

# NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES - MARCH 23, 2021

## LATEST NEWS

### President Biden's Executive Actions On Immigration

*The Center for Migration Studies (CMS)*

- ❖ On his first day in office, President Biden issued a number of orders, proclamations, and directives that reversed policies enacted by the Trump administration and sought to put the U.S. immigration system on a far different course. These executive actions:
  - Ended the discriminatory travel bans;
  - Revised U.S. immigration enforcement priorities
  - Protected Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients;
  - Temporarily halted construction of the U.S.-Mexico Border Wall;
  - Ensured that all U.S.-residents, including undocumented immigrants, are counted in the 2020 Census; and
  - Reinstated Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians.
- ❖ President Biden also sent the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 to Congress. If passed by the Senate and House, this bill would represent the most sweeping immigration reform legislation in decades and lead to the largest legalization program in U.S. history. President Biden has since issued several additional Executive Orders (EOs), which:
  - Created a task force to reunify separated migrant families;
  - Require federal agencies to review the Trump administration's actions related to immigration;
  - Provide for safe and orderly processing of asylum applications at the border;
  - Call for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State (DOS) to rebuild and strengthen the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
- ❖ For more information, visit: <https://cmsny.org/biden-immigration-executive-actions/>



Migrants arrive at the Val Verde Humanitarian Border Coalition in February.

Photo Credit: Christopher Lee / New York Times

### Migrants Released From Rio Grande Valley Without Court Dates

*By Quinn Owen and Benjamin Siegel, ABC News, March 24, 2021*

- ❖ Immigration authorities in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas have been releasing a growing number of migrants from custody before they have court dates. Two Customs and Border Protection officials told ABC News that more migrants than usual in the Rio Grande Valley area have been released on a case-by-case basis without notices to appear in court in an effort to more quickly process them through CBP custody and reduce overcrowding.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/migrants-released-rio-grande-valley-court-dates/story?id=76642838>

### Migrant Teens And Children Have Challenged Three Administrations, But Biden Faces Rush With No Precedent

*By Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, Washington Post, March 22, 2021*

- ❖ The last three presidents have each had to grapple with a sudden arrival of thousands of unaccompanied migrant teenagers and children along the Mexico border, but the challenge facing President Biden in recent weeks is an unprecedented one. Never before have so many minors arrived so fast.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/03/22/unaccompanied-minors-immigration-obama-trump-biden/?itid=hp-top-table-main>

### U.S. Races To Find Bed Space For Migrant Children As Number Of Unaccompanied Minors In Government Custody Hits 15,500

*By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, March 21, 2021*

- ❖ The U.S. government on Saturday [Mar. 20] was housing approximately 15,500 unaccompanied migrant minors, including 5,000 teenagers and children stranded in Border Patrol facilities not designed for long-term custody. As of Saturday [Mar. 20] morning, more than 5,000 unaccompanied minors were being held in a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tent holding facility in south Texas and other stations along the border with Mexico. According to the government records, unaccompanied children are spending an average of 136 hours in CBP custody, well beyond the 72-hour limit outlined in U.S. law. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was also housing nearly 10,500 unaccompanied children in emergency housing facilities and shelters licensed by states to care for minors, department spokesperson Mark Weber told CBS News on Saturday.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-migrant-children-in-border-patrol-custody-hits-15500/>

## 1,500 Migrant Children Now At Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center As Feds Urge Refugees Not To Enter U.S.

By William Joy, ABC News WFAA, March 21, 2021

- ❖ Migrant children continue to arrive at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, which has been set up as a holding area between overcrowded border control facilities and full refugee shelters. Officials with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said as of Sunday, around 1,500 children were in the Dallas facility and 10,500 are in Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) shelters across the country.
- ❖ News Article source: <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/1500-migrant-children-now-at-kay-bailey-hutchison-convention-center-as-feds-urge-refugees-not-to-enter-us/287-90b422d7-cdb8-497e-99ef-db5ba275b123>

## Biden Is Spending \$86 Million On Hotel Rooms For Migrants As His Administration Struggles To Handle The Surge Of Families And Kids Trying To Come To The U.S.

By Kelsey Vlamis, Business Insider, March 20, 2021

- ❖ President Joe Biden's administration has secured an \$86 million contract for hotels to house migrants.
- ❖ The contract is with hotels near the border in Arizona and Texas to hold about 1,200 migrants, and will last six months. It was made through Endeavors, a non-profit with programs that include housing services and disaster relief.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/biden-to-spend-86-million-hotel-rooms-migrants-near-border-2021-3>

## Backlog Of Migrant Children In Border Patrol Custody Soars To 4,200, With 3,000 Held Past Legal Limit

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, March 16, 2021

- ❖ As of Sunday [Mar. 14] morning, U.S. Border Patrol was holding more than 4,200 unaccompanied migrant children in short-term holding facilities, including jail-like stations unfit to house minors, according to government records reviewed by CBS News. Nearly 3,000 of the unaccompanied children in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody had been held longer than 72 hours. CBP is legally obligated to transfer most unaccompanied minors to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the agency which oversees shelters licensed to house children, within three days of taking them into custody.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-migrant-children-border-patrol-custody-4200-past-legal-limit/>

## Photos Provide A Glimpse Inside Texas Border Facility Where Migrant Children Are Held

By Benjamin Wermund, Washington Bureau, March 22, 2021

- ❖ Photos released by Texas congressman Henry Cuellar on Monday [Mar. 22] offered the first glimpse inside a crowded Customs and Border Patrol facility [in Donna, TX] where the Biden administration is housing migrants: Dozens of individuals, including small children and teens, crowded into makeshift rooms with clear plastic walls, lying on padding on stone floors and covered with silver foil blankets.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/Photos-provide-a-glimpse-inside-border-facility-16043818.php>

## Biden Sends Top Officials To Mexico As Border Surge Continues

By Franco Ordoñez, NPR, March 22, 2021

- ❖ President Biden is sending some of his top officials to Mexico and Guatemala this week to discuss the growing numbers of U.S.-bound migrants from Central America, one of the biggest challenges facing the new administration. Roberta Jacobson, a former ambassador to Mexico during the Obama administration who now serves on Biden's National Security Council, and Juan Gonzalez, the NSC's senior director for the region, will travel to Mexico.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/22/979989195/biden-sends-top-officials-to-mexico-to-address-migration-flows>

## 'Everyone Wants To Come': Why So Many Central Americans Are Crossing The Border

By Dudley Althaus, San Antonio Express-News, March 20, 2021

- ❖ Updated: March 20, 2021 6:39 p.m.
- ❖ Border Patrol agents detained 9,500 children and more than 19,000 families in February. Some 71,000 adults traveling alone — many of whom have made repeated crossings — were apprehended as well. While nearly all the adults migrating alone are quickly sent back across the border, U.S. officials announced Thursday that some 14,000 unaccompanied minors are now in U.S. detention. Several thousand unaccompanied children are being held at a makeshift camp in Donna, near McAllen. Officials plan to temporarily house up to 3,000 migrant boys at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. More youths are being held at a converted oil workers camp in Midland.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Everyone-wants-to-come-Why-so-many-Central-16039791.php>

## ICE Is Ending Long-Term Immigrant Family Detention

By Jason Buch, *San Antonio Express-News*, February 25, 2021

- ❖ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is ending long-term detention of families at two controversial South Texas facilities [in Dilley and Karnes City], rebranding them as "reception centers," officials have told advocates and relief organizations. ICE now will hold immigrants at the centers only long enough to administer COVID-19 tests and health screenings and to arrange for shelter and transportation. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will no longer hold asylum screenings at the facilities, one of the biggest reasons families were kept in the centers for weeks or months at a time.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/ICE-is-ending-long-term-immigrant-family-detention-15980148.php>

## Biden's Unnecessary Border Crisis

By Rich Lowry, *Politico*, March 3, 2021

- ❖ Axios reported on a briefing prepared for Biden that warned that the number of migrants kids is on pace to set a record, and there aren't nearly enough beds to accommodate them. Per Axios, the briefing projects that an astonishing 117,000 unaccompanied children will show up at the border this year, and it says we'll need another 20,000 beds. Health and Human Services, which takes custody of minors, has begun expediting their release to adults in the U.S., and paying their transportation costs. Meanwhile, the Biden team is reopening detention facilities.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/03/03/bidens-unnecessary-border-crisis-473412>

## Texas Gov. Abbott Stalled Federal Offer To Test Migrants Then Blamed Them For Spreading Covid

By Priscilla Alvarez, *CNN*, Fri March 5, 2021

- ❖ Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is stalling efforts by the Biden administration to provide federal funds for Covid-19 tests for migrants released from custody, a senior Homeland Security official tells CNN. DHS has already set plans in motion to use Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to support community efforts to test, isolate and quarantine migrants released from Border Patrol custody.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/04/politics/abbott-migrants-covid-testing/index.html>

## Number Of Migrant Children Detained At Border Has Tripled In Two Weeks

By Zolan Kanno-Youngs, *New York Times*, March 9, 2021

- ❖ The number of unaccompanied migrant children detained along the southern border has tripled in the last two weeks to more than 3,250, filling facilities akin to jails as the Biden administration struggles to find room for them in shelters. More than 1,360 of the children have been detained beyond the 72 hours permitted by law before a child must be transferred to a shelter. More than 5,800 unaccompanied children were found at the border in January, an increase of more than 1,000 from October 2020. Health and Human Services had more than 8,100 unaccompanied children in its shelters as of Mar. 7, with space readily available for only 838 more.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/03/08/us/joe-biden-news>

## At The Border, Gov. Abbott Blames Biden For Migrant Surge

By Benjamin Wermund, and Jeremy Blackman, *San Antonio Express-News*, March 9, 2021

- ❖ Gov. Greg Abbott visited the U.S.-Mexico border Tuesday [Mar. 9] and accused the Biden administration of inviting a wave of new migrant crossings and causing a health and security crisis in Texas. Border Patrol apprehended 5,700 unaccompanied child migrants in January, the most recent data available.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/abbott-border-tour-gop-immigrant-surge-tx-blame-16012101.php>

## Texas Guard Deployed As Migrants, Some In Biden T-Shirts, Flood Border States

By Daniel Villarreal, *NewsWeek*, March 10, 2021

- ❖ After President Joe Biden signed executive orders ending several "zero-tolerance" anti-immigration policies instated by former Republican President Donald Trump, a surge of immigrants have begun arriving along the U.S. southern border. In response, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has deployed the Texas Guard, to crack down on any associated cartels and human smuggling. "Today I met with Border Patrol Officers," Abbott wrote in a Tuesday [Mar. 9] afternoon tweet. "Last year, they apprehended about 90,000 people crossing the border illegally in the RGV (Rio Grand Valley). This year that number already exceed 100,000."
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/texas-guard-deployed-migrants-some-biden-t-shirts-flood-border-states-1574978>



U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar released photos on Monday, March 22, 2021, from inside a holding facility in Donna, Texas.

PHOTO COURTESY  
REP. HENRY CUELLAR'S OFFICE

## SA Non-Profits Welcome Asylum-Seekers Amid Expected Increase

By Erica Zucco, KENS 5, March 22, 2021

- ❖ When people seeking asylum are released to meet with their families or sponsors across the country, they often need help to get there, or aid with food, clothing and shelter until they do. San Antonio non-profit organizations including the Interfaith Welcome Coalition and Catholic Charities of San Antonio help to fill in those gaps, providing a variety of resources to people seeking asylum.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.kens5.com/article/news/community/san-antonio-nonprofits-immigration-help/273-a41825f7-eb8d-420e-bf5e-467b9645373b>

## LATEST STATISTICS

### Data Show Growing Backlog Of Unaccompanied Migrant Children In Border Patrol Custody

By Julia Ainsley and Jacob Soboroff, NBC News, March 3, 2021

- ❖ U.S. Customs and Border Protection had 1,763 unaccompanied migrant children in its custody as of Tuesday [Mar. 2], 625 of whom had been held more than 72 hours, the legal limit for holding children in CBP's border processing facilities, according to internal CBP data obtained by NBC News. President Joe Biden was briefed about the spike in unaccompanied migrant children Tuesday [Mar. 2] at the White House, where he was told that this year's surge could top the record of 76,000 unaccompanied children who crossed the border in 2019.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/data-shows-growing-backlog-unaccompanied-migrant-children-border-patrol-custody-n1259516>

### Biden Administration To Wind Down Long-Term Detention Of Migrant Families — For Now

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, March 7, 2021

- ❖ ICE has begun releasing migrant parents and children from three family detention facilities in Texas [Dilley and Karnes] and Pennsylvania [Berks]. On Friday [Mar. 5], ICE said only 13 families remained in detention as of earlier this week, noting that all were slated to be released by Sunday [Mar. 7], as long as they tested negative for the coronavirus. In January, U.S. authorities along the southern border took more than 7,400 parents and children into custody — a 60% increase from December. More than 4,700 of them were expelled under the Trump-era public health order, according to government data.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-migrant-families-detention-long-term-biden-administration/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

### Immigration Arrests Have Fallen Sharply Under Biden, ICE Data Show

By Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, The Washington Post, March 9, 2021

- ❖ ICE arrests and deportations fell dramatically during the pandemic, as the agency took steps to protect its officers from potential exposure to the coronavirus while also reducing occupancy levels at immigration jails. Last month ICE carried out about 2,600 deportations, down from 5,583 in January, the latest figures show. ICE officers averaged nearly 6,800 arrests in October, November and December, the last three full months of the Trump administration. In February that fell to about 2,500 arrests, the latest figures show.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/ice-deportations-immigration-arrests/2021/03/09/af27b164-80fa-11eb-bb5a-ad9a91faa4ef\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/ice-deportations-immigration-arrests/2021/03/09/af27b164-80fa-11eb-bb5a-ad9a91faa4ef_story.html)

## ASYLUM SEEKERS

### U.S. To Process Asylum-Seekers In 'Remain In Mexico' Program Starting Friday In El Paso

By Lauren Villagran, El Paso Times, February 24, 2021

- ❖ The U.S. government on Friday [Feb. 26] will begin processing some asylum-seekers who have been waiting in Juárez under a controversial Trump-era program. More than 25,000 people have been waiting in Mexican border cities under the so-called "Migrant Protection Protocols," or MPP, which forced asylum-seekers to stay in Mexico while awaiting a U.S. immigration court date.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2021/02/24/el-pasos-annunciation-house-host-asylum-seekers-caught-mpp/4575691001/+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=firefox-b-1-e>

### Biden Administration Preparing Another Tent Facility To Cope With Border Influx

By Nick Miroff, The Washington Post, February 26, 2021

- ❖ The temporary facility is expected to open in the coming weeks in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Del Rio sector and will be similar to another "soft-sided" structure the agency opened in Donna, Tex. Officials are also looking at the possibility of opening additional sites in Arizona. The Del Rio sector tent facility, which will be located near the town of Eagle Pass, is distinct from another temporary shelter the Biden administration opened this week in Carrizo Springs, Tex., where Health and Human Services is holding migrant teens who crossed the border without a parent.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/immigration-facility-del-rio-texas/2021/02/26/a317bed4-7847-11eb-ae66-8b9e3c6918a1\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/immigration-facility-del-rio-texas/2021/02/26/a317bed4-7847-11eb-ae66-8b9e3c6918a1_story.html)

## Processing Of Asylum Seekers Expands At US-Mexico Border

By María Verza, Associated Press, March 1, 2021

- ❖ The processing of asylum seekers waiting to enter the United States expanded to a third border crossing Friday [Feb.26]. A week after the U.S. government began processing those with active cases made to wait in Mexico during the Trump administration at a border crossing between Tijuana and San Diego, the process expanded this week to the Matamoros-Brownsville crossing and to Ciudad Juarez-EI Paso.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/correction-mexico-us-asylum-seekers-story-76186505>

## Biden Offers Temporary Legal Status To Thousands Of Venezuelan Immigrants Living In U.S.

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, Nicole Sganga and Fin Gómez, CBS News, March 8, 2021

- ❖ The Biden administration said that it is offering deportation relief and work permits to hundreds thousands of Venezuelan immigrants living in the U.S. Senior officials said an estimated 320,000 Venezuelans would be eligible for the relief, and fees associated with the application process total \$545. Applications are due within six months.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/venezuelan-immigrants-temporary-legal-status/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

## FAMILY SEPARATIONS

### Migrant Children At Border Are Still Being Separated From Relatives For Weeks

By Rick Jervis, USA TODAY, March 7, 2021

- ❖ The migrant children often arrive with a grandparent, older sibling or other relative but are separated until federal officials can confirm the accompanying adult is their relative, as required under U.S. law. The procedure, is designed to protect minors from human traffickers and grant them legal protections. But it also classifies the youngsters as "unaccompanied minors" and places them in federal shelters until a sponsor or adult is vetted, a process that can take several weeks or even months. More than 4,000 migrant children were transferred in January to the custody of the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, up from 3,330 in December.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/03/06/migrant-children-facility-used-house-minors-separated-family/4587455001/>

## DETENTION CENTERS

### Berks County detention center no longer housing immigrant families

By WGAL News 8, March 1, 2021

- ❖ A detention center in Berks County that has been the target of years of protests is no longer housing illegal immigrant families. U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (R-Pa.) said no one is living at the Berks County Residential Center. An Immigration and Customs Enforcement official told Casey the remaining families were released Friday [Feb. 26] afternoon.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.wgal.com/article/berks-county-immigration-detention-center-no-longer-housing-families/35684812#>

### Biden Administration Scrambles To Expand Housing Space For Migrant Children Amid Sharp Increase In Border Apprehensions

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, March 1, 2021

- ❖ About 97% of the roughly 8,000 beds the refugee office has available for unaccompanied children are currently full, with the agency housing 7,777 minors as of Feb. 26. U.S. officials along the southwest border took roughly 2,000 migrant children into custody this week [Feb. 22-28]. Nearly 400 children were taken into custody on Feb. 26 alone. In January, the U.S. refugee agency received more than 4,000 unaccompanied children from immigration officials, a 19% increase from December. While ORR has more than 13,000 beds for migrant children, its current capacity stands just below 8,000 beds to curb the spread of the coronavirus.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biden-administration-scrambles-to-expand-housing-space-for-migrant-children-amid-sharp-increase-in-border-apprehensions/>

### Texas Family Detention Centers Expected To Transform Into Rapid-Processing Hubs

By Maria Sacchetti, Nick Miroff and Silvia Foster-Frau, The Washington Post, March 4, 2021

- ❖ The Biden administration is preparing to convert its immigrant family detention centers in South Texas into rapid-processing hubs that will screen migrant parents and children with a goal of releasing them into the U.S. within 72 hours. Individuals who cannot be housed in one of the rapid-processing centers may need to be placed in hotels. MVM, an ICE contractor, will help transport the families to hotels if there is no longer capacity at the rapid-processing centers (the company plans to use hotels in McAllen, Tex., El Paso and Phoenix).
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/texas-family-detention-centers-changed/2021/03/04/6a0bfa8a-7b6f-11eb-b3d1-9e5aa3d5220c\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/texas-family-detention-centers-changed/2021/03/04/6a0bfa8a-7b6f-11eb-b3d1-9e5aa3d5220c_story.html)

## **Biden Administration Tells Facilities For Migrant Children To Reopen To Pre-Pandemic Levels**

*By Priscilla Alvarez, CNN, March 5, 2021*

- ❖ The Biden administration has notified facilities caring for migrant children that they can open back up to pre-Covid-19 levels, acknowledging "extraordinary circumstances" due to a rising number of minors crossing the US-Mexico border, according to a memo obtained by CNN. The increase in arrivals of unaccompanied children put additional strain on the immigration system, which was operating under limited capacity as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/05/politics/immigration-border-crowding-covid/index.html>

## **Commentary: Radically Hospitable, Texans Can End Detention Of Migrants**

*By Aubrey Parke, San Antonio Express-News, March 8, 2021*

- ❖ In 2019, ICE detained approximately 500,000 migrants in 200 detention centers. The 197 that are not family detention centers will continue to hold immigrants and asylum-seekers. Still, communities that engage in the process can share experiences and best practices, while also putting pressure on ICE to release migrants rather than write checks to private prison companies. You can support asylum-seekers in South Texas by contacting these agencies: the San Antonio Mennonite Church Immigrant Response, Casa Marianella in Austin, RAICES, the Sueños Sin Fronteras Emergency Fund and the Interfaith Welcome Coalition.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/article/Commentary-Radically-hospitable-Texans-can-end-16009789.php>

## **COURT RULINGS**

### **Federal Judge Deals Biden Another Blow On 100-Day Deportation Ban**

*By Sabrina Rodriguez, Politico, February 24, 2021*

- ❖ U.S. District Judge Drew Tipton, granted a preliminary injunction that blocks the 100-day moratorium on most deportations the Biden administration announced on its first day. It's a victory for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who filed a lawsuit against the federal government over the 100-day pause, which was announced in a memorandum from the Department of Homeland Security three days into the Biden administration.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/02/24/texas-judge-biden-deportation-ban-471315?cid=apn>

### **Supreme Court Dismisses Immigrant Public-Charge Cases**

*By Jess Bravin, Wall Street Journal, March 9, 2021*

- ❖ The Supreme Court dismissed several pending appeals over a Trump administration rule penalizing lawful immigrants for seeking public assistance, acting on joint requests filed Tuesday [Mar. 9] by the Biden administration and plaintiffs challenging the policy.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-dismisses-immigrant-public-charge-cases-11615320804>

## **DEVELOPING STORIES**

### **U.S. Reopens Texas Tent Facility To Hold Immigrant Teenagers**

*By Nomaan Merchant, Associated Press, February 22, 2021*

- ❖ President Joe Biden's administration has reopened a tent facility to house up to 700 immigrant teenagers after they cross the U.S.-Mexico border unaccompanied by a parent, a sign of growing worries about how children are treated in government custody. U.S. Health and Human Services said Monday that the first teens arrived at Carrizo Springs, Texas, which was converted two years ago into a holding facility under former President Donald Trump. The facility has been closed since July 2019.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/u-s-reopens-texas-tent-facility-to-hold-immigrant-teenagers>

### **Biden Administration Facing A 'Challenge' At Mexico Border But Not A Crisis, DHS Chief Says**

*By Nick Miroff, The Washington Post, March 1, 2021*

- ❖ Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas blamed the previous administration for the growing number of unaccompanied minors held in U.S. custody after crossing the Mexico border, saying the former president's policies left President Biden with a "gutted" immigration system. Last week the Biden administration opened a tent facility in South Texas where the Department of Health and Human Services will shelter the soaring number of underage migrants crossing the border daily without a parent. Another tent site is planned for U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Del Rio sector in Texas, as the number of minors arriving without a parent has often surpassed 300 per day in recent week, a fourfold increase from October.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/biden-administration-facing-a-challenge-at-mexico-border-but-not-a-crisis-dhs-chief-says/2021/03/01/d30d1564-7aac-11eb-85cd-9b7fa90c8873\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/biden-administration-facing-a-challenge-at-mexico-border-but-not-a-crisis-dhs-chief-says/2021/03/01/d30d1564-7aac-11eb-85cd-9b7fa90c8873_story.html)

## **Biden Meets With Mexican President Amid Growing Pressure On Immigration**

*By Anne Gearan, Mary Beth Sheridan, Nick Miroff and Kevin Sieff, The Washington Post, March 1, 2021*

- ❖ President Biden and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador issued a joint declaration affirming their will to cooperate on migration issues, particularly the long-term goal of creating more jobs in southern Mexico and Central America. But whether Biden can get Mexico's immediate help to contain the growing border influx was not clear.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/biden-lopez-obrador-summit-vaccines-migration/2021/03/01/62e18c02-7a9d-11eb-a976-c028a4215c78\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/biden-lopez-obrador-summit-vaccines-migration/2021/03/01/62e18c02-7a9d-11eb-a976-c028a4215c78_story.html)

## **Report: Berks Detention Center May Reopen As Women-Only Migrant Facility**

*By Stephen Caruso, Pennsylvania Capital-Star, March 4, 2021*

- ❖ According to an anonymous Department of Homeland Security official in the Washington Post, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement is considering turning the Berks County Residential Center outside of Reading into a women-only detention center. The facility, which is owned by the Berks County government and is operated together with ICE, has been used to detain families since 2001. The 96-bed center holds these migrant families as they await an asylum hearing, which determines whether they can stay in the United States or will be deported.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.penncapital-star.com/blog/report-berks-detention-center-may-reopen-as-women-only-migrant-facility/>

## **Biden Administration Won't Defend Trump Immigration Rule**

*By Sophia Tareen and Jessica Gresko, Associated Press, March 10, 2021*

- ❖ A Trump-era immigration rule denying green cards to immigrants who use public benefits like food stamps was dealt likely fatal blows Tuesday [Mar. 9] after the Biden administration dropped legal challenges, including before the Supreme Court. Continuing to defend the rule "is neither in the public interest nor an efficient use of limited government resources," the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said in a statement. The Justice Department also dropped objections to a ruling before the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding a federal judge's November order striking down the rule nationwide.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/supreme-court-trump-immigration-case-db42f1db13f8f4f82befdbf880656a6e>

## **Biden Restarts Program For Migrant Minors Amid Surge**

*By Andrea Shalal, Steve Holland, Mimi Dwyer, Reuters, March 10, 2021*

- ❖ The Biden administration is restarting the Central American Minors (CAM) program for children, which between 2014 and 2017 allowed children fleeing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to apply in their home countries to settle in the United States.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biden-immigration/biden-restarts-program-for-migrant-minors-amid-surge-idUSKBN2B22IY>

## **Lawyers Describe Overcrowded Conditions For Children In Border Patrol Custody**

*By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, March 12, 2021*

- ❖ On March 2, the Donna complex was holding more than 1,800 people — 729% of its pandemic-era capacity, which is designed for 250 migrants, according to an internal CBP document reviewed by CBS News. The Donna facility, which opened last month, has been operating over its pandemic-era capacity for weeks, CBP acknowledged in a recent filing in federal court. The facility was holding 854 children on February 21 and nearly 700 two days before, according to the court filing, which also noted that social distancing "could not be observed at all times given the increasing numbers of individuals in custody."
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/migrant-children-detained-in-overcrowded-conditions/>

## **Backlog Of Migrant Children In Border Patrol Custody Soars To 4,200, With 3,000 Held Past Legal Limit**

*By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, March 15, 2021*

- ❖ As of Sunday [Mar. 14] morning, U.S. Border Patrol was holding more than 4,200 unaccompanied migrant children in short-term holding facilities, including jail-like stations unfit to house minors. Nearly 3,000 of the unaccompanied children in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody had been held longer than 72 hours.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-migrant-children-border-patrol-custody-4200-past-legal-limit/>

## **Immigrant Teens To Be Housed At Dallas Convention Center**

*By Nomaan Merchant and Jake Bleiberg, Associated Press, March, 15, 2021*

- ❖ The U.S. government plans to house up to 3,000 immigrant teenagers at a convention center in downtown Dallas as it struggles to find space for a surge of migrant children at the border who have strained the immigration system just two months into the Biden administration.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/dallas-health-coronavirus-pandemic-immigration-border-patrols-fa567f671faa0e9eb33e37f30746f1b6>

### Southwest Border Crossings On Pace For Highest Levels In 20 Years, Biden Admin Says

By Rebecca Shabad and Julia Ainsley, NBC News,

- ❖ As of Sunday, Customs and Border Protection was encountering 565 unaccompanied children crossing the border on average per day, according to new data obtained by NBC News, up from an average of 313 children per day last month. The surge has created a backlog in Border Patrol stations, with over 4,200 children in custody and 2,943 of those children being held over the 72-hour legal limit. The new figures are a record high, topping last week, when there were roughly 3,000 children in Border Patrol custody, 1,400 of whom were being held over the 72-hour limit.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/southwest-border-crossings-pace-highest-levels-20-years-biden-admin-n1261192>

### Here’s What You Need To Know About Immigration At The Texas Border Under President Biden

By María Méndez and Mallory Falk, Texas Public Radio, March 6, 2021

- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.tpr.org/border-immigration/2021-03-06/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-immigration-at-the-texas-border-under-president-biden>

### Undocumented Immigrants Won’t Get Stimulus Checks — For Third Time Around

By Sarah Ruiz-Grossman, HuffPost, March 9, 2021

- ❖ As part of the historic \$1.9 trillion relief package, millions of Americans will get \$1,400 payments for each individual who made less than \$75,000 a year (or less than \$150,000 for couples), as well as for each child. But “nonresident aliens” — or undocumented immigrants — are not eligible for checks.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/undocumented-immigrants-no-stimulus-checks-coronavirus-again\\_n\\_6048025fc5b636ed3376acac?ncid=APPLENEWS00001](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/undocumented-immigrants-no-stimulus-checks-coronavirus-again_n_6048025fc5b636ed3376acac?ncid=APPLENEWS00001)

### FEMA To Help Manage Unaccompanied Minors At US-Mexico Border

By Darlene Superville, Associated Press, March 14, 2021

- ❖ The Biden administration is turning to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for help managing and caring for record numbers of unaccompanied immigrant children who are streaming into the U.S. from Mexico.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/fema-manage-unaccompanied-minors-us-mexico-border-76445108>



Migrants demanded clearer immigration policies from the Biden administration during a protest at the San Ysidro port of entry on the Mexican border last week.

Photo Credit: Guillermo Arias/  
Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



In this photo, immigrants hold a demonstration demanding clearer United States migration policies, at San Ysidro crossing port in Tijuana.  
Photo Credit: Guillermo Arias / AFP



U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar released photos on Monday, March 22, 2021, from inside a holding facility in Donna, Texas.

PHOTO COURTESY  
REP. HENRY CUELLAR'S OFFICE



U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar released photos on Monday, March 22, 2021, from inside a holding facility in Donna, Texas.

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