turned away at the Canadian border challenged the agreement, saying the United States does not qualify as a “safe” country under U.S. President Donald Trump. More than 50,000 people have illegally crossed the Canada-U.S. border to file refugee claims over the past four years, walking over ditches and on empty roads along the world’s longest undefended border. Federal court judge Ann Marie McDonald ruled that the agreement was in violation of a section of Canada’s Charter of Rights that says laws or state actions that interfere with life, liberty and security must conform to the principles of fundamental justice. She suspended her decision for six months to give Parliament a chance to respond to the ruling, which is not final and can be appealed to the Federal Court of Appeal and then the Supreme Court if necessary.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://in.reuters.com/article/canada-refugee-safethird-idINKCN24N2I2#:~:text=Asylum%20seekers%20cross%20the%20border%20from%20New%20York,Road%2C%20in%20Hemmingford%2C%20Quebec%2C%20Canada%20March%2019%2C%202020.>

## House Democrats Just Passed A Bill To Repeal Trump’s Travel Bans

By Nicole Narea – VOX – July 22, 2020

- ❖ House Democrats passed a bill on Wednesday [July 22] that would repeal the travel ban on citizens of 13 countries [Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, North Korea, Myanmar, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania] and limit the President’s authority to issue such sweeping bans in the future. The bill No Ban Act, will strengthen existing prohibitions on religious discrimination in visa applications, which are guaranteed by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Another Democrat-led immigration bill also cleared the House Wednesday [July 22]: The Access to Counsel Act, which would allow immigrants to contact an attorney or other legal service provider when they are detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Immigrants taken into custody currently do not have any such assurance.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.vox.com/2020/7/22/21332511/no-ban-act-travel-ban-bill-trump#:~:text=The%20No%20Ban%20Act%20has%20a%20narrow%20exception,%E2%80%94an%20exception%20that%20Republicans%20have%20argued%20>

## LAWSUITS

### Lawsuit Challenges Imminent Expulsion Of Migrant Children Previously Held At Texas Hotel

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez – CBS News – July 24, 2020

- ❖ Attorneys filed a lawsuit late Friday [July 24] to try to halt the imminent expulsion of a group of migrant children previously detained at a south Texas hotel. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. on behalf of an unknown number of children in U.S. government custody previously held at a hotel in McAllen, Texas. Citing a directive from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. immigration officials are attempting to expel the minors, who arrived at the southern border without their parents, to their home countries, the lawsuit said. The lawsuit said that immigration officials have declined to say how many children were being held at the McAllen hotel as of Thursday [July 23] and to provide their names. The advocates are also asking the federal court in Washington to require the Department of Homeland Security to allow the children an opportunity to talk to lawyers. The Texas Civil Rights Project, which has been identifying families and children U.S. officials seek to expel, joined Friday’s [July 24] lawsuit as the children’s “next friend.” The Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, Oxfam and the ACLU chapters in Texas and Washington, D.C., also served as counsel. Late Friday [July 24], Hilton confirmed that the hotel, the Hampton Inn & Suites in McAllen, was no longer housing any migrants in U.S. custody. The hotel giant said it was in the process of instructing all franchises and management companies to not rent rooms for the purposes of holding children and families in U.S. immigration custody. In June, Homeland Security officials transferred just 61 unaccompanied minors — or less than 4% of the more than 1,650 apprehensions that month — to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), according to government data first reported by CBS News. Before the CDC edict took effect, the agency received an average of more than 70 migrant children daily. Hotels in McAllen, Phoenix and El Paso were used more than 180 times in April and June to hold unaccompanied migrant minors, according to data obtained by CBS News and first reported by the Associated Press. At least 169 children in ICE custody, including infants, were booked in hotel rooms during those two months. The statistics, which the government provided to the National Center for Youth Law, did not include figures for May.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lawsuit-challenges-detention-of-migrant-children-at-texas-hotel-and-their-imminent-expulsion/>



## Trump Sued Over Attempt To Omit Unauthorized Immigrants From A Key Census Count

By Hansi Lo Wang – NPR – July 24, 2020

- ❖ The legal fight is heating up over President Trump's call to make an unprecedented change to the population numbers used to divide up seats in Congress among the states. Trump now faces a total of three new federal lawsuits that are joining ongoing legal challenges surrounding the 2020 census. A fourth lawsuit may be coming from California State Attorney General Xavier Becerra's office, which is planning to file a complaint against the Trump administration, Sarah Lovenheim, an adviser to Becerra, tells NPR. Groups led by Common Cause, a government watchdog group, launched the first federal lawsuit. Their complaint was filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Thursday [July 23], two days after Trump issued a memo calling to exclude unauthorized immigrants from the constitutionally mandated count of every person living in the country that is used to redistribute seats in the House of Representatives. On Friday [July 24], a New York state-led coalition of 20 states, plus some cities and other localities, filed a challenge in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. In their complaint, which cites NPR's reporting, the challengers allege constitutional violations, as well as a claim that the administration violated the Administrative Procedure Act by making an "arbitrary and capricious" decision to exclude unauthorized immigrants from the apportionment count when they don't have the data to reliably do so. In a third complaint, which also cites NPR's reporting, immigrant rights groups represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and New York Civil Liberties Union argue that the directives of Trump's memo also violate administrative law by effectively ordering the Census Bureau to produce population data in a way that has not gone through the proper rulemaking process. The Constitution — which empowers Congress, not the president, with final authority over the census — requires a once-a-decade count of the "whole number of persons in each state" to determine how to reapportion congressional seats and, by extension, Electoral College votes. Trump, however, has ordered information to be produced that would allow him to exclude the number of immigrants living in the U.S. without authorization from the latest state population counts that the president is legally required to deliver to Congress after the census is complete. If unauthorized immigrants are left out of the apportionment count, California, Florida and Texas are each likely to end up with one less House seat, while Alabama, Minnesota and Ohio are each likely to hold onto a seat they would have otherwise lost after the 2020 census, according to estimates the Pew Research Center released on Friday [July 24].
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/24/894322040/trump-sued-for-attempt-to-omit-unauthorized-immigrants-from-a-key-census-count>



Photo Credit: Al Jazeera

## DEVELOPING STORIES

### Opinion: Why Trump's Moves To Limit Immigration Hurts U.S. Companies And American Jobs

By Bilal Baloch – MarketWatch – July 25, 2020

- ❖ The Trump administration, at the urging of many U.S. states and universities, has rescinded its plan to strip foreign students of their U.S. visas. This was not the first time the president has taken shortsighted action against immigrants in an effort to "protect American jobs". This administration, along with the large swath of Americans who support protectionist policies, need to recognize that international students and H-1B workers are vital for the U.S. to remain competitive in the global economy. Many H-1B visa recipients become long-term contributors to the U.S., leading research, building communities, and growing companies. Immigrants offer significant advantages to companies. In our modern, globalized economy, business is borderless — new markets open up to U.S. industries every year. Without highly-skilled, qualified immigrants, American businesses would suffer. American companies have to contend with a growing number of foreign technology firms; if the U.S. restricts access to top talent, we are effectively asking American firms to continue the fight with one hand tied behind their back. Nearly half of all international students are studying STEM, and research has shown that H-1B workers fill employment gaps in many STEM occupations and expand job opportunities for all. In our modern economy, STEM graduates are essential — they fuel technological innovation and cross-sector growth. The U.S. needs to promote cohesion among people of all backgrounds and recognize that a society is strengthened by diversity, not weakened by it. Without these vital, skilled individuals, American companies and its economy will both suffer.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-trumps-moves-to-limit-immigration-hurts-us-companies-and-american-jobs-2020-07-23>

## U.S. Immigration Fees Set To Increase By \$500

By Fnr Tigg – Complex – August 2, 2020

- ❖ Seeking citizenship in America has just gotten \$500 more expensive thanks to the Trump administration. CNN

reported on Friday [July 31] that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has updated its fee structure after close to nine months of review. Now, the cost of online naturalization applications will jump from \$640 to \$1,160. This fee will cover the full cost to process the application and a proportional share of overall overhead costs which is a change from the previous policy. Along with raising the naturalization fee, America will also force those seeking asylum to pay \$50. Historically, the United States did not require people looking for asylum to pay a fee. But America now joins Australia, Fiji, and Iran as countries imposing fees on political refugees. These adjusted fees will go into effect on Oct. 2. They come as a response to the agency facing budget shortages and pending furloughs. The pandemic has forced the USCIS closed offices, halt services, and request for \$1.2 billion in emergency funds from Congress. Yet per a USCIS spokesperson, these fees are not related to the current budget crisis. The agency was reportedly losing \$4.1 million per business day before the pandemic, forcing these fees to hit the table for consideration nearly two years ago. The new fees also follow the administration's reveal that it would not accept new applicants for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects certain undocumented immigrants from deportation. Although the USCIS did not go forward with a proposed \$275 renewal fee for DACA recipients, the administration said it would adjust renewals to one year instead of two while it reviews the program.



'Immigration Nation' tells the stories of DHS workers, including ICE agents, and the immigrants, asylum seekers and undocumented residents affected by the Trump administration's hardline immigration policies. Photo Credit: Netflix

- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.complex.com/life/2020/08/us-immigration-fees-increase-500>

## Mass Furlough Of U.S. Immigration Officers Delayed Until End Of August

By Orion Rummier – Axios – July 24, 2020

- ❖ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has delayed furloughing about 13,400 employees until August 30, spokesperson Jessica Collins said in a statement on Friday [July 24]. The agency says it is trying to avert a financial crisis during the pandemic by cutting non-essential spending and in May called for \$1.2 billion in emergency funding from Congress. The agency says it would pay back congressional funds by adding a 10% surcharge to visa applications. The decision by USCIS leadership to delay furloughing roughly 70% of its officers is attributed to "[r]ecent assurances from Congress" and "an uptick in application and petition receipts," Collins notes. "This delay is intended to allow Congress enough time to act and provide USCIS with the funding needed in order to avert the administrative furlough all together," Collins said.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.axios.com/immigration-coronavirus-furlough-delay-e4ed1c5a-88de-4283-b6cb-e527643e0dac.html>

## Inside The Netflix Docuseries ICE Didn't Want You To See

By Yvonne Villarreal – Los Angeles Times – August 4, 2020

- ❖ Early in the first episode of new docuseries "Immigration Nation," a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official pulls out his phone and records a video inside the agency's New York City office, where a lone immigrant sits inside the processing room. It's the start of a weeklong operation to arrest undocumented immigrants. It's one of many fly-on-the-wall moments captured in the six-part Netflix series that gives a rare inside look at the machinery of ICE and the bureaucratic maze of the country's immigration system. Covering the spring of 2017 to the winter of 2019, "Immigration Nation" documents the implementation of President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration framework, a central theme in his 2016 campaign, and its effect on the migrants who must grapple with it — casting the lens on the enforcers and the immigrants. (None of the participants were compensated for their participation)
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/tv/story/2020-08-04/netflix-immigration-nation-shaul-schwarz-christina-clusiau>