

# NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – APRIL 10, 2025

## LATEST STATISTICS

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters						
USBP	Demographic	FY 2019 Totals	FY 2020 Totals	FY 2021 Totals	FY 2022 Totals	FY 2023 Totals
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	76,020	30,557	144,834	149,093	131,519
	Family Units	473,682	52,230	451,087	482,962	621,311
	Single Adult	301,806	317,864	1,063,285	1,574,381	1,293,008
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		851,508	400,651	1,659,206	2,206,436	2,045,838

Data Sources: <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	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	10,697	11,940	12,456	7,483	9,355	7,926	7,632	7,693	6,662	5,624	6,397	5,839	99,704
	Family Units	84,411	82,676	101,707	39,806	45,972	45,987	40,160	41,819	27,817	16,080	15,544	13,599	555,578
	Single Adult	93,641	96,490	135,577	76,926	85,314	83,560	81,103	68,393	49,053	34,696	36,068	34,420	875,241
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		188,749	191,106	249,740	124,215	140,641	137,473	128,895	117,905	83,532	56,400	58,009	53,858	1,530,523

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

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2025							
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	5,878	5,766	6,118	2,749	734	21,245
	Family Units	15,239	12,250	14,266	7,096	808	49,659
	Single Adult	35,406	28,599	26,938	19,256	6,805	117,004
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		56,532	46,615	47,322	29,101	8,347	187,908

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

### Summary of the deportation numbers under the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations

#### Obama Administration:

- ❖ First term: approximately 3.2 million deportations (removals and returns)
- ❖ Second term: approximately 2.1 million deportations (removals and returns)

#### Trump Administration:

- ❖ Fiscal years 2017-2020: approximately 2 million deportations (removals and returns)

#### Biden Administration:

- ❖ Fiscal year 2021: 59,000 deportations
- ❖ Fiscal year 2022: 72,000 deportations
- ❖ Fiscal year 2023: 143,000 deportations
- ❖ Fiscal year 2024: 271,484 deportations

Sources: <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/jan/04/ron-desantis/ron-desantis-is-right-barack-obama-deported-more-p/> ; <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/deportations-by-ice-10-year-high-in-2024-surpassing-trump-era-peak/> ; <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2024/12/20/biden-immigrant-removals-surge-deportation/77102103007/>

### **Migrant arrests at US-Mexico border in March lowest ever recorded**

*By Ryan Patrick Jones, Reuters, 4/1/25*

Migrant arrests at the U.S.-Mexico border in March dropped to a record low of approximately 7,180, down from a monthly average of 155,000 over the past four years, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This surpasses the previous record of 8,347 arrests in February. The decline follows President Trump's renewed immigration crackdown, which included deploying military troops and implementing an asylum ban, building on initiatives from the end of President Biden's tenure.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/migrant-arrests-us-mexico-border-march-lowest-ever-recorded-2025-04-01/>

### **Southwest border mission has cost \$330M so far -- with over \$40M for Guantanamo Bay alone: Sources**

*By Luis Martinez, ABC News, 3/29/25*

The southwestern border mission and Guantanamo Bay detention operations have cost \$328.5 million as of March 12, 2025, with \$289.2 million allocated for border security and \$39.3 million for Guantanamo Bay. Deportation flights to Guantanamo Bay cost nearly \$40 million, despite only a few dozen migrants currently being held there. Deportation flights on military aircraft cost \$20,000–\$28,500 per flight hour, significantly higher than ICE's \$8,577 per hour.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/southwest-border-mission-cost-330m-40m-guantanamo-bay/story?id=120298109>

### **Number of ICE detainees soars under Trump immigration crackdown**

*By Daniel Gonzalez, Arizona Republic, 4/6/25*

The number of immigrants detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has reached its highest since November 2019, largely due to increased arrests of immigrants residing in the U.S., including those with pending criminal charges. As of March, ICE detention averaged 47,304 detainees daily, a 22% increase since October, with arrests in the interior of the country rising 90% during this period, while border arrests fell by over 17%. Arizona ranks fifth in ICE detainees, housing over 2,246 daily across four facilities. Tougher immigration policies under the Trump administration, including the Laken Riley Act, have led to more detentions for minor offenses, with 82% of Arizona detainees classified as "no ICE threat level." Border Patrol encounters dropped 94% year-over-year in March, reflecting fewer border crossings. Legal experts suggest increased policing of immigrant communities as a factor in rising detentions.

Source: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2025/04/06/ice-detainees-in-arizona/82799415007/>

## **IMMIGRATION ARRESTS**

### **Thousands of agents diverted to Trump immigration crackdown**

*By Brad Heath, Joshua Schneyer, Marisa Taylor, Sarah N. Lynch, Mike Spector, Reuters, 3/22/25*

The Trump administration is reallocating thousands of federal agents, including those specializing in child sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, tax fraud, and terrorism, to focus on immigration enforcement as part of President Trump's pledge to deport "millions and millions" of undocumented immigrants.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/03/22/trump-administration-diverts-agents-immigration-enforcement/82610013007/>

## **DEPORTATIONS**

### **US deportations to Venezuela resume after dispute**

*By Vanessa Buschschlüter, BBC News, 3/24/25*

A flight carrying 199 Venezuelans deported from the U.S. landed at Simón Bolívar airport near Caracas, marking the resumption of repatriation flights after weeks of suspension due to the Trump administration revoking Venezuela's oil export license.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgm1r0wjdyndy>

### **Trump plans to fine migrants \$998 a day for failing to leave after deportation order**

*By Ted Hesson, Kristina Cooke, Reuters, 4/8/25*

The Trump administration plans to fine migrants under deportation orders up to \$998 per day if they fail to leave the U.S., potentially applying penalties retroactively for up to five years, resulting in fines exceeding \$1 million. Property seizures are also being considered for non-payment. These measures target approximately 1.4 million migrants ordered removed by immigration judges. Critics argue the fines disproportionately impact low-income immigrants, with 26% of unauthorized immigrant households living below the poverty line. The administration has faced logistical challenges, including the need for significant staffing increases to implement the fines.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/08/trump-plans-fine-migrants-staying-after-deportation-order/82987347007/>

### **Ultra low cost carrier Avelo Airlines will operate deportation flights under ICE charter**

*By Zach Wichter, USA TODAY, 4/7/25*

Avelo Airlines has signed a charter agreement with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to operate deportation flights starting May 12. Using three Boeing 737-800 aircraft based at Mesa Gateway Airport in Arizona, Avelo plans to open a crew base to support these operations, employing flight attendants and technicians. CEO Andrew Levy stated the partnership ensures stability for the airline's 1,100 employees while expanding passenger services. The Trump administration has intensified deportation efforts, though federal judges have ruled that it has occasionally overstepped its authority in immigration enforcement.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/airline-news/2025/04/07/avelo-airlines-ice-deportation-flights/82980364007/>

### **IRS and DHS reach historic deal to aid in pursuit of illegal immigrants subject to deportation**

*By Louis Casiano Fox News, 4/8/25*

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have formalized an agreement allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to access taxpayer information to locate and deport immigrants who fail to leave the U.S. 90 days after a judge's removal order. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlines safeguards to protect taxpayer privacy while enabling law enforcement to pursue criminal violations. Critics, including veteran IRS officials, argue the policy, intended for criminal investigations, could hinder tax collection from undocumented immigrants. The agreement aligns with the Trump administration's intensified deportation efforts, leveraging all available resources to enforce immigration laws.

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/irs-dhs-reach-historic-deal-aid-pursuit-illegal-immigrants-subject-deportation>

## **DETENTION CENTERS**

### **Trump Administration Aims to Bring Back Detention Centers for Immigrant Kids**

*By Fola Akinnibi and Rachel Adams-Heard, Bloomberg, 3/21/25*

The Trump administration plans to reinstate juvenile detention centers for unaccompanied immigrant children aged 13 to 17, as funding cuts jeopardize a legal services program assisting 26,000 minors annually. This marks a policy shift after Biden-era rules that ended such detention facilities and expanded child legal protections. In fiscal year 2022, unaccompanied minors peaked at over 128,000, mainly from Central America, with 63% of children receiving full legal representation in 2024.

Source: [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-03-21/trump-administration-plans-detention-centers-for-migrant-children?utm\\_campaign=news&utm\\_medium=bd&utm\\_source=applenews](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-03-21/trump-administration-plans-detention-centers-for-migrant-children?utm_campaign=news&utm_medium=bd&utm_source=applenews)

### **An ICE Contractor Is Worth Billions. It's Still Fighting to Pay Detainees as Little as \$1 a Day to Work**

*By McKenzie Funk, ProPublica, 3/19/25*

The GEO Group, a \$4 billion for-profit prison company, has faced legal challenges over paying detainees at its 1,575-bed Tacoma, Washington, ICE detention center just \$1 a day for labor, despite the state minimum wage rising from \$11 in 2017 to \$16.66. In 2021, a federal jury ruled GEO must pay state minimum wages, ordering \$17 million in back wages and \$6 million for unjust enrichment—less than 1% of GEO's 2024 revenues. GEO, which manages 16 ICE facilities nationwide, has appealed the decision, citing federal authority and the Supremacy Clause. The case could set a precedent, with similar lawsuits in California and Colorado. GEO argues compliance could harm profits, while critics highlight detainees' poor conditions, including substandard meals and halted work programs. Tacoma detainees previously performed tasks equivalent to 85 full-time jobs, but GEO now uses contract cleaners as detainee labor remains paused. The company's gross profit from the Tacoma facility was \$20 million annually when Washington filed its lawsuit.

Source: <https://www.propublica.org/article/geo-group-ice-detainees-wage>

### **ICE offering \$45 billion for private sector to build and staff immigrant detention facilities**

*By Anna Giaritelli, Washington Examiner, 4/7/25*

The Trump administration is planning a significant expansion of its deportation operations by seeking private contractors to build immigrant detention facilities nationwide. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has issued a \$45 billion proposal for new facilities, security, and medical services, despite ICE's annual budget of nearly \$10 billion and Congress funding detention capacity for 41,500 individuals last year. As of late March, ICE was already detaining approximately 47,900 people, exceeding its capacity. Congress is considering a \$175 billion budget increase over the next decade for immigration enforcement. These developments align with the administration's mission to arrest and deport millions of undocumented immigrants.

Source: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/immigration/3372720/ice-offering-billions-private-sector-build-staff-immigrant-detention-facilities/>

## **U.S. Has Spent \$40 Million to Jail About 400 Migrants at Guantánamo**

*By Carol Rosenberg, New York Times, 3/31/25*

A Senate delegation criticized the Trump administration's migrant operation at Guantánamo Bay, which has cost \$40 million in its first month and involved 395 migrants, including 177 Venezuelans repatriated to Honduras. Senators called the mission "unsustainably expensive" and harmful to military readiness, with 1,000 military personnel diverted to support it. Migrants, some held for just days, were housed in facilities previously used for wartime detainees. The administration claims the base is for migrants with ties to transnational criminal organizations, but evidence of violent criminal records has not been provided. Critics argue the operation lacks legal clarity and misuses resources.

Source: [https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/31/us/politics/migrants-guantanamo-costs.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.-E4.Jtq4.XfyHQVisAoKF&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/31/us/politics/migrants-guantanamo-costs.html?unlocked_article_code=1.-E4.Jtq4.XfyHQVisAoKF&smid=url-share)

## **TEXAS IN THE NEWS**

### **Mexican nationals guilty in smuggling case that killed 53 migrants**

*By Elizabeth Zavala, San Antonio Express-News, 3/18/25*

A federal jury in San Antonio, TX needed less than three hours to swiftly convict Mexican nationals Felipe Orduna-Torres, 29, and Armando Gonzales-Ortega, 54, of conspiracy to transport illegal aliens resulting in death, following a human smuggling operation that led to 53 migrant deaths on June 27, 2022. The operation involved a tractor-trailer carrying over 60 migrants in temperatures exceeding 150°F, leading to fatal heat exposure for 47 adults and six children. Prosecutors linked the defendants to a four-month smuggling scheme, with ties to Mexican drug cartels, that illegally moved nearly 1,000 people into the U.S. The trial revealed 400 communications among the conspirators on the day of the incident and cited 17 previous trips between Laredo and San Antonio. Sentencing is scheduled for June 27, marking the tragedy's anniversary, and each defendant faces potential life imprisonment.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/closing-arguments-smuggling-trial-53-dead-20226522.php>

### **Failure on immigration reform comes at a high cost for Texas**

*By Jacqueline L. Angel, Ana Luisa Oaxaca Carrasco, San Antonio Express-News, 3/21/25*

The U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee reported that undocumented immigrants contribute \$580 billion in taxes, \$1.6 trillion in spending, and in 2023 alone, \$48 billion in earnings and \$46 billion in consumer spending.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/economics-mass-deportation-20231993.php>

### **More than 60 immigration bills filed by Texas GOP in line with Trump presidency**

*By Aarón Torres, Dallas Morning News, 3/31/25*

Republicans in the Texas Legislature have filed 65 immigration-related bills, focusing on citizenship, border security, and public safety. Key proposals include establishing a Texas Department of Homeland Security, requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration, ending in-state tuition for undocumented migrants, and empowering local law enforcement to verify immigration status. Operation Lone Star, Texas' border security program, has cost \$11.1 billion since 2021, with an additional \$6.5 billion requested this session.

Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2025/03/31/more-than-60-immigration-bills-filed-by-texas-gop-legislators-despite-trump-presidency/>

### **Donald Trump Sends Hundreds of Troops to Texas National Park**

*By Billal Rahman, Newsweek, 3/31/25*

The Trump administration deployed 200 soldiers from the Army's 4th Infantry Division to Big Bend National Park (Texas) on March 13, 2025, with plans to increase to 500 troops. This military mobilization includes Stryker armored vehicles, Humvees, and support equipment designed for rugged terrain. The Big Bend Sector reported only 165 migrant encounters in February 2025, compared to higher figures in Laredo (1,679) and El Paso (2,623).

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-troops-texas-national-park-2052903>

### **Facing frozen funds, San Antonio and Catholic Charities will give up migrant information to feds**

*By Raquel Torres and Lindsey Carnett, San Antonio Report, 3/21/25*

Federal funds for aiding migrants at San Antonio's Migrant Resource Center during COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri are being withheld until the city provides detailed migrant information, including names and services received. FEMA raised concerns about Shelter and Services Program funds potentially supporting illegal activities, and requested compliance within 30 days. To date, San Antonio has spent \$35.9 million out of the \$47.2 million awarded, with \$13.2 million pending reimbursement. Catholic Charities, also impacted, aids over 10,000 refugees annually, offering necessities and support. The freeze affects local refugee families, with 300 recently arrived individuals losing assistance, primarily from countries like Afghanistan and Syria. City officials and organizations are working to comply with FEMA's demands despite the challenges.

Source: <https://sanantonioreport.org/facing-frozen-funds-san-antonio-and-catholic-charities-will-give-up-migrant-information-to-feds/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20city%2C%20San,%2413.2%20million%20is%20pending%20reimbursement>

**Benedictine Sisters Corporate Responsibility Coalition**



## **Immigration enforcement at an Eagle Pass park scaled back, Gov. Abbott's office says**

*By Aarón Torres, Dallas Morning News, 4/7/25*

Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas, has reopened to the public after more than a year under state control as part of Governor Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star, aimed at curbing illegal border crossings. The operation, launched in 2021, cost \$11.1 billion and involved Texas National Guard soldiers and DPS troopers. Border crossings in the Del Rio sector, which includes Eagle Pass, dropped significantly, with encounters falling 79% from January 2024 to January 2025, and further to 895 in February 2025. The park's reopening follows declining crossings under stricter asylum limits imposed during the Biden administration. Vice President JD Vance recently visited the border, highlighting security measures, including U.S. troop deployments, at a news conference held at Shelby Park.

Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/immigration/2025/04/07/immigration-enforcement-at-an-eagle-pass-park-scaled-back-gov-abbotts-office-says/>

## **COURT CASES AND RULINGS**

### **US appeals court rejects Trump bid to fast-track migrant deportations**

*By Nate Raymond, Reuters, 4/7/25*

A U.S. appeals court upheld a temporary restraining order blocking the Trump administration from deporting migrants to third countries without allowing them to demonstrate risks of persecution or torture. The March 28 order, issued by U.S. District Judge Brian Murphy, hindered the government's ability to fast-track deportations of thousands of migrants, citing violations of due process rights. Immigrant rights groups argued the policy could endanger lives, while the Department of Justice claimed the order disrupted diplomatic negotiations. The Department of Homeland Security issued new guidance requiring diplomatic assurances from third countries, but plaintiffs' lawyers argued it lacked sufficient safeguards. The restraining order protects migrants from deportation under the Convention Against Torture until further court rulings.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/us-appeals-court-rejects-trump-bid-fast-track-migrant-deportations-2025-04-07/>

### **Judge temporarily blocks new Florida immigration crackdown law**

*By Jim Saunders, News Service of Florida, 4/7/25*

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams temporarily blocked Florida's new law targeting undocumented immigrants, citing federal authority over immigration under the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution. The law, signed in February by Gov. Ron DeSantis, created state crimes for undocumented entry or reentry, imposing mandatory nine-month prison terms. A lawsuit filed by groups including the Florida Immigrant Coalition argued the law violates the Supremacy and Commerce Clauses. Judge Williams agreed, issuing a 14-day temporary restraining order and highlighting conflicts with federal laws, such as the Immigration and Nationality Act. A hearing for a preliminary injunction is scheduled for April 18. Critics, including the ACLU of Florida, called the law dangerous and discriminatory, asserting it criminalizes movement within the U.S.

Source: <https://www.orlandoweekly.com/news/judge-temporarily-blocks-new-florida-immigration-crackdown-law-39246090>

### **Supreme Court lets Trump administration resume deportations under Alien Enemies Act**

*By Maureen Groppe and Zac Anderson, USA TODAY, 4/7/25*

The Supreme Court has allowed the Trump administration to resume deportations under the Alien Enemies Act, targeting alleged members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. However, the court emphasized that detainees must receive notice and an opportunity to challenge their removal. The ruling, which overturned a temporary block by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg, stated that challenges must be filed in Texas, where detainees are held, rather than in Washington, D.C. Critics argue the administration's use of the 1798 law, previously invoked only during major wars, oversteps its authority. The decision underscores tensions between executive power and judicial oversight in immigration policy.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/07/supreme-court-trump-deportations-alien-enemies-act/82758348007/>

## **ASYLUM SEEKERS**

### **White House reportedly halts funding for legal aid for unaccompanied migrant children**

*By Edward Helmore, The Guardian, 3/22/25*

The Trump administration has cut funding to legal aid programs representing unaccompanied immigrant children, reducing federal contracts previously exceeding \$200 million. Currently, 26,000 immigrant children receive government-funded legal counsel, but shortages leave many representing themselves in court, with only 56% of minors having counsel in 2023.

Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/22/white-house-legal-aid-funding-cuts-unaccompanied-migrant-children?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/22/white-house-legal-aid-funding-cuts-unaccompanied-migrant-children?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)

### **Catholic bishops end refugee aid partnerships with US government, citing funding cuts**

*By Peter Smith, Associated Press, 4/7/25*

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced it will end its decades-long partnership with the federal government to serve refugees and migrant children, citing funding cuts under the Trump administration. Archbishop Timothy Broglio stated that the conference cannot sustain its programs at current levels and will seek alternative support for those already admitted to these services. The decision impacts agreements to provide aid to refugees and unaccompanied migrant children, with programs shutting down by September. The bishops have sued the government over \$24 million in unpaid funds for resettlement services, but a federal judge ruled the dispute belongs in the Court of Federal Claims. The conference has resettled over 930,000 refugees since 1980, supplementing federal aid with donations. Criticism from Vice President JD Vance, who accused the bishops of aiding illegal immigrants, was met with rebuttals from U.S. bishops and Pope Francis, emphasizing Christian charity's role in helping those in need. Layoffs among staff have already begun, and the bishops ask for prayers for those affected.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/catholic-bishops-refugee-resettlement-trump-administration-362231100b8e4650c00d22a75b5c6ab8#>

### **Trump administration moves to end temporary status for 530,000 Cubans, Venezuelans and others**

*By Megan Lebowitz, NBC News, 3/22/25*

The Trump administration plans to end temporary legal status for over 530,000 individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela who entered the U.S. through Biden-era parole programs. These programs, which allowed migrants to stay for up to two years with work authorization, are set to terminate on April 24, requiring participants to leave the U.S. unless they have obtained lawful status.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/trump-administration-revoke-temporary-legal-status-chnv-rcna197616>

### **Without legal representation, unaccompanied minors are vulnerable to trafficking**

*By Express-News Editorial Board, Opinion Staff, 4/2/25*

The American legal system ideally ensures no child faces a case without representation, yet many unaccompanied minors lack legal aid, especially in immigration courts. The Trump administration's termination of a contract with the Acacia Center for Justice jeopardized representation for 26,000 minors, prompting legal challenges and a temporary restraining order to restore aid. Without representation, children as young as 2 risk deportation, human trafficking, and unsafe conditions. Legal advocates highlight that represented minors attend hearings 95% of the time, compared to 33% without representation. The lack of legal counsel not only undermines fairness but also increases vulnerability, reflecting poorly on national values and character. Organizations are struggling to provide pro bono services amidst funding cuts, leaving many children unprotected.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/unaccompanied-migrant-minors-legal-representation-20254332.php>

### **Ukrainian refugees mistakenly told they must leave US in email mix-up**

*By Myah Ward, Politico, 4/4/25*

Recently, Ukrainians legally residing in the U.S. received an erroneous email from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), stating their parole status had been revoked and instructing self-deportation. This caused widespread panic among the 240,000 Ukrainians granted temporary parole under President Biden's administration. The email, first reported by Migrant Insider, led to confusion and calls to lawmakers. The DHS spokesperson clarified that no final decision has been made regarding Ukrainians' parole status, leaving uncertainty about future notifications. This situation reflects broader immigration policy shifts under the Trump administration.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/04/ukrainian-refugees-us-email-00273926?cid=apn>

### **Venezuelans with legal status are being illegally detained in the US, lawyers say**

*By Alexandra Villarreal, The Guardian, 4/5/25*

Venezuelans with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), legally residing and working in the U.S., are being unlawfully detained by federal authorities despite legal prohibitions against detaining individuals based solely on TPS status. TPS protects approximately 350,000 Venezuelans, who fled political unrest and economic hardship under President Nicolás Maduro's regime. The Trump administration has sought to revoke these protections, though a federal judge recently paused the attempt, citing potential harm to individuals and U.S. communities. However, ICE has continued to pre-emptively arrest Venezuelan TPS holders nationwide, sometimes based on tenuous allegations, such as presumed affiliation with the Tren de Aragua gang. Advocacy groups highlight that these actions defy legal standards, causing significant emotional and financial harm to affected individuals and families. Courts and community efforts are striving to hold the administration accountable for these violations.

Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/05/immigration-venezuelans-detained-legal-status?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/05/immigration-venezuelans-detained-legal-status?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)

## **Trump's DHS revokes legal status for migrants who entered the US on Biden-era CBP One app**

*By Valerie Gonzalez, Associated Press, 4/7/25*

The Trump administration has ordered migrants who entered the U.S. using the Biden-era CBP One app to leave the country immediately, affecting an unspecified number of the 936,500 individuals admitted since January 2023 under two-year parole. The app, renamed CBP Home, was central to Biden's strategy to create legal pathways and reduce illegal crossings. Trump ended CBP One for new entrants on his first day in office and has revoked parole for 532,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, effective April 24. Additionally, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 600,000 Venezuelans and 500,000 Haitians has been rescinded, though a federal judge temporarily halted the termination for 350,000 Venezuelans.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-cbp-one-trump-biden-border-95b89a3bb0859ec8b6a39f2eef78f672>

## **Exclusive: ICE decides who's linked to gangs, border czar says**

*By Brittany Gibson, Axios, 4/8/25*

The Trump administration, under border czar Tom Homan, has intensified deportations using the Alien Enemies Act, allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to determine gang affiliations and deport detainees with limited due process. Homan stated that ICE conducts "deep dive" investigations, considering factors like tattoos, social media, and informants, but critics argue these methods lack transparency and fairness. The Supreme Court recently signaled that detainees labeled as "enemies" must have a way to challenge their removal. A high-profile case involves Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a legally residing Salvadoran mistakenly deported to a prison in El Salvador based on unsubstantiated gang allegations. Civil rights advocates warn these actions undermine due process and disproportionately target individuals without criminal records.

Source: <https://www.axios.com/2025/04/08/immigration-ice-gangs-deport-decisions>

# **DEVELOPING STORIES**

## **DHS gutting offices that offer civil rights and immigration liaison services**

*By Nicole Sganga, Arden Farhi, Camilo Montoya-Galvez, Margaret Brennan, CBS News, 3/21/25*

The Trump administration is reducing staff at the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman, and the Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, effectively dismantling these civil rights and immigration liaison services. DHS claims these offices obstruct immigration enforcement by creating bureaucratic hurdles, slowing operations, and undermining its mission.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-administration-gutting-dhs-civil-rights-branch/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

## **Trump targets lawyers and firms in immigration cases**

*By Mike Scarcella, Andrew Goudsward and Sara Merken, Reuters, 3/22/25*

President Trump has directed the Justice Department to seek sanctions against lawyers and law firms involved in over 100 lawsuits challenging his administration on issues like immigration and transgender rights, accusing them of fueling "rampant fraud and meritless claims."

Source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/trump-targets-lawyers-firms-immigration-233120333.html?guccounter=1>

## **Trump takes aim at foreign-born college students, with 300 visas revoked**

*By Daniella Silva, Chloe Atkins, Julia Ainsley and Abigail Williams, NBC News, 3/27/25*

Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the revocation of over 300 student visas, targeting foreign-born students, particularly those involved in activism like the pro-Palestinian movement.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/trump-administration-takes-aim-immigrant-students-rcna198346>

## **What green-card and visa holders should know before traveling abroad**

*By Juliana Kim, NPR, 3/29/25*

Traveling to or returning to the U.S. has become riskier for green-card and visa holders due to increased scrutiny under the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. Green-card holders have procedural rights, but visa holders can be denied entry at officers' discretion. Factors like long trips abroad or minor criminal records can raise suspicion. Travelers from 11 "red" countries, including Iran and Venezuela, face heightened risks. Customs officers can search electronic devices, and visa holders refusing searches may be denied entry.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/29/nx-s1-5343493/green-card-holders-rights-visa-detained-cbp>

### **Mass deportations will threaten America's food security, strain agriculture**

*By Antonio Garza, Caitlyn Yates, San Antonio Express-News, 4/5/25*

The U.S. agricultural sector, which relies heavily on undocumented labor (40% of farm workers and 50-70% of food producers), faces a crisis due to sweeping immigration raids under the Trump administration. Deportations are expected to cause labor shortages, resulting in lost crops, higher costs, and food price increases. With a 2.4 million worker deficit in 2024 and limited interest from U.S.-based workers, automation has been explored but remains inefficient for many crops. Expansion of the H2A visa program, which provides vetted temporary agricultural workers, is seen as critical. Despite a 15% annual increase in H2A visas over the past decade, shortages persist, prompting calls to triple visas issued and include roles in meatpacking and dairy, historically excluded. Without action, rising costs and reduced operations threaten U.S. farms and food security.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/mass-deportations-agriculture-food-security-20257712.php>

### **Phone inspections when crossing the U.S. border: What you need to know about your rights and security**

*By Chase DiBenedetto, Mashable, 4/4/25*

The Trump administration has implemented a sweeping immigration agenda, including limiting entries at U.S. ports of entry, revoking immigrant visas, and deporting undocumented Americans en masse. It has also intensified digital security measures, such as personal device searches at borders, which have led to harassment and deportation of legal residents and visa holders. In March, USCIS proposed reviewing immigrants' social media profiles for vetting benefits, affecting green card and visa holders. A 2023 appellate court ruling required warrants for border data searches beyond "digital contraband," but CBP retains the right to inspect devices under national security laws. U.S. citizens can decline device searches, but permanent residents and foreign visitors may face harsher consequences, including device seizure. Travelers are advised to protect their data by limiting digital information, encrypting devices, and turning off biometric passwords.

Source: <https://mashable.com/article/protecting-phone-data-when-entering-the-united-states>

### **Palm Bay approves ICE training for cops under Florida's 287(g) immigration policy**

*By Tyler Vazquez, Florida Today, 4/7/25*

Palm Bay has become the latest Brevard County city to authorize Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) training for its police officers under the 287(g) program, allowing them to detain individuals suspected of lacking documentation. The City Council unanimously approved the measure, aligning with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' immigration enforcement policies inspired by President Trump. While all 67 Florida county sheriff's offices have adopted similar agreements, the number of municipalities following suit remains unclear. Palm Bay Police Chief Mariano Augello emphasized that officers would not conduct raids or target individuals solely based on immigration status but could make administrative arrests for immigration violations. The policy reflects broader state efforts to enforce immigration laws and remove non-compliant local officials.

Source: <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2025/04/07/palm-bay-latest-city-to-approve-ice-training-under-florida-law/82796350007/>

### **Mistaken deportations stoke concerns over Trump's aggressive immigration push**

*By Priscilla Alvarez, Katelyn Polantz and Evan Perez, CNN, 4/4/25*

The Trump administration's rapid immigration push has raised concerns about due process violations and systemic challenges, including reliance on the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to expedite deportations. Recent errors include mistakenly deporting Salvadoran national Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, who held protected status, to El Salvador. Missteps have also involved detainees linked to gangs like MS-13 or Tren de Aragua without substantial evidence, using tattoos as grounds for affiliation. Mid-March deportation flights violated court orders, with multiple detainees returned to the U.S. after rejection by Salvadoran prisons. Advocacy groups argue these deportations flout longstanding procedures, as some migrants were mid-immigration proceedings. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg is investigating claims that government attorneys misled him about these deportations, questioning executive authority in immigration policy. Cases highlight the complex and often flawed U.S. immigration system.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/04/politics/mistaken-deportations-due-process-concerns-trump-immigration/index.html>



### **‘Citizenship won’t save you’: Free speech advocates say student arrests should worry all**

*By Leila Fadel, Taylor Haney, Arezou Rezvani and Kyle Gallego-Mackie, NPR, 4/8/25*

Recent detentions and visa revocations of international students have raised concerns about free speech and due process under the Trump administration. Turkish student Rumeysa Öztürk was detained after writing an op-ed, while Columbia University graduate Mahmoud Khalil was arrested despite being a legal resident. Cornell Ph.D. student Momodou Taal had his visa revoked for advocating Palestinian rights, prompting him to leave the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has revoked over 300 visas, citing national security concerns, and defended actions against students engaging in activism. Critics argue these measures suppress dissent and undermine constitutional protections, with fears extending to green card holders and lawful residents who worry their political views could jeopardize their status.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/08/nx-s1-5349472/students-protest-trump-free-speech-arrests-deportation-gaza>

### **Over 200 Tennessee Pastors Slam Bill Targeting Immigrant Students**

*By Billal Rahman, NewsWeek, 4/7/25*

A coalition of over 240 pastors, faith leaders, and nonprofits in Tennessee is opposing a proposed bill allowing public and charter schools to deny enrollment to migrant children without legal status. This measure aligns with President Trump’s immigration agenda and challenges the 1982 Supreme Court ruling in *Plyler v. Doe*, which guarantees all children, regardless of immigration status, access to public education. Faith leaders argue the bill is un-Christian and harmful, noting that Tennessee’s 430,000 immigrants contribute \$4.4 billion in taxes annually. Critics, including educators and lawmakers, emphasize that using state power to target children is cruel and jeopardizes inclusivity, urging the General Assembly to reject the bill. The legislation, moving to a full Senate vote, has sparked protests and significant debate over the rights of immigrant families.

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/tennessee-pastors-slam-bill-targeting-immigrant-students-2056331>

### **Judge says deportation of man to El Salvador prison is ‘wholly lawless,’ with deadline to return him to America today**

*By Karina Tsui, CNN, 4/7/25*

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis has ordered the Trump administration to return Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran man mistakenly deported to a high-security prison, by Monday night, calling the deportation “wholly lawless.” Despite Abrego’s protected status granted by an immigration judge in 2019, federal agents wrongfully detained and deported him based on vague and uncorroborated allegations of gang involvement. His case highlights broader concerns about the administration’s aggressive immigration policies, including visa revocations targeting international students. More than 15 students from California universities, along with students at Harvard and Texas institutions, have had their visas revoked. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has also suspended visas for South Sudanese nationals, reflecting Trump’s push to reduce protections for migrants under the guise of national security. Critics argue these actions undermine due process and constitutional rights.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/07/us/abrego-garcia-return-us-answers-student-visas-hnk/index.html>

### **Amid fears of immigration raids, Latino churches rethink how to conduct services**

*By Marina E. Franco, NBC News, 4/7/25*

The Trump administration’s reversal of a longstanding policy restricting immigration raids on churches has led to fears among Latino Christian communities, prompting many congregations to shift services, Bible studies, and food programs online. Carlos Malavé, leader of the Latino Christian National Network representing 4,000 churches, noted that 1 in 12 Christians in the U.S. are at risk of deportation, with up to 80% of those affected being Christians. While some leaders, like Reverend Samuel Rodriguez, support the administration’s focus on criminal activity, others emphasize the emotional and spiritual toll on undocumented immigrants and their families. A judge temporarily halted the policy in February, but concerns persist as deportations and arrests increase, including of individuals without criminal records. Faith leaders continue advocating for immigration reform and protecting vulnerable communities.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/latino-churches-immigration-raids-fears-deportation-rcna199982>

### **Shortage of immigration judges could slow down Trump deportation goals**

*By Ximena Bustillo, NPR, 4/9/25*

The Trump administration’s firing of over two dozen immigration judges, combined with the departure of more than 100 staff members, has placed additional strain on an already overwhelmed immigration court system. With approximately 700 immigration judges across 71 courts, responsible for ruling on deportation cases and revoking green cards, the backlog has surged to millions of cases. Judges handle an average of 500–600 cases annually, but the shortage has intensified delays in due process.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/08/nx-s1-5335523/trump-immigration-judges>

## **UTSA students have VISA statuses terminated by Homeland Security**

*By Jessica Warner, SBG San Antonio, 4/8/25*

Recent reports indicate that multiple universities, including the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), have experienced sudden visa revocations affecting their international students. UTSA confirmed that one current student and two former students in a post-graduation work experience program had their visas revoked, with no clear explanation given. Other institutions, such as UT Austin, Harvard, Stanford, UCLA, Ohio State University, and the University of Washington, have reported similar incidents, often learning of the cancellations only after checking federal databases. Historically, students who lost their visas were allowed to retain residency and complete their studies, but now those who lose legal residency must leave the country immediately or face detention. Higher education leaders have expressed concerns that these abrupt revocations could discourage international students from studying in the U.S. Schools are seeking clarification from federal agencies while urging students to carry their immigration documents at all times.

Source: <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/utsa-students-have-visa-statuses-terminated-by-homeland-security-university-says>

## **Visas revoked for international students at Texas A&M, UT Austin**

*By Faith Bugenhagen, CHRON, 4/8/25*

Recent developments at Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin reveal that several international students have had their visas revoked and legal statuses terminated without prior notice. UT Austin staff discovered two cases through a federal database, involving graduates from India and Lebanon, both employed full-time and reportedly adhering to visa requirements. Texas A&M confirmed 15 students had their visa records terminated, with investigations uncovering minor offenses like a speeding ticket. These actions align with broader trends under the Trump administration, which has intensified visa revocations, including targeting students linked to pro-Palestinian protests or minor infractions. Historically, students were allowed to complete their studies despite visa revocations, but recent policies demand immediate departure, risking detention. College officials and experts express concern over the lack of transparency and the chilling effect on international education in the U.S. Institutions are working to support affected students while navigating these unprecedented challenges.

Source: <https://www.chron.com/politics/article/student-visas-texas-am-ut-austin-20264673.php>

## **Can the US return man deported to El Salvador? Immigration lawyers think so**

*By Kayla Epstein, BBC News, 4/9/25*

Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Maryland resident, was detained by ICE agents and deported to El Salvador without notice or legal process due to an "administrative error." Despite a court order for his return, the Trump administration argued it lacked authority to compel El Salvador to release him, citing jurisdictional limits. Garcia, who is married to a U.S. citizen and protected by a "withholding of removal" order, remains incarcerated in a notorious Salvadoran prison, despite no evidence of gang ties. Immigration experts warn that this case could undermine due process for immigrants, as the administration's actions bypass judicial oversight. The Supreme Court has temporarily paused lower court rulings while considering the government's appeal, setting the stage for a significant legal showdown over immigration policies.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx27qzdzqrgo>

## **IRS acting commissioner resigning over Treasury's plan to share immigrant tax data with ICE**

*By CBS News / Associated Press, 4/9/25*

The acting IRS commissioner, Melanie Krause, is expected to resign after the agency disclosed an agreement to share immigrants' tax data with ICE to aid deportations. Krause, along with other senior IRS officials, is leaving due to concerns over the Treasury Department's decision to provide taxpayer information to Homeland Security. The agreement allows ICE to cross-check immigrant names and addresses against IRS records, which critics argue violates privacy laws. The Treasury Department defends the move as part of President Trump's broader immigration enforcement agenda.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/internal-revenue-service-immigrant-tax-data-ice/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

## RESOURCES

### What to Do If Immigration Comes to Your Workplace

*By the National Employment Law Project, 2024*

- ❖ The National Employment Law Project provides a comprehensive guide for employers on how to handle immigration enforcement actions at their workplaces. It covers common immigration actions, recommendations for preparation, and employers' rights and responsibilities. The guide also offers practical steps for responding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions, such as Form I-9 audits and raids. For more information visit: <https://www.nelp.org/insights-research/what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/>
- ❖ Download their guide here: <https://www.nelp.org/app/uploads/2017/07/Employer-Guide-What-To-Do-If-Immigration-Comes-To-Your-Workplace.pdf>

### Gov. Abbott's Executive Order Will Increase Distrust in Texas Health Systems, Diminish Health Outcomes, and Harm State Economy

*By Every Texan, 2024*

- ❖ Every Texan has put together resources in response to Governor Abbott's Executive Order #46, which requires hospitals and acute care offices to ask patients about their immigration status. Every Texan has developed resource cards in English and Spanish to help spread this message, and they are working to oppose the executive order and any related legislation. For more information visit: <https://everytexan.org/2024/08/09/gov-abbotts-executive-order-will-increase-distrust-in-texas-health-systems-diminish-health-outcomes-and-harm-state-economy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=33d8d991-0d66-49c0-b800-c1bd1b322d98>
- ❖ **Resource Card in English** – Can hospitals ask about your immigration status: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SPWrgAY0\\_mpkVjJQFa75Btbxb2ZUsitl/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SPWrgAY0_mpkVjJQFa75Btbxb2ZUsitl/view?usp=sharing)
- ❖ **Resource Card in Spanish** – Pueden los hospitales preguntar sobre tu estatus migratorio: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YuV0eGDLqCdx0zShWEsvGBOlUmagvALi/view?usp=sharing>

### A Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace

- ❖ **For Employers:** A Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace (National Immigration Law Center, 2024)
- ❖ Download your copy here: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/a-guide-for-employers-what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/>
- ❖ **For Nonprofits:** Guidance to Nonprofits Regarding Immigration Enforcement (New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, 2019)
- ❖ Download your copy here: <https://www.nylpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Nonprofits-Guidance-Regarding-Immigration-Enforcement-R1A.pdf>