

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – JUNE 13, 2024

LATEST STATISTICS

| U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| USBP | Demographic | FY 2019 Totals | FY 2020 Totals | FY 2021 Totals | FY 2022 Totals |
| Southwest Border | Unaccompanied Child | 76,020 | 30,557 | 144,834 | 149,093 |
| | Family Units | 473,682 | 52,230 | 451,087 | 482,962 |
| | Single Adult | 301,806 | 317,864 | 1,063,285 | 1,574,381 |
| Southwest Border Total Apprehensions | | 851,508 | 400,651 | 1,659,206 | 2,206,436 |

Data Sources: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy2020> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

| U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|
| USBP | Demographic | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | Total |
| Southwest Border | Unaccompanied Child | 11,654 | 12,780 | 11,829 | 9,034 | 10,418 | 11,852 | 11,062 | 9,442 | 6,732 | 10,035 | 13,527 | 13,154 | 131,519 |
| | Family Units | 46,745 | 49,827 | 60,843 | 25,829 | 25,643 | 33,269 | 46,555 | 45,026 | 31,271 | 60,165 | 93,111 | 103,027 | 621,311 |
| | Single Adult | 146,735 | 145,073 | 149,346 | 94,650 | 94,460 | 118,551 | 126,304 | 116,914 | 61,535 | 62,442 | 74,416 | 102,582 | 1,293,008 |
| Southwest Border Total Apprehensions | | 205,134 | 207,680 | 222,018 | 129,513 | 130,521 | 163,672 | 183,921 | 171,382 | 99,538 | 132,642 | 181,054 | 218,763 | 2,045,838 |

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

| U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2024 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|------------------|--|
| USBP | Demographic | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | Total | |
| Southwest Border | Unaccompanied Child | 10,699 | 11,939 | 12,455 | 7,483 | 9,358 | 7,925 | 7,635 | 67,494 | |
| | Family Units | 84,407 | 82,678 | 101,710 | 39,807 | 45,972 | 45,988 | 40,159 | 440,721 | |
| | Single Adult | 93,648 | 96,490 | 135,571 | 76,929 | 85,304 | 83,558 | 81,090 | 652,590 | |
| Southwest Border Total Apprehensions | | 188,754 | 191,107 | 249,736 | 124,219 | 140,634 | 137,471 | 128,884 | 1,160,805 | |

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

Texas Targets Dangerous Criminals Illegally Entering Under President Biden's Watch

By the Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, June 7, 2024

❖ As of June 7, Texas has bused:

- Over 12,500 migrants to Washington, D.C. since April 2022
- Over 45,500 migrants to New York City since August 2022
- Over 36,800 migrants to Chicago since August 2022
- Over 3,400 migrants to Philadelphia since November 2022
- Over 19,100 migrants to Denver since May 18 2023
- Over 1,500 migrants to Los Angeles since June 14 2023

❖ Press Release Source: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/texas-targets-dangerous-criminals-illegally-entering-under-president-bidens-watch>

NEW ASYLUM RESTRICTIONS AT THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER

What to know about Biden's executive action on immigration

By Luke Barr, ABC News, June 4, 2024

- ❖ President Joe Biden took executive action Tuesday, June 4, that limits the number of migrants who can claim asylum between ports of entry at the southern U.S. border. The executive action establishes a rule that will turn away migrants who are claiming asylum between ports of entry after there have been seven consecutive days of more than 2,500 encounters along the southern border. The United States would start accepting migrants who are claiming asylum only if there have been 14 days of encounters with 1,500 migrants or less between ports of entry, according to administration officials. The rule will take effect later Tuesday [June 4], according to officials. Migrants will still be able to use the CBP One app to make appointments at the border, meaning they will still be able to claim asylum. The action applies to "unscheduled" apprehensions at the border, officials said. "The suspension and limitation on entry and the rule will not apply to individuals who use a safe and orderly process, such as the CBP [Customs and Border Protection] One mobile application to enter the United States at a port of entry in an orderly manner," an official said. CBP doesn't provide real-time data on border crossings. However, there were 3,600 apprehensions along the southern border on Sunday [June 2] alone -- well past the threshold Biden has set to shut down all asylum claims between ports of entry, according to a source familiar with the data. Border Patrol is seeing an average of 3,500 apprehensions per day in recent weeks, according to another source -- also past the new threshold. The rule applies to and will "immediately" expel any individual encountered along the southern border if the provision of limiting asylum at the border has been triggered, according to officials. The migrant's country of origin doesn't matter, officials said, and individuals will be removed to their country of origin in a matter of "days, if not hours," under the new executive rule.
- ❖ Sources: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/president-biden-executive-action-immigration-what-to-know/story?id=110814582>
- ❖ To read the press release visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/06/04/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-new-actions-to-secure-the-border/>

Understanding INA Section 212(f): The President's Authority to Suspend the Entry of Migrants

By the American Immigration Council, June 4, 2024

- ❖ Under Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the president of the United States has the authority to "suspend the entry" of certain noncitizens into the United States under certain circumstances. Specifically, the section reads: "[W]henver the President finds that the entry of any aliens or of any class of aliens into the United States would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, he may by proclamation, and for such period as he shall deem necessary, suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants, or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem to be appropriate." While the language gives the president broad powers over the entry of noncitizens into the United States, that power is not universal. Importantly, INA § 212(f) does not allow the president to interfere with or subvert other parts of the INA or other federal laws. That includes INA § 208, which grants people the right to seek asylum in the United States: "Any alien who is present in the United States or who arrives in the United States (whether or not in a designated port of arrival [...]) irrespective of such alien's status, may apply for asylum." While 212(f) authority has been used in recent years in an attempt to restrict access to asylum at the U.S./Mexico border, the courts have identified significant limitations.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/understanding-ina-section-212f-president-authority-suspend-entry-migrants>
- ❖ As an additional resource, you can read an American Immigration Council Analysis of the President's 212(f) Proclamation and Interim Final Rule Restricting Asylum, here: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/american-immigration-council-analysis-presidents-212f-proclamation-and-interim-final-rule>

Securing the Border – Presidential Proclamation and Rule

By the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, June 5, 2024

- ❖ President Biden has signed a Presidential Proclamation to temporarily suspend the entry of certain noncitizens at the southern border because there are high numbers of encounters, and the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice issued an interim final rule that restricts asylum eligibility and further enhances consequences at the border. This suspension of entry and associated measures will apply until 14 calendar days after there has been an average of less than 1,500 encounters over a 7-day period. The suspension of entry will continue to, or again, apply if there has been a 7-day average of 2,500 encounters or more.
- ❖ **The rule makes three key changes to current processing under Title 8 immigration authorities during periods of high border encounters:**
 - First, noncitizens who cross the southern border unlawfully or without authorization will generally be ineligible for asylum, absent exceptionally compelling circumstances and unless they are excepted by the Proclamation.
 - Second, noncitizens who cross the southern border and are processed for expedited removal while the limitation is in effect will only be referred for a credible fear screening with an Asylum Officer if they manifest or express a fear of return to their country or country of removal, a fear of persecution or torture, or an intention to apply for asylum.
 - Third, the U.S. will continue to adhere to its international obligations and commitments by screening individuals who manifest a fear as noted above and do not qualify for an exception to the Rule for withholding of removal and Convention Against Torture protections at a reasonable probability of persecution or torture standard – a new, substantially higher standard than is currently applied under the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways rule.
- ❖ **What this Means for Intending Migrants**
- ❖ As of June 5, 2024, U.S. immigration enforcement and asylum procedures across the southern border are more strict. Noncitizens whose entry is suspended, including those who cross unlawfully between ports of entry instead of using a lawful pathway, and do not establish a legal basis to remain in the United States, will:
 - generally, not be eligible for asylum,
 - be removed to their home country or a third country,
 - face at least a 5-year bar on re-entry, and
 - confront possible criminal charges.
- ❖ **Limited Exceptions**
 - The suspension and limitation on entry will not apply to noncitizens who use an appropriate process for the safe and orderly entry of noncitizens into the United States—including the CBP One mobile app—to enter the United States at a port of entry. Noncitizens may continue to seek an appointment to present for inspection at a port of entry by using the CBP One mobile app. In addition, the Proclamation and rule will not apply to lawful permanent residents, unaccompanied children, victims of a severe form of trafficking, and other noncitizens with a valid visa or other lawful permission to enter the United States.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/immigrationlaws>

New immigration policy already causing Biden legal headaches

By Josh Gerstein, Politico, June 6, 2024

- ❖ A lawyer for the state of Texas, which is fighting to maintain concertina wire along a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border, argued in court Thursday [June 6] that Biden's sweeping executive order to suspend the right to make asylum claims undercuts previous administration legal arguments in a suit brought by Gov. Greg Abbott. Texas Solicitor General Aaron Nielson told a panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that Biden's action, which prohibits most migrants from being permitted to claim asylum when certain conditions are met, was "flatly contrary" to legal arguments the Justice Department previously offered in the case. "They told the district court and this court and the Supreme Court, essentially the toehold theory: If you get one toe into the United States, you are entitled to the asylum process. That is not consistent with what the president said two days ago, that ... they can turn off the asylum process, if too many people are trying to come into the country," Nielsen said during the court session in New Orleans. At the court session, Justice Department attorney Melissa Patterson said the Texas lawyer's claims about Biden's new policy were inaccurate and that it does not completely foreclose asylum proceedings for everyone who is encountered by the Border Patrol after the daily quota is exceeded. "Once someone is within the United States, once they have entered and are present to the United States, regardless of whether they have entered unlawfully or whether they've entered lawfully at a port of entry, [immigration law] gives folks the right to apply for asylum. Nothing about the proclamation and the rule that accompanied changed that." "It imposed a limitation on eligibility. It's going to be harder to get it—to get asylum for a lot of folks, but you still get to apply, you still get to be processed," the DOJ lawyer said.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2024/06/06/biden-immigration-policy-legal-00162214?cid=apn>

Migrant arrests drop at US-Mexico border as Biden asylum ban rolls out

By *Ted Hesson, Reuters, June 10, 2024*

- ❖ The number of migrants caught illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border dropped on Friday, June 7, a senior U.S. border official told Reuters, saying it signaled a restrictive new Biden administration policy was deterring some illegal immigration. U.S. Border Patrol arrested around 3,100 people crossing illegally, down roughly 20% from the days before, the official said, requesting anonymity to discuss preliminary figures. "It's still too early to say this is a definitive trend," the official said. "But I think it is indicative of some possible early success." Since Wednesday, June 5, more than 2,000 people per day were put in expedited removal, more than double the previous rate, the U.S. official said.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/migrant-arrests-drop-at-us-mexico-border-as-biden-asylum-ban-rolls-out/ar-BB1nSz1f>

Biden administration ready for court challenges to border policy, Mayorkas says

By *Katharine Jackson, Reuters, June 10, 2024*

- ❖ President Joe Biden's administration is prepared to defend in court the sweeping asylum policy put into place at the U.S.-Mexico border last week, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday [June 9]. Mayorkas on Sunday said the administration was ready to defend the policy against an expected American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawsuit. "I respectfully disagree with the ACLU," Mayorkas said. "We stand by the legality of what we have done. We stand by the value proposition. It's not only a matter of securing the border, we have a humanitarian obligation to keep vulnerable people out of the hands of exploitative smugglers." The ACLU confirmed on Sunday it plans to sue.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/biden-administration-ready-for-court-challenges-to-border-policy-mayorkas-says/ar-BB1nWuWw?ocid=BingNews>

Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) Responds to Biden's Executive Order

By *Tori Salas, Coordinating Director, Interfaith Welcome Coalition.*

- ❖ Below you can read Tori Salas', IWC Coordinating Director's response to Pres. Biden's executive order limiting the number of people who can request asylum at the US-Mexico border. "Under both U.S. and international law, people have the legal right to seek asylum. The recent ban disregards the United States' obligations and longstanding commitment to protecting those fleeing persecution. We urge the Biden administration to reverse this harmful executive action immediately. In significant global displacement and sociopolitical upheaval, we must stand up for those compelled to escape dangerous conditions, not abandon them. Interfaith Welcome Coalition calls for compassion, justice, and the upholding of our nation's promise to be a safe haven for all in need."
- ❖ Source: https://www.instagram.com/reel/C74Q4CkxNy3/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN

Where unaccompanied migrant children have gone, mapped

By *Alex Fitzpatrick and Kavya Beheraj, AXIOS, May 31, 2024*

- ❖ Houston (about 32,000 kids), Los Angeles (about 12,700) and Dallas (about 8,500) received the largest shares of the 550,000-plus unaccompanied migrant children who arrived in U.S. cities between 2015 and 2023. That's based on U.S. Department of Human Health and Services data on migrant children sponsors' ZIP codes obtained by the New York Times through a Freedom of Information Act request.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.axios.com/2024/05/31/migrant-children-map-immigration>
- ❖ For more information, visit: <https://www.axios.com/local/houston/2024/06/03/unaccompanied-minors-texas>

Unaccompanied minors are representing themselves in immigration court, alarming advocates

By *Laura Romero, ABC News, June 3, 2024*

- ❖ Unlike every other court in the land, immigration courts don't guarantee defendants -- even minors -- the right to counsel. A shortage of attorneys is just one of a litany of issues crippling this crucial function of the American justice system, experts say. In 2023, only 56% of unaccompanied minors in immigration courts were represented by counsel, according to data from the Department of Justice. While the Biden administration has recently made moves to tackle the growing backlog of asylum cases, experts say the recent action by the White House is narrow in scope and won't help the glut of unaccompanied, unrepresented minors. Every Monday, dozens of unaccompanied minors make their way to a federal court in Hyattsville, Maryland, to make their case before a judge on why they should remain in the U.S. **The total immigration court backlog of children and adults has surged to 3.6 million cases in 2024, according to the Department of Justice said. There are roughly 600 judges in 68 courts across the U.S. handling millions of these cases, according to the DOJ.**
- ❖ Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/unaccompanied-minors-representing-immigration-court-alarming-advocates/story?id=110615713>

The Flores agreement has protected migrant children for nearly 3 decades. Changes may be coming

By Rebecca Santana and Acacia Coronado, Associated Press, May 11, 2024

- ❖ The Biden administration wants to partially end a 27-year-old agreement that provides court oversight of how the federal government cares for migrant children in its custody. The request to a U.S. district judge, filed Friday, May 10, comes weeks after the Health and Human Services Department published its own rule on safeguards, effective July 1, that Secretary Xavier Becerra said will set “clear standards for the care and treatment of unaccompanied (migrant) children.” In a motion filed in California federal court, the government argued that the court supervision has outlived its purpose and new regulations are a better solution to ensure the safety of children. “Twenty-seven years later, there is ample reason to believe that the (Flores Settlement Agreement’s) goals have been achieved. The Court should terminate the FSA as to HHS,” the government wrote in its filing. Children’s advocates say what is known as the Flores agreement has been instrumental in guaranteeing safe conditions for children, especially amid rising border detentions over the past two years that included nearly 300,000 unaccompanied minors.
- ❖ **WHAT IS THE FLORES AGREEMENT?** The 1997 agreement was the result of over a decade of litigation between attorneys representing the rights of migrant children and the U.S. government over widespread allegations of mistreatment in the 1980s. The original lawsuit was filed on behalf of four teenagers including Jenny Lisette Flores, a 15-year-old from El Salvador. The lawsuit detailed how Flores and the other plaintiffs were held by the government for extended periods of time, often in facilities with unrelated adults, and did not receive education or proper medical treatment. The agreement set standards for the detention, treatment and release of minors. It mandates that migrant children be released without necessary delay to family, a child welfare program or an adult seeking custody if family reunification is not possible. The vast majority of children released in such cases go to close relatives while their immigration cases are ongoing. If release is not possible due to safety concerns, the agreement says minors must be held in the least restrictive environment that is appropriate. The agreement also sets standards for how licensed shelters must provide food, water, adult supervision, emergency medical services, toilets, sinks, temperature control and ventilation.
- ❖ **WHAT MIGHT CHANGE AND WHY?** The government moved to partially end court supervision, specifically for unaccompanied minors who are in Health and Human Services custody. The change won’t affect the treatment of children beforehand by Homeland Security. The government says the new rule taking effect in July “implements and goes beyond” the standards spelled out under the Flores agreement. Among other things, it creates an independent ombudsman’s office, establishes minimum standards at temporary overflow shelters and formalizes advances in screening protocols for releasing children to families and sponsors and for legal services.
- ❖ **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** The judge who oversees the Flores agreement would have to approve the government’s request.
- ❖ Source: <https://apnews.com/article/child-migration-flores-agreement-unaccompanied-minors-b0a2ba8c0d162c016c6cb9e2a49e0ddd>

ANNUNCIATION HOUSE, EL PASO, TX

‘Madness’: Pope Francis speaks out on Texas’ effort to close El Paso’s Annunciation House

By Craig Huber, Spectrum News, May 20, 2024

- ❖ Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is trying to shut down Annunciation House, a large migrant shelter on the U.S.-Mexico border. The attorney general claims the facility encourages migrants to enter the U.S. illegally. Appearing on CBS’s “60 Minutes”, Pope Francis vehemently disagreed with Paxton’s efforts, calling them “madness.” “That is madness, sheer madness. To close the border and leave them there, that is madness,” Francis said. “Migrant has to be received. Thereafter, you see how you’re going to deal with them. Maybe you have to send them back. I don’t know. But each case ought to be considered humanely.”
- ❖ Source: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/south-texas-el-paso/news/2024/05/20/-madness---pope-francis-speaks-out-on-texas--effort-to-close-el-paso-s-annunciation-house->

This Catholic leader shelters migrants. Texas says he runs ‘stash houses.’

By Arelis R. Hernández, Washington Post, June 6, 2024

- ❖ Ruben Garcia founded Annunciation House to shelter the neediest immigrants — the undocumented. Texas officials say his work encourages illegal migration.
- ❖ Source: <https://wapo.st/4cbmAy1>

NEWS FROM EAGLE PASS, TEXAS

Operation Lone Star explained: What's happening in Eagle Pass, Texas?

By Rick Jervis, Carlie Procell and Stephen J. Beard, USA TODAY, May 22, 2024

- ❖ Nearly three months after Eagle Pass, Texas, became the focal point of a state-federal clash over immigration and border security policy, several related issues including public access to a city park, a chain of buoys in the Rio Grande, and local law enforcement's ability to arrest and deport suspected migrants, remain subject to debate and legal battles. Central to these issues is Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's "Operation Lone Star" (OLS), an \$11 billion border initiative kicked off shortly after President Joe Biden took office and rolled back immigration policies set by former President Donald Trump. In a May 22 report, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) called for OLS to be shut down due to racial profiling and unconstitutional policing, among other findings.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/graphics/2024/05/22/operation-lone-star-explained/72943319007/>

Camp Eagle opens in Texas, enhancing border security and cutting state expenses

By Jordan Elder, News 4 San Antonio, May 31, 2024

- ❖ A new military base is opening right along the Rio Grande, meant to give soldiers easier access to the frontlines of border issues. It's called the Camp Eagle Forward Operating Base, announced in February, and now welcoming its first soldiers. Jordan Elder reporting from new military base is opening right along the Rio Grande, meant to give soldiers easier access to the frontlines of border issues. This is just Phase 1 of a larger plan that will culminate in the construction of 95 buildings on the 80-acre plot of land. In another two weeks, 300 more soldiers will arrive. After that, officials say there are about six phases total, which will lead to nearly 1,800 troops living and working here. The base can hold up to about 2,000 troops if there are migrant surges. Each soldier will have their own bunk, there is a massive dining hall that can seat 700 at a time, and the base already has areas set out for recreation too. Major Gen. Thomas Suelzer with the Texas Military Department says housing soldiers here will save taxpayer money. "Our hotel rates expenses since 2021 have gone up 30%," Suelzer said. "We will save \$11.5 million a month on housing soldiers. And that doesn't even include the fuel that they're using right now to drive in and get to the border." By the time this project is over, Suelzer says the state will have shut down three other base camps.
- ❖ Source: <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/new-military-base-opens-in-eagle-pass-welcomes-first-300-soldiers-san-antonio-immigration-texas-mexico-border-illegal-immigrants>

First Texas National Guard troops move into new Eagle Pass base

By Alejandro Serrano, Texas Tribune, June 3, 2024

- ❖ Gov. Greg Abbott has welcomed the first group of Texas National Guard troops to move into a new 80-acre base being built here as part of the state's \$11 billion border initiative. The base, located on the southern edge of the city, has a dining hall with chef-served meals, dorms that will give each soldier a room and a pavilion where troops can have picnics or put up a basketball hoop. Three hundred troops — who have been living in hotels and other temporary lodging in the region and commuting up to an hour to the border — moved in Friday morning, marching single file with their backpacks and rifles into the food hall. Officials estimate the base will help the state save \$11.5 million a month in lodging costs. The state has not released the cost of building the base. In a statement, the Eagle Pass Border Coalition pointed to its location next to a sewage treatment plant and a concrete plant that could expose soldiers to health risks. The group also juxtaposed the state's investment in the base with the lack of state investment in nearby colonias — low-income neighborhoods that don't have basic infrastructure like running water. Five phases of construction remain to be completed, each one expected to take about 30 days and providing housing for 300 more troops.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/border-mexico/article/texas-national-guard-eagle-pass-base-19492663.php>

Eagle Pass park to remain closed even as migrant crossings drop, Texas officials say

By Jordan Elder, News 4 San Antonio, June 3, 2024

- ❖ The scene at Shelby Park in Eagle Pass is drastically different than it was back in December when thousands of migrants were being held in a field waiting to be transported and processed. Now, state officials say the average crossings in that area are now in the single digits. **"There's been an average of only about two people crossing the border in that 50-acre park a day," Gov. Greg Abbott said Friday [May 31].** "And most of those people are arrested by Texas DPS." Abbott says overall crossings are down 72 percent in the state. But even with these new additions and the much lower crossing numbers, the governor shows no signs of reopening Shelby Park to the public.
- ❖ Source: <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/eagle-pass-park-to-remain-closed-even-as-migrant-crossings-drop-texas-officials-say-local-news-near-me-border-crisis>

Commentary: Gov. Abbott's failed Operation Lone Star must end

By Sarah Cruz, San Antonio Express-News, June 9, 2024

- ❖ The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas examined almost three years of government data on Operation Lone Star from the Texas Department of Public Safety, the state law enforcement entity leading immigration enforcement, and the Office of Court Administration, or OCA, the judicial entity where individuals appear for hearings for arrests, to understand what the program is actually doing. What we found, as seen in our new report, is that the state's own data refutes Abbott's claims of success. Instead, the unconstitutional \$11.2 billion taxpayer-funded program fails to achieve anything beyond racially profiling and arresting people who pose no threat to public safety. From the beginning of the enforcement operation in March 2021 through January, DPS reported a total of 38,030 arrests. But OCA recorded only 13,306 people appearing before a magistrate. What happened to the two-thirds of people arrested by DPS who never went to court? The answer is unclear. Overall, the data is vastly inconsistent and it's not evident what is even categorized as an Operation Lone Star arrest. Similarly, DPS reported that 40% of its arrests were for misdemeanors. But OCA reported that 70% of first appearances were for misdemeanors. There is a common thread throughout the data when it comes to racial profiling. Latinos constituted nearly 97% of all trespassing arrests. About 13,600 DPS arrests reportedly occurred in counties not on the border — and sometimes hundreds of miles from the border — where Latinos were also disproportionately targeted and arrested. More than a dozen state agencies are assisting Abbott in perpetuating Operation Lone Star's mounting civil and human rights violations, including deadly vehicle pursuits, restrictions to asylum and violent assaults at the border.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/immigration-texas-border-latinos-19499710.php>

ASYLUM SEEKERS

California Beaches Are a New Gateway for Illegal Immigration

By Alicia A. Caldwell, Wall Street Journal, May 11, 2024

- ❖ The number of times migrants illegally entered or attempted to enter California by boat has more than doubled from 308 in the federal fiscal year that ended in September of 2020 to 736 in the same period last year, according to Customs and Border Protection. While most arrive around San Diego, they have ventured as far as Santa Barbara County, north of Los Angeles. The migrant boat landings are adding to an already chaotic situation around San Diego, which has recently become the most active stretch along the border for illegal migration. Federal agents there have made more than 220,000 arrests since Oct. 1, putting this fiscal year on track to be the busiest in decades. The crush of arriving migrants, mostly asylum seekers, has far exceeded capacity at Border Patrol stations, prompting authorities to release more than 100,000 people since October. Most are dropped off at public transit stations in the city with orders to report back to immigration court at a later date.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/illegal-migrant-california-beach-boat-crossing-7f135d8e>

Migrants from around the world have made this stretch of California the top place to enter the U.S. illegally

By Patrick J. McDonnell, Los Angeles Times, May 16, 2024

- ❖ San Diego County has become the most popular spot for migrants illegally entering the United States, according to the latest government figures. With 37,370 arrests last month [April], it was the busiest of the Border Patrol's nine sectors along the southern border for the first time since the 1990s. As to why San Diego has become the favored crossing spot on the U.S. border, experts point to a crackdown by Mexican authorities that has made it harder to reach Texas.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2024-05-16/migrants-from-around-the-world-have-made-this-stretch-of-california-the-top-place-to-enter-the-u-s-illegally>

Migrants thought they were claiming asylum. Instead, Texas troopers arrested them

By Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, May 17, 2024

- ❖ Defense attorneys say hundreds of migrants arrested in recent months near Eagle Pass were following signs they believed pointed the way to federal agents, to whom they could claim asylum. Instead, they were led to Department of Public Safety troopers. In some cases, attorneys say, their clients walked through open gates onto the property, a county-owned hydropower plant north of the city. Hearst Newspapers spoke with one woman who claims state officers waved her and the group she was with onto the property and told them to climb the fences blocking it. Attorneys say the plant, where arrests started in September and spiked in March and April, is just one example of properties where troopers have appeared to funnel migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. Even as border crossings declined across the entire U.S.-Mexico border in recent months, Texas troopers arrested more than 450 migrants for trespassing at the plant.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/eagle-pass-arrests-abbott-19462744.php>

Migrant crossings at U.S.-Mexico border plunge 54% from record highs, internal figures show

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, May 23, 2024

- ❖ Illegal crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border in May are down by more than 50% compared to the record highs reported in December, giving the Biden administration an unexpected reprieve during a time when migration has historically surged, according to internal government data obtained by CBS News. During the first 21 days of May, U.S. Border Patrol agents recorded a daily average of approximately 3,700 apprehensions of migrants between official ports of entry. That represents a 54% decrease from the 8,000 daily average in December, when illegal entries soared to a quarter of a million, an all-time high. May is also on track to see the third consecutive month-over-month drop in unlawful border crossings, the preliminary U.S. Department of Homeland Security statistics show. In March and April, illegal crossings along the southern border dropped to 137,000 and 129,000, respectively, according to public government data. If the trend continues, Border Patrol is on pace to record between 110,000 and 120,000 apprehensions in May. Border Patrol apprehensions don't include the number of migrants processed at official border crossings, where the Biden administration is admitting roughly 1,500 asylum-seekers on a daily basis.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-us-mexico-border-crossings-mayorkas-may-2024/?tag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Denver launches migrant support program in shift from short-term shelter

By Daniella Silva, NBC News, May 29, 2024

- ❖ After months of responding to its growing migrant community by sheltering new arrivals for limited periods of time, Denver has begun rolling out a new strategy designed to help people transition into more stable lives in the city by providing six months of housing, job training, language instruction and legal support in filing asylum claims. Nearly 800 people were enrolled in the program, with more expected to be added by the end of the month, Jon Ewing, a city spokesperson who manages communications for Denver's newcomer response said. Those enrolled in the Denver Asylum Seekers Program are migrants who were in Denver's shelter system as of April and are applying for asylum, in which there is a six-month wait for work permits after they file applications, Ewing said. Since Texas Gov. Greg Abbott began busing migrants to Democratic cities in 2022, about 42,000 have arrived in Denver. Most have chosen to relocate to other cities where they have friends or family. Of the roughly 800 people living in migrant shelters in Denver, about 530, most of whom are in the new program, were living in a hotel shelter as of May 29, Ewing said. About 200 are living in transitional housing and a shelter run by Catholic Charities, and 68 others are in short-term shelter, Ewing said. Some people have also already been moved into apartments. There were 7,233 migrants in Chicago shelters as of Wednesday, May 29 according to city data. The city said it has received more than 42,000 migrants since 2022. In New York City, there were more than 65,800 migrants and asylum-seekers in need of shelter, the city said in a statement last week, and nearly 200,000 migrants have arrived since 2022. The city has spent about \$70 million on its migrant response since 2022, with about \$20 million to \$25 million spent so far this year. Nearly \$52 million of it was spent on shelter and housing, with shelter costing much more than housing, Ewing said.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/denver-launches-migrant-support-program-shift-short-term-shelter-rcna154398>

NYC leaders push back on new 30-day shelter limit for some asylum seekers. Migrants say they feel "hopeless."

By Lisa Rozner, CBS New York, May 29, 2024

- ❖ Some New York City leaders are pushing back on the mayor's new policy to permanently evict single asylum seekers over the age of 24 from shelters after 30 days. The policy started last week [Wednesday May 22]. Asylum seekers can only seek an extension under what the city calls "extenuating circumstances." Those circumstances include a serious medical procedure within 30 days, plans to leave the city within 30 days or a signed apartment lease. Single asylum seekers ages 18-24 and families with children can stay for 60 days. Of the 65,000 migrants in the city's care, 15,000 are single males. The city says in major cities like Chicago, the limit is 60 days and there's no opportunity to apply for an extension. In Denver, the limit is one to three days.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/nyc-30-day-shelter-limit-asylum-seekers-migrants/>

Biden executive order restricting asylum processing along U.S. border expected on Tuesday

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, June 3, 2024

- ❖ In May, Border Patrol recorded an average of 3,800 migrant apprehensions each day, according to agency data obtained by CBS News. In May, Border Patrol recorded roughly 118,000 migrant apprehensions between ports of entry along the southern border, the third consecutive monthly drop, according to agency statistics obtained by CBS News.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biden-executive-order-immigration-us-mexico-border-asylum/>

U.S. planning to refer some migrants for resettlement in Greece and Italy under Biden initiative

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, May 31, 2024

- ❖ The Biden administration is planning to refer some migrants in Latin America for resettlement in Greece and Italy as part of another effort to discourage people in the region from traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border, two people familiar with the government's plans told CBS News. The initiative would involve Greece and Italy welcoming migrants processed at immigration offices that the Biden administration set up last year in four Latin American countries to screen migrants who hope to reach the U.S., the sources said, requesting anonymity to discuss arrangements that have yet to be announced. The centers, officially known as Safe Mobility Offices, allow certain migrants in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Guatemala to apply to come to the U.S. or other countries legally. Under the new arrangements, Greece and Italy would join Canada and Spain in resettling some of those processed at the offices. One of the sources said Italy and Greece would likely accept a relatively small number of migrants, roughly 500 or fewer each. First announced in May 2023, the Safe Mobility Offices are regional brick-and-mortar hubs for the U.S. to determine whether migrants qualify for different options to enter the U.S. legally, including through traditional refugee resettlement, family visa programs, work visas or an immigration benefit known as humanitarian parole. Migrants have also been vetted for resettlement in Canada and Spain. The U.S. has resettled roughly 10,000 migrants who were processed at Safe Mobility Offices through the Refugee Admissions Program, which requires beneficiaries to prove they're fleeing persecution due to their political views, religion or other factors, according to internal government data obtained by CBS News. Who can be processed at the Safe Mobility Offices depends on the host country. The office in Colombia accepts applications from Cuban, Haitian and Venezuelan migrants. The Costa Rica-based office only processes Nicaraguans and Venezuelans. In Ecuador, the U.S. center accepts cases filed by Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Venezuelans and Colombians. The office in Guatemala only processes Guatemalans.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-migrants-greece-italy-biden/>
- ❖ To learn more about the Safe Mobility Offices, visit: <https://movilidadsegura.org/en/> ; <https://www.state.gov/refugee-admissions/safe-mobility-initiative/>

Republicans in Arizona Poised to Add Immigration Measure to Ballot

By Jack Healy, New York Times, June 4, 2024

- ❖ Republican lawmakers are poised on Tuesday [June 4] to put a ballot measure before voters in November that would make unlawfully entering Arizona from Mexico a state crime. The legislators' proposal would give local police officers the power to arrest and jail migrants and would allow state judges to order the migrants deported. The move by legislators would put the border crisis directly onto the ballot in a swing state that is seen as crucial in the presidential race, potentially firing up anti-immigration conservative voters and drawing in otherwise unenthusiastic independents. And it could sit on a potentially crowded ballot, along with another measure that would protect the right to have an abortion, which Democrats hope will draw out more voters on their side. If voters pass the border enforcement measure in November, it would mark a sharp U-turn for a state that has moderated its approach to immigration since an era when Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County carried out raids and traffic stops that critics criticized as racial profiling.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/04/us/arizona-immigration-law.html>

Biden nears huge next move on immigration as he tries to win over Latinos in key states

By Edward-Isaac Dovere and Priscilla Alvarez, CNN, June 9, 2024

- ❖ Looking to shore up Latino votes in Nevada and Arizona for his reelection campaign, President Joe Biden is on the verge of soon following up last week's executive action aimed at curbing border crossings with another move focused on providing legal status for long-term undocumented immigrants who are married to American citizens. Though final details have not been decided, officials are reviewing an existing legal authority known as "parole in place" that would shield select undocumented immigrants from deportation and allow them to work legally in the country as they seek citizenship. The orders have not yet been presented to Biden himself for review. Estimates put the number of people who could be directly affected at 750,000 to 800,000, with a reverberating effect among spouses, children, extended family and friends — and predominantly Latinos. That's millions of potential votes in just Arizona, Nevada, and Georgia. Those are all battleground states, all home to many Latinos and all looking likely to be decided in November by slivers of the electorate. This could amount to the federal government's biggest relief program since the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. That program, which allowed undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children to live and work in the country, was announced mid-June of Obama's own reelection year in 2012.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2024/06/09/politics/joe-biden-immigration-future-moves/index.html>

DETENTION CENTERS

U.S. to Close Costly Texas Immigration Detention Center and Reroute Funds

By Reuters, June 10, 2024

- ❖ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will close a costly Texas detention center and reallocate the funds to increase overall detention capacity as the agency ramps up operations to implement new U.S. border restrictions. In a memo to U.S. lawmakers on Monday, June 10, ICE said it would shutter the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, freeing up money to expand detention bed space elsewhere. As of June 6, the agency held around 37,000 people, close to its funded capacity of 41,500, ICE figures show. The move to close the Texas facility, known as "Dilley," frees up resources for an additional 1,600 beds, ICE said in the memo, which was reviewed by Reuters. ICE confirmed the closure in a related press release. Dilley was opened in 2014 to house migrant families caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, a contentious practice the Biden administration halted by early 2022. The center, operated by the private company CoreCivic, held around 1,800 people as of June 6, the bulk of whom were women with no criminal records, ICE records show. Dilley was one of nine detention centers identified in an internal 2022 memo recommending closing or downsizing centers with high costs or staffing shortages. The memo, reported by Reuters last year, said ICE could save \$129 million by closing it. In the memo to Congress, ICE said Dilley was "the most expensive facility in the national detention network."
- ❖ Source: [https://www.usnews.com/news/top-news/articles/2024-06-10/us-to-close-costly-texas-immigration-detention-center-and-reroute-funds#:~:text=June%2010%2C%20at%205%3A29%20p.m.&text=WASHINGTON%20\(Reuters\)%20%2D%20U.S.%20Immigration,implement%20new%20U.S.%20border%20restrictions](https://www.usnews.com/news/top-news/articles/2024-06-10/us-to-close-costly-texas-immigration-detention-center-and-reroute-funds#:~:text=June%2010%2C%20at%205%3A29%20p.m.&text=WASHINGTON%20(Reuters)%20%2D%20U.S.%20Immigration,implement%20new%20U.S.%20border%20restrictions).

DEVELOPING STORIES

Panama's next president says he'll try to shut down one of the world's busiest migration routes

By Alma Solís, Associated Press, May 11, 2024

- ❖ Panama is on the verge of a dramatic change to its immigration policy that could reverberate from the dense Darien jungle to the U.S. border. President-elect José Raúl Mulino says he will shut down a migration route used by more than 500,000 people last year. Until now, Panama has helped speedily bus the migrants across its territory so they can continue their journey north. "Panama and our Darien are not a transit route. It is our border," Mulino said. He will take over as president on July 1. As he had suggested during his campaign, the 64-year-old lawyer and former security minister said he would try to end "the Darien odyssey that does not have a reason to exist."
- ❖ Source: <https://apnews.com/article/panama-immigration-mulino-darien-f46becc989e0f2c944922b03e6417a3f>

Biden administration sues states over immigration laws

By Russell Contreras, Axios, May 28, 2024

- ❖ The U.S. Department of Justice has sued two more states this month to prevent them from implementing new state laws targeting immigrants. The lawsuits against Iowa and Oklahoma — in addition to one against Texas — signal that the Biden administration is taking an aggressive stance against states taking immigration matters into their own hands. Iowa and Oklahoma joined Texas in passing new state laws that charge undocumented immigrants with either a criminal misdemeanor or a felony for entering the country without authorization. The DOJ filed suit against Iowa on May 9 and against Oklahoma on May 21, saying the laws are unconstitutional. The DOJ is also in court against a Texas law passed last year that would allow state authorities to arrest and deport people suspected of entering the country illegally. That law, which critics warn will lead to racial profiling, is on hold pending the outcome of the lawsuit.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.axios.com/2024/05/28/biden-immigration-texas-law-oklahoma>

Texas' immigration dilemma: Businesses need workers but border crisis 'eats up the oxygen'

By James Osborne, Washington Bureau, May 28, 2024

- ❖ From citrus farms in South Texas to tech offices in Austin and construction sites in San Antonio, much of the Texas economy runs on immigrant labor. Immigrants make up 11% of the overall Texas' population, more than any state except California, according to estimates by the nonprofits Migration Policy Center and the American Immigration Council. And with the Texas economy booming and the unemployment rate near historic lows, businesses across the spectrum are eager to expand foreign worker programs to get many more immigrants to come to the Lone Star State. "We need labor," said Glenn Hamer, president of the Texas Business Association, the state's largest business lobbyist. "We have more jobs open than people to fill them. Every unemployed person could get a job, and we'd still have hundreds of thousands of jobs open. The best and brightest people in the world want to come here and contribute, and we need them."
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/business/article/immigrant-workers-texas-border-crisis-19482088.php>

California Wants to Change the Law for Thousands of Migrants

By Nick Mordowanec, NewsWeek, May 29, 2024

- ❖ More than 40,000 undocumented students at dozens of California college and university campuses could be provided work authorizations under a new law. On May 22, the California Assembly passed Bill 2586, known as the Opportunity for All Act, providing equal access to employment opportunities for all students, regardless of their immigration status, at the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC) campuses. Legislation was introduced by State Representative David Alvarez, who said this new legislation will address inequities faced by undocumented students who have more difficulty financially supporting themselves as they complete their education. The bill passed 59-4, with 17 votes not recorded. It requires a successful Senate vote and signing by Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom to be enacted. Approximately 1.9 million immigrants statewide were undocumented in 2021, down from 2.8 million in 2007, according to Pew Research Center estimates published in November 2023. That represented a 28 percent decline compared to 2007, and 18 percent decline compared to 2021—the latter when some 82 percent were either citizens or had some other legal residency status. In 2022, about 54 percent of California immigrants became naturalized citizens, continuing an upward trend since about 31 percent of immigrants were naturalized in 1990, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. AB 2586 prohibits the colleges and universities from disqualifying a student from being hired for an employment position due to their failure to provide proof of federal work authorization, "except where that proof is required by federal law or where that proof is required as a condition of a grant that funds the particular employment position for which the student has applied."
- ❖ Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/migrants-california-colleges-undocumented-campus-1905766>

How Cartels May Impact Immigration Plans for Mexico's New President

By Nick Mordowanec, NewsWeek, June 5, 2024

- ❖ The election of Claudia Sheinbaum as Mexico's first female president will have effects on immigration and the country's ongoing relationship with the United States, with cartels remaining a large elephant in the room as part of future negotiations. Sheinbaum, a 61-year-old former climate scientist, will take office in October after her victory over main rival Bertha Xóchitl Gálvez Ruíz. She will succeed term-limited President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, also part of the left-wing Morena party, and is tasked with addressing immigration as part of her six-year term. Immigration analysts told Newsweek that Sheinbaum, who did not address illegal immigration much throughout her campaign, could lean in more from a human rights perspective while also not vastly straying from Obrador's policies that have included increased detention and deportation of migrants entering Mexico, in addition to expanded enforcement efforts along Mexico's southern and northern borders. Margath Walker, a professor in the departments of geography and geosciences and urban and public affairs at the University of Louisville, told Newsweek that cartels and drug trafficking that are common across Mexico can and should remain a focal point for the new administration. A study published in Science in September 2023 estimated that there are 150 cartels that collectively "employ" some 175,000 people in Mexico, making them the fifth-largest employer in the country. As cartel members die, they are replaced by 350 to 370 people weekly.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/mexico-immigration-cartels-border-sheinbaum-1908470>

USCIS Announces New FY 2024 Funding Opportunity Under the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

By U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Press Release, May 15, 2024

- ❖ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced the opening of the application period for the Citizenship and Integration Training Academy (CITA), a new funding opportunity under the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program. CITA, a technical assistance grant, will provide up to \$2.6 million in competitive funding to public or nonprofit organizations that have not received previous grant funding from USCIS. Through this grant opportunity, USCIS will provide funding and rigorous training to enable organizations to establish new high-quality citizenship programs. USCIS expects to award up to seven organizations with a grant up to \$400,000 for a period of three years. The recipients will be announced in September 2024, and the three-year performance period for this funding opportunity will begin Oct. 1, 2024, and end Sept. 30, 2027. To apply for this funding opportunity, USCIS encourages applicants to obtain registration information needed to complete the application process at [grants.gov/register](https://www.uscis.gov/grants/register). For additional information on the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, visit [uscis.gov/grants](https://www.uscis.gov/grants) or email the USCIS Office of Citizenship at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/uscis-announces-new-fy-2024-funding-opportunity-under-the-citizenship-and-integration-grant-program>

Iowa defends immigration law that allows local officials to arrest people told to leave US

By Scott McFetridge and Hannah Fingerhut, Associated Press, June 10, 2024

- ❖ Iowa defended its new immigration law on Monday, June 10, and argued that the state's ability to file criminal charges against people did not infringe on federal authority over immigration because local officials would abide by all federal regulations. Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice and a coalition of civil rights groups are seeking a temporary or permanent injunction of the law, which goes into effect July 1 unless it's blocked by the courts. The law is similar to one in Texas, which has been temporarily blocked, and another in Oklahoma that the DOJ is seeking to stop. The Iowa law would allow criminal charges to be brought against people who have outstanding deportation orders or who previously have been removed from or denied admission to the U.S. Once in custody, migrants could either agree to a judge's order to leave the U.S. or be prosecuted, potentially facing time in prison before deportation.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/iowa-defends-immigration-law-that-allows-local-19507414.php>

Mexico's tactic to cut immigration to the US: wear out migrants

By Associated Press, June 11, 2024

- ❖ Driven by mounting pressure from the U.S. to block millions of vulnerable people headed north, but lacking the funds to deport them, Mexican authorities are employing a simple but harsh tactic: wearing migrants out until they give up. That means migrants are churning in limbo here as authorities round them up across the country and dump them in the southern Mexican cities of Villahermosa and Tapachula. Some have been punted back as many as six times. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said that the policy protects migrants. Mexico's actions explain a plunge in arrivals to the U.S.-Mexico border, which dropped 40% from an all-time high in December and persisted through the spring. That coincided with an increase in migrants in Mexico without legal permission, data from the country's immigration agency shows. U.S. officials mostly credit Mexican vigilance around rail yards and highway checkpoints.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/06/11/mexicos-tactic-to-cut-immigration-to-the-us-wear-out-migrants/>

'Ghost criminals': How Venezuelan gang members are slipping into the U.S.

By Laura Strickler, Julia Ainsley, Didi Martinez and Tom Winter, NBC News, June 12, 2024

- ❖ U.S. law enforcement and immigration officials have launched more than 100 investigations of crimes tied to suspected members of a violent Venezuelan gang, including sex trafficking in Louisiana and the point-blank shooting of two New York City police officers, according to two Department of Homeland Security officials. The cases involving the Tren de Aragua gang show how hard it is for U.S. border agents to vet the criminal backgrounds of migrants from countries like Venezuela that won't give the U.S. any help. More than 330,000 Venezuelans crossed the U.S. border last year, according to Customs and Border Protection data, and Venezuela, like Cuba, China and a handful of other countries, doesn't provide any criminal history information to U.S. officials.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/tren-de-aragua-venezuelan-gang-members-slip-into-us-rcna156290>

ICE arrests 8 with suspected ISIS ties

By Andres Triay, Robert Legare, Nicole Sganga, Pat Milton, Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, June 11, 2024

- ❖ Federal investigators arrested eight foreign nationals located in the U.S. with alleged ties to the terrorist group ISIS in recent days, multiple officials with knowledge of the operation confirmed to CBS News on Tuesday, June 11. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) apprehended the Tajikistani nationals in Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia, and they are currently facing immigration charges, the officials said. There was no active terror plot, and the sources said information of concern came to the attention of law enforcement at least in part through a wiretap after the individuals had crossed into the U.S. The arrests occurred within months after FBI Director Christopher Wray warned in April that human smuggling operations at the southern border were bringing in people with possible connections to terror groups. Sources familiar with the operation said the individuals had been vetted by law enforcement upon entering the U.S., and there was no indication that they had ties to ISIS at the time. Law enforcement subsequently became concerned with their presence in the U.S. and took action, the officials said. A senior Department of Homeland Security official tells CBS News the eight migrants arrested by ICE crossed the U.S. southern border without proper documents and were subsequently released into the U.S. with notices to appear in immigration court.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-arrests-8-with-suspected-isis-ties/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>