

# NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES - SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

## LATEST STATISTICS

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

By U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement – September 2, 2020

As of **August 28, 2020**, the total detained population is: **20,713**<sup>1</sup>. There have been **835** confirmed cases of COVID-19 among those in ICE custody as of **August 31, 2020**<sup>2</sup>. To date, there have been **28,888** 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	0	0	2
Columbia Regional Care Center	0	0	1
Folkston ICE Processing Center	20	0	66
Irwin County Detention Center	11	0	42
Robert A. Deyton Detention Center	0	0	1
Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center	0	0	1
Stewart Detention Center	109	2	304
<b>Boston Field Office</b>			
Bristol County Detention Center	0	0	1
Franklin County House of Corrections	0	0	7
Strafford County Corrections	0	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	28	0	54
Lincoln County Detention Center	0	0	1
McHenry County Adult Correctional Facility	2	0	5
Pulaski County Detention Center	10	0	62
<b>Dallas Field Office</b>			
Bluebonnet Detention Facility	0	0	296
Johnson County Law Enforcement Center	1	0	1
Kay County Detention Center	0	0	1
Moore Detention Center	0	0	20
Prairieland Detention Facility	7	0	75
Rolling Plains Detention Center	0	0	55
<b>Denver Field Office</b>			
Aurora Contract Detention Facility	17	0	35

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</b>			
Calhoun County Correctional Center	1	0	13
Geauga County Jail	1	0	1
Morrow County Correctional Facility	0	0	48
Saint Clair County Jail	1	0	11
<b>El Paso Field Office</b>			
Cibola County Correctional Center	0	0	1
El Paso Service Processing Center	13	0	183
Otero County Processing Center	0	0	150
Torrance County Detention Center	0	0	55
<b>Houston Field Office</b>			
Coastal Bend Detention Center	12	0	12
Houston Contract Detention Facility	2	0	126
IAH Polk Adult Detention Facility	1	0	19
Joe Corley Detention Center	0	1	50
Montgomery Processing Center (Houston)	0	0	207
<b>Los Angeles Field Office</b>			
Adelanto ICE Processing Center	2	0	13
<b>Miami Field Office</b>			
Baker County Detention Center	1	0	4
Broward Transitional Center	19	0	110
Glades County Detention Center	5	1	154
Krome North Service Processing Center	10	0	173
Larkin Behavioral Health Center	0	0	2
San Juan Staging Facility	0	0	1
Wakulla County Jail	0	0	28
<b>Newark Field Office</b>			
Elizabeth Detention Center	0	0	18
Essex County Jail	0	0	8
<b>New Orleans Field Office</b>			
Adams County Correctional Center	25	0	67
Alexandria Staging Facility	14	0	133
Allen Parish Detention Center	0	0	10
Catahoula Correctional Center	1	0	117
Etowah County Jail	1	0	22
Jackson Parish Correctional	9	0	14

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>			
LaSalle ICE Processing Center - Jena	3	0	26
LaSalle ICE Processing Center - Olla	3	0	25
Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center	0	0	65
Richwood Correctional Center	4	0	77
River Correctional Center	6	0	17
South Louisiana Correctional Center	0	0	3
Winn Correctional Center	8	0	171
<b>New York City Field Office</b>			
Bergen County Jail	1	0	5
Hudson County Jail	0	0	14
<b>Philadelphia Field Office</b>			
Pike County Correctional Facility	0	0	22
York County Prison	25	0	30
<b>Phoenix Field Office</b>			
CCA Florence Correctional Center	2	0	20
Eloy Federal Contract Facility	1	0	249
Florence Detention Center	3	0	64
La Palma Correctional Facility	217	0	356
<b>Salt Lake City Field Office</b>			
Cache County Jail	2	0	2
Henderson Detention Center	9	0	10
Nevada Southern Detention Center	3	0	10
Nye County Jail	25	0	37
Washington County Jail	1	0	2
<b>San Antonio Field Office</b>			
El Valle Detention Facility	26	0	34
Karnes County Family Residential Center	10	0	77
Limestone County Detention Center	21	0	52
Port Isabel Detention Center	2	0	136
Rio Grande Detention Center	2	0	161
South Texas Family Residential Center (Dilley)	1	0	4
South Texas ICE Processing Center (Pearsall)	15	0	175
Webb County Detention Center (CCA)	66	0	86
<b>San Diego Field Office</b>			
Imperial Regional Detention Facility	1	0	3

Custody/AOR/Facility	Confirmed cases currently under isolation or monitoring	Detainee deaths <sup>3</sup>	Total confirmed COVID-19 cases <sup>4</sup>
<b>San Diego Field Office Cont'd</b>			
Otay Mesa Detention Center (San Diego CDF)	0	1	167
San Luis Regional Detention Center	1	0	12
<b>San Francisco Field Office</b>			
Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center	52	0	58
<b>Seattle Field Office</b>			
Tacoma ICE Processing Center	2	0	14
<b>St. Paul Field Office</b>			
Freeborn County Adult Detention Center	0	0	2
Linn County Jail	0	0	2
Phelps County Jail	0	0	2
Polk County Jail	0	0	12
<b>Washington D.C. Field Office</b>			
Caroline Detention Facility	0	0	5
Immigration Centers of America - Farmville	0	1	339
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,379</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.

**There have been 45 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among ICE employees working in ICE detention facilities.**

1 at Adelanto ICE Processing Center (Adelanto, CA)	1 at Essex County Correctional Facility (Newark, NJ)
15 at Alexandria Staging Facility (Alexandria, LA)	1 at Florence Correctional Center (Florence, AZ)
2 at Aurora Contract Detention Facility (Aurora, CO)	2 at Houston Contract Detention Facility (Houston, TX)
1 in Bergen County Jail (Hackensack, NJ)	1 at Hudson County Jail (Kearny, NJ)
1 at Butler County Jail (Hamilton, OH)	2 at La Salle ICE Processing Center (Jena, AL)
1 at El Paso Processing Center (El Paso, TX)	11 at Otay Mesa Detention Center (San Diego, CA)
2 at Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility (Elizabeth, NJ)	2 at Stewart Detention Center (Lumpkin, GA)
1 at Eloy Detention Center (Eloy, AZ)	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 Source: <https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus>

**ICE Air Deportation Flights**

By Tom Cartwright – Witness at the Border – August 29, 2020

❖ There were a total of 89 flights for the week ending on August 29.

- Mexico (8)
- Honduras (3)
- Guatemala (5)
- El Salvador (1)
- Haiti (1)
- 14 Deportation U.S. Connections
- 17 Deportation Returns
- 40 Shuffle flights in the U.S.

❖ Statistics Source: <https://www.witnessattheborder.org/posts/82920>

## LATEST NEWS

### ICE Arrests 2,000 Immigrants In Largest Sweep Of The Pandemic

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez – CBS News – September 1, 2020

- ❖ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced on Tuesday [September 1] it made more than 2,000 arrests during a six-week nationwide operation in July and August that focused on those with criminal convictions and charges, but also led to the arrests of some undocumented immigrants with clean records. As part of the operation, ICE agents made "at-large" arrests, which could take place at residences, worksites and traffic stops, across the country, including in large metropolitan areas like Los Angeles, where the ICE field office apprehended the most immigrants. ICE said the operation targeted undocumented immigrants and others subject to deportation who had been charged or convicted of a crime involving a victim. Roughly 85% of those arrested had criminal convictions or charges ranging from assault and sexual offenses to domestic abuse and robbery, ICE said. Henry Lucero, the executive associate director of ICE who's in charge of apprehensions, detention and deportations, said the rest of those arrested include immigrants who were ordered deported by an immigration judge but did not leave, those previously deported who had reentered the U.S. and so-called collateral arrests. Lucero on Tuesday [September 1] noted the agency's detainee population has plummeted during the pandemic, declining to roughly 21,000 this week, and said officials are screening new detainees for medical vulnerabilities to assess whether they can be released if they don't pose a flight risk or public safety threat. He noted, however, that those with criminal convictions that make them subject to "mandatory detention" under a 1996 Clinton-era immigration law are not eligible for release. The pandemic has also significantly limited ICE operations. As of August 22, the agency had made nearly 94,500 arrests inside communities, as well as at state and federal jails, in fiscal year 2020, 89% percent of which were immigrants with criminal convictions or pending charges, according to ICE officials. During the same time span in fiscal year 2019, ICE made more than 143,000 arrests, 86% of which were immigrants with convictions or charges.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-arrests-2000-immigrants-largest-sweep-pandemic/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

### Trump Wants To Force Immigrants To Submit Eye Scans, Voice Prints, And DNA

By Hamed Aleaziz – BuzzFeed News – September 1, 2020

- ❖ The Trump administration has drafted a proposal that would dramatically expand the number of people required to provide biometrics for their immigration applications, while also increasing the personal information the government can demand, such as eye scans, voice prints, DNA, and photographs for facial recognition. According to parts of a draft policy obtained by BuzzFeed News, the government would be allowed to request biometrics from immigrants who have received some benefit, like a green card or work permit, at any point up until they are a U.S. citizen to ensure continuous "vetting." If implemented, the draft rule would represent a massive shift in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) collection of personal information from immigrants and U.S. citizens and will likely cause concern among privacy and immigrant advocates. The Department of Homeland Security declined to comment. But in a statement, confirmed that it planned to publish a finalized version of the policy for public review. The proposed rule "improves the screening and vetting process and reduces our dependence on paper documents and biographic information to prove identity and familial relationships," the DHS added. "This proposed rule eliminates any ambiguity surrounding the Department's use of biometrics, setting clear standards for how and why we collect and use this information," acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Ken Cuccinelli said in the statement. The draft proposal would directly affect applications taken by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which processes green cards and visas for family members, high-skilled workers, refugees, and asylum-seekers, among others, as well as employment authorization documents.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/trump-immigrant-biometric-info-applications>

### Jailed Asylum Seekers Report Unlivable Conditions In Wake Of Hurricane Laura

By Mike Ludwig – Truthout – September 1, 2020

- ❖ Incarcerated immigrants and their families and advocates have reported dangerous, unlivable conditions and haphazard evacuations at remote immigration jails in Louisiana, where Hurricane Laura caused widespread damage and power outages as it rampaged across the state. Speaking to Truthout over the phone on Monday [August 31], an asylum seeker jailed at the Jackson Parish Correctional Center in northwestern Louisiana said her dormitory was on "lockdown" after one woman developed a high fever and symptoms of COVID-19. The asylum seeker, who asked to remain anonymous due to an ongoing immigration case, said people in the jail were living in fear of the coronavirus and had been without running water since the storm hit. She said immigration prisoners were using toilets filled with feces and urine and have been unable to take showers or access clean clothing.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://truthout.org/articles/jailed-asylum-seekers-report-unlivable-conditions-in-wake-of-hurricane-laura/>

## **USA: Update To Amnesty International Report On COVID-19 In U.S. Immigration Detention**

*By Amnesty International – August 31 2020*

- ❖ Amnesty International calls on the U.S. government to immediately release as many as possible of the over 20,000 civil immigration detainees in its custody, for the duration of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The U.S. government should release families together. The organization also calls on the U.S. government to immediately impose a temporary moratorium on all deportations and other forced returns of immigration detainees and to cease the unlawful expulsions of migrants and asylum-seekers and resume processing asylum-seekers' claims in a manner while taking steps to safeguard public health.
- ❖ To read the report, go to: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AMR5129582020ENGLISH.PDF>

## **DETENTION CENTERS NEWS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### **A 50-Year-Old Honduran Immigrant Who Died In Ice Custody Had Tested Positive For Covid-19**

*By Hamed Aleaziz – BuzzFeed News – August 30, 2020*

- ❖ A 50-year-old Honduran man who had been in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody died at a Texas hospital after testing positive for COVID-19, according to a source with knowledge of the death. The man had been detained at the Joe Corley Processing Center in Conroe, Texas, where, according to agency statistics, 50 people have tested positive for the disease since the beginning of the pandemic. The preliminary cause of death, according to the source, was respiratory failure due to COVID-19. The man is the 19th detainee to die in ICE custody during the 2020 fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30. The total number of ICE deaths so far this fiscal year is the highest total since 2006, when 19 immigrants died, according to ICE records.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/a-50-year-old-honduran-immigrant-who-died-in-ice-custody>

### **Psychological Torture: ICE Responds To Covid-19 With Solitary Confinement**

*By Carmen Molina Acosta – The Intercept – August 24 2020*

- ❖ Immigrant detention centers in the United States are locking detainees with Covid-19 in solitary confinement cells for days or weeks at a time, with little opportunity for medical treatment, according to detainees and immigrant advocates. Quarantining people believed to have the coronavirus is crucial to slowing its spread. But solitary confinement cells that hold people detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are a far cry from a hospital bed or a hotel room: Cells are claustrophobic, sparsely furnished, and those confined are allowed limited social interaction. A stay can cause lasting trauma and trigger suicidal impulses. Placing Covid-19 patients in solitary confinement, experts say, is inhumane and jeopardizes the overall population by deterring detainees from reporting symptoms. "Resorting to solitary confinement to treat physically ill immigration detainees demonstrates ICE's appalling inability to provide humane and truly civil detention," said Ellen Gallagher, who works for the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General. Gallagher has been an outspoken critic of ICE's use of solitary confinement, which she calls "barbaric." In recent months, ICE detention centers have seen surging coronavirus case numbers, with some facilities reporting exponential outbreaks. As of mid-August, nearly 5,000 detainees had tested positive for the coronavirus, and ICE says five had died, although immigration advocates say this is an undercount. Activists and detainees around the country have pressed ICE to improve facility sanitation and to release vulnerable detainees.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://theintercept.com/2020/08/24/ice-detention-coronavirus-solitary-confinement/>

## **ASYLUM SEEKERS**

### **U.S. Detaining More Migrant Children In Hotels Despite Outcry**

*By Nomaan Merchant and Evens Sanon – The Associated Press – August 27, 2020*

- ❖ The Trump administration has sharply increased its use of hotels to detain immigrant children as young as 1 before expelling them from the United States during the coronavirus pandemic despite facing outcry from lawmakers and human-rights advocates. Federal authorities said they detained 577 unaccompanied children in hotels through the end of July, up from 240 in April, May and June, according to a report published late Wednesday [August 26] from a court-appointed monitor for detained immigrant youth. Most children who cross the border without permission are supposed to go to Health and Human Services (HHS) shelters that are licensed by states, offer schooling and legal services, and eventually place children with family sponsors. Instead, the Trump administration is holding children in hotels or Border Patrol facilities for days, sometimes weeks, before expelling them. At least 2,000 children who came to the U.S. without a parent have been sent back to their home countries, though officials haven't updated the total since late June. In court filings, the Trump administration says children in hotels are given medical care and temperature checks every four hours. Surfaces are sanitized and meals from local restaurants are served three times a day, plus snacks, the government says. As first reported by ProPublica, the government says it expels children detained in hotels only after they test negative for COVID-19.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/ae51966763a7d6ddf6a8a17d78cbc874>



## DHS Is Holding Migrant Children In Secret Hotel Locations And Rapidly Expelling Them

By Nicole Narea – VOX – August 21, 2020

- ❖ The Trump administration is holding unaccompanied migrant children in hotels before rapidly expelling them from the U.S. under a new policy that allows officials to turn away anyone who poses a risk of spreading coronavirus — even if they show no symptoms and are seeking asylum. Lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) asked a federal judge in Washington, DC, on Thursday [August 20] to temporarily block the administration from enforcing the policy against unaccompanied migrant children nationwide. Instead, immigration officials must transfer the children to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shelters licensed to administer care to children and allow them to pursue claims for protection in the U.S. with access to a lawyer and a full immigration court hearing, the lawyers argue. The Department of Homeland Security doesn't disclose where it is currently holding children subject to the policy. It also often moves children around from facility to facility, making them difficult to track. But acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf told Congress during a hearing earlier this month that the agency is continuing to contract with hotels to hold children, a practice that he said has been going on "for decades." The New York Times and the Associated Press reported that migrants have been detained at a Quality Suites in San Diego; Hampton Inns in Phoenix and in McAllen and El Paso, Texas; a Comfort Suites Hotel in Miami; a Best Western in Los Angeles; and an Econo Lodge in Seattle. But they are also being held in US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facilities near the border, typically in cage-like settings, according to the ACLU's lawsuit. According to court documents, the administration had expelled about 2,000 unaccompanied children under the policy as of June. Though the government has not released more recent data on unaccompanied children specifically, CBP reported expelling more than 105,000 migrants total under the policy by the end of July.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.vox.com/2020/8/21/21377957/migrant-children-unaccompanied-hotels-dhs-expulsion>



U.S. Border Patrol agents transport a group of individuals encountered near Sasabe, Ariz. to the U.S. Mexico border on March 22, 2020.  
Photo Credit: U.S. Customs and Border Protection/Jerry Glaser

## The U.S. Granted Them Asylum. But New Rules Would've Doomed Their Cases.

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez – CBS News – August 21, 2020

- ❖ Although terrified, Jorge said the first day of his kidnapping by gangs in El Salvador was relatively calm. The second and third days, however, were starkly different. Jorge and his family turned to local authorities for help, to no avail. Instead, he said gang members soon found out he had tried reporting them to the police. Threatened with death, the Salvadoran teenager embarked on a miles-long trek to the U.S. southern border. After asking for asylum at an official border crossing near San Diego, Jorge spent days in a Border Patrol station before being transferred to the for-profit immigration detention center in the California desert town of Adelanto. On April 27, 2017, the date of the court hearing that would determine the fate of his asylum claim, Jorge was emotionally and physically drained and nervous that he did not have a lawyer. When the hearing concluded, Jorge was unsure what decision the judge had reached. He was instructed to get ready to leave the Adelanto detention center, but was not initially told whether he would be placed on a deportation flight to El Salvador or released and allowed to stay in the U.S. He learned he had won his case only when officials allowed him to reach out to his family in El Salvador. Jorge's successful case is not common. Over the past three years, U.S. immigration judges have granted asylum to roughly 12% of applicants. The humanitarian protection has become increasingly difficult to obtain — especially for Central Americans and those without representation — due to a series of policies instituted by the Trump administration, which argues there is widespread abuse of the asylum system by economic migrants. In fact, new rules proposed in June would've likely doomed Jorge's asylum petition and all but ensured his deportation to the country where he was persecuted. The 43-page proposal would rewrite the rules that govern who qualifies for safe harbor on American soil, disqualifying victims of gang violence, gender-based persecution, domestic abuse and torture staged by "rogue" government officials from U.S. refuge. Human rights groups say the rules would also make it harder for asylum-seekers to seek protection from anti-LGBTQ persecution. June's proposal, which would also allow immigration judges to predetermine certain cases without allowing migrants to testify in court, received more than 87,000 public comments in a 30-day period. The Departments of Justice and Homeland Security are expected to issue a final version, which may or may not be altered based on the comments. Victoria Palmer, a spokesperson for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said Friday the review of comments is ongoing and that a date for the final regulation has not been determined.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-administration-new-asylum-rules-doomed-cases/>

## U.S. Restricts Work Permits For Asylum-Seekers, Raising Fears Of Homelessness And Hunger

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez – CBS News – August 25, 2020

- ❖ As a single mother of two young children, including her nine-month-old U.S. citizen daughter, W.L. worries about her ability to support her family, particularly in the midst of a pandemic. The asylum-seeking mother, who says she was a victim of sexual violence in her native Guatemala, does not have a permit to work legally in the U.S., and under a new Trump administration rule taking effect Tuesday [September 1], she will not be able to apply for one for the next seven months. The rule will require migrants to wait 365 days from the day they file their asylum petition before applying for work authorization, replacing the previous 150-day timeline. It also disqualifies asylum-seekers from being able to request work permits if they crossed the border illegally. Recently, another rule took effect, scrapping the 30-day window that U.S. government adjudicators previously had to approve work authorization petitions from eligible asylum-seekers. W.L., who now lives in Ohio with her children, is one of the migrants at the center of a national lawsuit challenging the policies, which advocates say will make low-income asylum-seekers vulnerable to homelessness, hunger, work exploitation and scarce access to medical care. The 28-year-old would have been eligible to apply for a work permit next week under the previous regulations. Because of the new rules, however, she won't be able to apply until April 2021.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/work-permits-asylum-seekers-trump-administration-rule/>

## Guatemalan Man Seeking Asylum Drowns Along US-Mexico Border

By Acacia Coronado – The Associated Press – August 19, 2020

- ❖ A Guatemalan man who had been living in a makeshift migrant camp while waiting to petition the U.S. government for asylum drowned in the Rio Grande near Brownsville, Texas, aid workers said Wednesday [August 19]. Edwin Rodrigo Castro de la Parra, 20, died Tuesday [August 18], according to Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Pimentel said she spoke with Castro de la Parra's family, but the conditions surrounding his death are unclear. Castro de la Parra had gone to the river's edge because some pregnant women he knew had become desperate and were attempting to illegally cross the river, Pimentel said. It's unclear whether anyone saw the moments leading up to his death —many migrants don't speak up for fear of persecution. But Pimentel said his body later floated to the riverbank. Castro de la Parra was seen as a leader within the Guatemalan migrant community at the camp, according to Pimentel. She said the loss was felt throughout the camp and mourners had been gathered throughout the day crying in disbelief that he had died.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/ea9fe09ed479e69cbe117510836f5b00>

## FAMILY SEPARATIONS

### An Ex-DHS Official Regrets Family Separations. Now He's Trying To Stop Trump.

By María Peña – Noticias Telemundo – August 27, 2020

- ❖ In an interview with Noticias Telemundo, Miles Taylor, a former Department of Homeland Security chief of staff, said he regretted not previously denouncing Trump's family separation policy at the border. Taylor worked under former Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who was in charge of implementing the family separation policy on the southern border as a tool to deter migration from Central America. Nielsen resigned in April 2019. Officials have told NBC News that the Trump administration ignored warnings that it could be hard to reunite separated families. Pressured by public opinion and a judicial investigation, Trump signed an executive order to reverse the policy, but privately he continued advocating for family separations, Taylor said. Taylor was involved in the development of the "Remain in Mexico" (RIM) program to force asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for the resolution of their U.S. immigration cases. He denied the White House's claims that he is using false complaints to benefit himself because he said they have entailed a great personal sacrifice for him. "We need to be held to account for what happened at the administration," he said. "People like me should have done more. Looking back, I wish I had laid my body on the train tracks and said, 'we cannot implement this no matter what you guys tell us about resources.'" "I never met a migrant down at the border when we traveled that looked at us and said, 'I'm coming in here to sell drugs, kill Americans and hurt you.' Just about everyone we'd go down and see said, 'I'm coming here because it seems like the greatest country in the world. And everyone tells me I'll have opportunity,'" Taylor said. Taylor has created the Republican Political Alliance for Integrity and Reform (REPAIR), in an effort to "repair" a party that, in his view, is divided between those Republicans who disapprove of Trump but remain silent out of fear, the few others who denounce him and those who simply "cover" for Trump.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/ex-dhs-official-miles-taylor-regrets-family-separations-now-he-n1238484>



## MIGRANTS IN MEXICO

### 'Sidewalk School' For Migrant Children Welcomes New Academic Year Despite Pandemic

By Sandra Sanchez – Border Report – August 31, 2020

- ❖ A school for asylum-seeking migrant children that has operated since last year at a border tent encampment in Matamoros, Mexico, began a new academic year on Monday [August 31] in spite of the coronavirus pandemic, and it has even expanded its online courses to migrant children living 800 miles away in Juarez, Mexico. The nonprofit Sidewalk School for Children Asylum Seekers is also offering its online classes to migrant children who have crossed into the United States but whose families prefer not to enroll them in U.S. public schools, the school's director, Felicia Rangel-Samponaro, told Border Report Monday [August 31] via phone from the Matamoros encampment across from Brownsville, Texas. Rangel-Samponaro said there are about 200 children living within the Matamoros encampment who take free weekday classes from their family's tents via computer tablets supplied by the school and donors nationwide. In addition, tablets have been sent to five migrant children who are living in the border town Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, while they await their U.S. asylum cases. She said the Juarez expansion is a pilot program in conjunction with the nonprofit organization Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, which helped select the families who are clients and are seeking asylum in the United States while living in Juarez. In fall 2019, Rangel-Samponaro, a former teacher from Houston who doesn't speak Spanish, founded the Sidewalk School to provide classes to children living in the Matamoros encampment that formed beside the Gateway International Bridge. At the time, there were more than 2,000 migrants and several hundred school-age children who weren't receiving an education while they lived in the camp. Most of the families were part of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program, which continues to force asylum-seekers to remain in Mexico during their family's U.S. asylum hearing process. Classes are being offered for Pre-K through high school and Rangel-Samponaro said the school now is certified to give students credit for courses taken and even to certify the graduation of a student.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.borderreport.com/regions/sidewalk-school-for-migrant-children-welcomes-new-academic-year-despite-pandemic/>



U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement continued the Interior Repatriation Initiative (IRI) on February 21 2020. The IRI is a joint agreement between the United States and Mexico to ensure that those repatriated to Mexico are returned closer to their homes in a safe and expeditious manner.

Photo Credit: U.S. Customs and Border Protection/  
Jerry Glaser

## DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

### DACA Recipients Challenge Latest Trump Administration Attempt To Gut Program

By Priscilla Alvarez – CNN – August 28, 2020

- ❖ Participants in the Obama-era program shielding undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children from deportation are challenging the Trump administration's latest effort to limit the program, the first targeted challenge against the full set of new rules. Earlier this summer, the Supreme Court blocked President Donald Trump's attempt to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program established in 2012 that protects certain undocumented immigrants and allows them to work in the U.S. More than a month after the ruling, acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf announced the program would limit renewals to one year instead of two and still not accept new applicants. Immigrant advocates, lawyers and lawmakers denounced the move, criticizing the delay and arguing the move ran afoul of the Supreme Court's order. In an amended complaint Friday [August 28], DACA beneficiaries and Make the Road New York, an immigrant advocacy organization, raised these points, calling the latest directive "cruel, heartless, and unlawful," and urging the court to block the administration's effort to gut the program. Attorneys general from 16 states and the District of Columbia also filed an amended complaint Friday [August 28] challenging the administration's actions, saying that terminating DACA will harm residents, state-run schools and damage their economies.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/28/politics/daca-lawsuit-trump/index.html>

## LAWSUITS

### Lawsuit Challenges Trump Administration Policy Making It More Difficult To Get Green Cards

By Geneva Sands – CNN – August 26, 2020

- ❖ Advocate groups are challenging in federal court a Trump administration policy that makes it difficult for certain migrants to obtain Green Cards in the United States, as well as the appointment of Ken Cuccinelli, who oversaw the change. The lawsuit argues that a policy change, implemented last year when Cuccinelli was leading U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, was done without a rationale for the change, was motivated by "animus against immigrants of color" and was carried out by an unlawful acting official. The case is the latest challenge to the legitimacy of the tenure of Cuccinelli, who now serves in the No. 2 spot at the Department of Homeland Security. The lawsuit comes just weeks after the Government Accountability Office concluded that acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and Cuccinelli, the senior official performing the duties of deputy secretary, were appointed as part of an invalid order of succession. Seven migrants represented in the lawsuit allege that the change, issued as a "policy alert" last year, has prevented them from obtaining Green Cards. All seven plaintiffs have Temporary Protected Status, benefits from a decades-old program that provides deportation relief to immigrants from countries with armed conflict, natural disaster or disease. The Trump administration has moved to end this program for numerous countries, including Sudan, Nicaragua, Nepal, Honduras, Haiti and El Salvador, while also tightening restrictions on the program. Previously, migrants with this protected status could put themselves on a pathway to becoming a lawful permanent resident, or Green Card holder, in the U.S. if they left the U.S. and returned. This would void a previous deportation order, allowing them to remain in the U.S. indefinitely and potentially become a U.S. citizen. On December 20, 2019, the Trump administration ended this practice, preventing this group of migrants from having a way to get Green Cards. The change could affect tens of thousands of people, leaving them in legal limbo, the lawsuit argues. All seven plaintiffs -- six from El Salvador and one from Haiti -- believed that they would be able to adjust their status to potentially obtain Green Cards.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/26/politics/lawsuit-green-cards-cuccinelli/index.html>

## DEVELOPING STORIES

### The House Passed A Bill That Would Rescue A Key Immigration Agency From A Budget Crisis

By Nicole Narea – VOX – August 24, 2020

- ❖ The House passed a bill on Saturday [August 22] that would stave off mass furloughs at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which is grappling with a budget crisis due to a decrease in immigration amid the pandemic. The agency plans to furlough about two-thirds of its staff on August 30. The furloughs would hamstring the agency's ability to process immigration applications in a timely manner, potentially preventing more than 100,000 citizenship applicants from voting in November due to the processing delays. The bill, which passed unanimously, would allow USCIS to raise certain fees associated with fast-tracked immigration applications and prevent the furloughs. Unlike other federal agencies, USCIS receives almost no taxpayer dollars and is dependent on fees associated with filing applications for green cards, visas, work permits, U.S. citizenship, and humanitarian benefits such as asylum. It's not clear whether the bill will pass in the Senate, which is on recess until September. But a senator could seek unanimous consent to pass the bill at any time. The bill would raise optional fees for "premium processing" — under which the agency processes certain work-based immigration applications on an expedited, 15-day timeline — from \$1,440 to \$2,500 for most applicants. It would also expand the kinds of applications for which premium processing is available. The bill permits the agency to use the resulting revenue only to improve its adjudication and naturalization services. To mitigate the budget shortfall, USCIS implemented an average 20 percent additional surcharge on all applications in July and limited spending to salary and mission-critical activities. As a result, USCIS is now projecting to have enough funds to remain operable through November, but the agency is still planning to proceed with the furloughs — even over the recent objections of bipartisan members of Congress.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.vox.com/2020/8/24/21399641/house-immigration-bill-uscis-furlough-budget-crisis>

### Key Findings About U.S. Immigrants

By Abby Budiman – PewResearch – August 20, 2020

- ❖ The United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Today, more than 40 million people living in the U.S. were born in another country, accounting for about one-fifth of the world's migrants. The population of immigrants is also very diverse, with just about every country in the world represented among U.S. immigrants. The U.S. foreign-born population reached a record 44.8 million in 2018. Since 1965, when U.S. immigration laws replaced a national quota system, the number of immigrants living in the U.S. has more than quadrupled. Immigrants today account for 13.7% of the U.S. population, nearly triple the share (4.8%) in 1970. However, today's immigrant share remains below the record 14.8% share in 1890, when 9.2 million immigrants lived in the U.S.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/08/20/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/>

## Immigrant ‘Dreamers’ In Search Of A Job Are Being Turned Away

By Miriam Jordan – *The New York Times* – August 20, 2020

- ❖ Since its introduction by the Obama administration in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has enrolled some 800,000 undocumented immigrants, often called Dreamers, who were brought to the country illegally as children. Many have gone on to graduate from college and build successful lives under the program, which has bipartisan support in Congress. Yet while the courts have accepted DACA’s legality and have blocked the recent attempts to abruptly cancel it, some of the country’s biggest companies are unilaterally refusing to hire Dreamers. Since Mr. Trump stepped up his attacks on the program, the employment roadblocks have become even more prevalent. These employers, including Procter & Gamble, say they are wary of investing time and money to train workers whose long-term employment eligibility is not secure. Other firms want to avoid getting ensnared in the nation’s contentious immigration debate. “On the one hand employers are trying to hire the best talent available to stay afloat and recover from Covid-19 while on the other hand they are worried about investing the time and resources to train someone who could get deported,” said Woody Hunt, the co-chair of the American Business Immigration Coalition, a group that promotes a legislative solution to legalize Dreamers. It is impossible to know how many people have been denied jobs based on their DACA status, said Thomas A. Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which has filed several lawsuits against companies that refused to hire DACA recipients.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/20/us/immigration-daca-dreamers-employers.html>

## Where Immigrants Will Have The Most Voting Power In 2020

By Stef W. Kight – *Axios* – August 21, 2020

- ❖ Immigrant voters could be pivotal this fall to election outcomes in some battleground suburbs, according to a new analysis of county-level Census data reviewed by Axios. Texas, Georgia and Virginia as well as Florida could see swings with statewide or national implications. Congressional races to watch include Texas' 22nd district, Georgia's 7th and California's 39th, 45th, and 48th — reaching into counties where immigrants comprise around one in five eligible voters, according to the analysis by New American Economy (NAE). Growing and spreading immigrant populations have helped shift the political landscape in recent years. Foreign-born voters will make up nearly one-tenth of the electorate in 2020 — a record percentage.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.axios.com/immigration-voter-2020-election-district-bd0aeda7-696c-4019-9878-a4783b21f779.html>

## 10% Of Eligible U.S. Voters This November Will Be Foreign Born

By Dan Kopf – *Quartz* – September 2, 2020

- ❖ The 2020 U.S. presidential race will have a bigger share of eligible foreign-born voters than any other election in more than a century. This year they will make up about 10% of all eligible voters, up from 6% in 2000, according to a report from the Pew Research Center. The swift increase has two main causes. One, there are a lot more immigrants in the U.S. today than 50 years ago. When they naturalize as U.S. citizens, they gain the right to vote. In 1970, immigrants made up less than 5% of the U.S. population. Today, that share is about 14%, close to the recorded high of 15% in 1890. The rise is mostly the result of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which abolished immigrant quotas by country and made it easier for immigrants from Asia, Latin America, and Africa to come to the U.S. The second reason is that more of the immigrants who are eligible for citizenship are getting naturalized. The share of those getting naturalized rose from 62% in 2005 to 67% 2015. The biggest increases came from those born in India (68% to 80%) and Ecuador (55% to 68%). The increasing naturalization rate may be partially a result of the higher education levels of recent immigrants. Immigrants with Bachelor’s degrees are more likely to get naturalized. Foreign-born voters come from all across the globe. Mexico, the leading country of origin for these voters, accounts for 16% of all eligible immigrants. It is followed by the Philippines (6%), India (5%), China (5%), and Vietnam (5%).
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/finance/other/10-25-of-eligible-us-voters-this-november-will-be-foreign-born/ar-BB18D6hl?ocid=uxbndlbing>