

# NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – MARCH 13, 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	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	5,878	5,766	6,115	2,748	20,507
	Family Units	15,239	12,250	14,266	7,096	48,851
	Single Adult	35,407	28,600	26,935	19,272	110,214
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		56,524	46,616	47,316	29,116	179,572

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/>

## **Amid Trump crackdown, illegal border crossings plunge to levels not seen in decades**

*By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 3/1/2025*

- ❖ In President Trump's first full month in office, illegal crossings at the U.S. southern border dropped to 8,450 apprehensions, the lowest monthly total since at least fiscal year 2000. This marks a 70% decrease from January's 29,000 apprehensions and a significant decline from the record highs under the Biden administration, where over 8,000 apprehensions occurred in a single day. The Trump administration credits its immigration crackdown, including swift deportations without asylum hearings and deploying military resources, for the reduction. ICE detention centers are at 117% capacity, holding over 45,000 migrants, with 20,000 apprehended at the southern border. Plans to invoke Title 42 for public health expulsions and other restrictive measures are under consideration.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/illegal-crossings-plunge-to-levels-not-seen-in-decades-amid-trump-crackdown/>

## **Homeland Security Officials Push I.R.S. for 700,000 Immigrants' Addresses**

*By Andrew Duehren, New York Times, 2/28/2025*

- ❖ The Department of Homeland Security has requested the IRS to provide addresses of approximately 700,000 undocumented immigrants for deportation purposes, raising concerns about potential violations of taxpayer privacy laws. IRS officials have denied the request due to legal constraints, as taxpayer information is protected under federal law. Many undocumented immigrants file tax returns using individual taxpayer identification numbers, providing the IRS with personal data. This request is part of the Trump administration's broader efforts to deport millions of immigrants, including creating a migrant registry and using military sites for deportations. The IRS, already facing over 7,000 layoffs under the Trump administration, has resisted similar requests in the past, including audits of companies employing unauthorized immigrants. Critics warn these actions could undermine taxpayer privacy and further strain the agency.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/28/us/politics/irs-immigrants-addresses.html>

## **Trump Proposes Fines, Prison Time for Migrants Who Don't Join Registry**

*By Michelle Hackman, Wall Street Journal, 2/25/2025*

- ❖ The Trump administration introduced a registry requiring immigrants in the U.S. illegally, including children aged 14 and older, to submit fingerprints and home addresses or face fines of up to \$5,000 and six months in prison. This policy shifts unauthorized presence from a civil offense to a criminal one, building on efforts to tighten immigration laws. Immigrants in deportation proceedings or those who overstayed visas are exempt but must update addresses. Critics argue the registry, based on rarely enforced provisions of immigration law, could overwhelm prosecutorial resources and increase incarceration rates. The initiative mirrors a 1940 registry targeting suspected communists and a post-9/11 program under President George W. Bush, which led to tens of thousands of arrests and deportations. Immigrants were given 30 days to comply, with the Justice Department prioritizing prosecution for noncompliance.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-immigration-migrant-registry-jail-time-95c405a7>

## **Trump's early immigration enforcement record, by the numbers**

*By Ted Hesson, Reuters, 3/5/2025*

- ❖ President Trump initiated a comprehensive immigration crackdown after taking office on January 20, aiming to reduce illegal crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border and deport record numbers of immigrants without legal status. In February, U.S. Border Patrol arrested 8,300 migrants at the southern border, the lowest monthly level on record, down from 141,000 in February 2024. The administration plans to deploy 10,000 troops to the border and increase spending by \$85 billion annually for immigration, energy, and defense priorities. ICE arrested about 14,000 people in Trump's first three weeks, with a 334% rise in non-criminal arrests. ICE detention space remains limited, with nearly 44,000 immigrants in detention. Trump deported 37,660 people in his first month, below the monthly average of 57,000 during Biden's last year. The administration has struck agreements with Mexico, Central American countries, and Panama to take deportees, raising concerns about migrant treatment. Military deportation flights have been conducted to several countries, including Guatemala and India.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trumps-early-immigration-enforcement-record-by-numbers-2025-03-04/>

## IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

### More than 100 arrested in Colony Ridge immigration raids, ICE says

By Alejandro Serrano, *Texas Tribune*, 2/25/2025

- ❖ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 118 people during an operation in Colony Ridge, a majority Latino housing development near Houston. Among those arrested was 39-year-old Florentin Chevez-Luna, deported three times and wanted for alleged repeated sexual abuse of a minor from 2008 to 2016. ICE highlighted his arrest as significant but did not release details on others. President Trump's adviser, Tom Homan, stated the operation is part of a larger investigation, with several sexual predators and at least one individual convicted of homicide among those detained. Colony Ridge has faced criticism for allegedly selling land to undocumented individuals, claims disputed by police. The Biden administration and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton have sued the developers over alleged predatory lending practices, with both lawsuits still pending.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/02/25/texas-colony-ridge-raids-arrests-immigrants-ice/>

### ICE is making more arrests, but critics say some claims don't add up

By Joel Rose, *NPR*, 3/1/2025

- ❖ In its first month, the Trump administration's immigration crackdown led to 20,000 arrests, surpassing the Biden administration's average but falling short of the stated goal of 1,200–1,500 daily arrests, with fewer than 600 booked per day in February. ICE detention centers now hold over 43,000 immigrants, the highest since before the COVID pandemic. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem claimed a "627% increase" in arrests compared to Biden's 33,000 at-large arrests in 2024, though experts criticized the comparison as misleading. Despite pledges for mass deportations, deportation numbers remain unclear, and the administration plans to expand detention facilities, including reopening a major center in New Jersey. Critics argue the focus on arrest volume over public safety has led to resource misallocation.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/01/nx-s1-5313059/immigration-ice-arrests-misleading-claims-kristi-noem-dhs>

## DEPORTATIONS

### Trump seeks to fast-track deportations of hundreds of thousands

By Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, *Washington Post*, 2/28/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration's February 18 ICE memo outlines plans to expedite the deportation of over 1 million migrants admitted under Biden-era initiatives, targeting those who crossed illegally, entered on parole, or lack asylum applications. Expedited removal, historically used near the southern border, has been expanded nationwide, even for migrants in the U.S. for over two years. The memo also suggests deporting individuals granted protection from persecution to third countries, raising legal and ethical concerns. With nearly 8 million deportation cases on ICE's docket, the administration aims to fulfill its mass deportation promise, despite logistical hurdles and expected legal challenges. Critics argue the expansion undermines due process and asylum protections.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/28/ice-expedited-removal-mass-deportation/>

### Trump is making Central America become a dumping ground for US immigrants

By Jeff Ernst, *The Guardian*, 3/2/2025

- ❖ Central America has become both a source and transit route for immigrants heading to the U.S., contributing to record numbers at the border. The Trump administration has pressured Central American countries to act as holding grounds for migrants who cannot be deported to their home countries, leveraging threats like reclaiming the Panama Canal. On February 13, Panama received a U.S. military plane with 119 migrants, marking the start of a new deportation strategy. Hundreds more, including migrants from Afghanistan, Iran, and China, have since been sent to Panama and Costa Rica, with 128 of the 299 migrants in Panama refusing onward transportation. Migrants face legal limbo and rights violations, with some confined to remote shelters and denied legal counsel. Similar agreements have been made with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, facilitating deportations such as 177 Venezuelan migrants from Guantánamo Bay. While the U.S. funds sheltering costs, the long-term implications and migrant volumes remain uncertain, leaving Central American leaders to balance U.S. demands against domestic backlash.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/02/trump-central-america-immigrants-deportation>

## **Border Patrol's strategy shift to accelerate Trump's deportations**

By Maryann Martinez, DAILYMAIL.COM, 3/2/2025

- ❖ In an unprecedented move, the U.S. Border Patrol has deputized Texas National Guard members with Title 8 authority, allowing them to arrest migrants anywhere in the country. Despite lacking formal immigration law training, these guardsmen are now assisting ICE in apprehending, arresting, and deporting migrants. Since President Trump took office on January 20, border crossings have dropped by 94%, with 285 migrants arrested daily compared to 4,800 during the Biden era. Governor Greg Abbott praised the initiative as a boost to manpower for Trump's mass deportation efforts, which aim to address the nearly 8 million migrants who crossed the border under Biden. Deputized guardsmen will be supervised by Border Patrol agents, though concerns remain about the adequacy of their training compared to the three-month program required for federal agents.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/galleries/article-14448741/Border-Patrols-strategy-shift-accelerate-Trump-deportations.html?ITO=aplenews-us>

## **US deportees in 'black box' in Panama with no access to counsel, lawyers say**

By Reuters, 2/27/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has deported around 300 individuals from countries like Afghanistan, China, Turkey, and Vietnam to Panama under a January 20 executive order, bypassing asylum claims at the Mexico border. Currently, 112 deportees are held in Panama's remote San Vicente immigration center, with no access to legal counsel. Critics, including the ACLU, argue these deportations lack proper asylum screening and place migrants in unsafe conditions. Panama has repatriated 113 individuals, with 58 awaiting flights home. Concerns have been raised about the safety of deportees, such as a Turkish woman and her daughter sent back to Turkey despite seeking asylum. Lawyers report restricted communication, with migrants allowed only brief family calls via the Red Cross. Human rights groups warn of mistreatment and legal violations in this "outsourced" deportation process.
- ❖ Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/27/trump-deportations-panama?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/27/trump-deportations-panama?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)

## **Trump asks for funding for mass deportations and repeats debunked claims**

By Brittany Gibson and Russell Contreras, Axios, 3/5/2025

- ❖ President Trump renewed his request for more funding to support his immigration agenda, including border security and a mass deportation operation, during his address to Congress. He aims to surpass the deportation record set by Dwight D. Eisenhower's Operation Wetback, which deported 1.3 million Mexicans and Mexican Americans. Trump celebrated a decline in border crossings to the lowest level in decades but repeated debunked claims about migrants. Data shows that 52.1% of the 43,759 immigrants in ICE detention have no criminal record. Immigration courts face a backlog of 3.7 million cases, with 852,000 deportation cases expected to be decided in 2025.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.axios.com/2025/03/05/donald-trump-address-immigration-mass-deportation>

## **Trump's Rage Over "Low" Deportations Suddenly Gets More Unnerving**

By Greg Sargent, New Republic, 3/5/2025

- ❖ President Trump's administration is intensifying its mass deportation efforts, but deportations remain below his expectations. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued a memo indicating that immigration judges may no longer be protected by civil service rules, making it easier to fire judges who don't consistently rule against migrants. This move is seen as an attempt to replace judges with those who will expedite deportations. The DOJ recently fired 20 immigration judges and signaled it might disregard removal restrictions for all immigration judges. The backlog of 3.7 million cases in immigration courts is a significant obstacle to more removals. Critics argue that Trump and his advisers aim to undermine due process for migrants to facilitate mass deportations.
- ❖ Source: <https://newrepublic.com/maz/article/192318/trump-immigrant-deportations-low-rage-unnerving>

## **Trump raids will now target migrant families who entered the U.S. with their children**

By Julia Ainsley, NBC News, 3/6/2025

- ❖ U.S. immigration agents are planning a nationwide operation to arrest migrant families with children who have deportation orders, placing them into detention before removal. A separate operation targets unaccompanied minors released without court dates. ICE lawyers are securing warrants for home arrests. Despite campaign promises to focus on criminal migrants, many targeted families lack criminal histories. The Trump administration is reopening family detention centers, including a 2,400-person facility in Dilley, Texas. Previous administrations also detained families, but Trump's 2018 "zero-tolerance" policy separated over 5,000 families. Biden's expedited removal program tracked heads of households with ankle monitors. The Flores agreement limits minors' detention to 20 days, complicating large-scale family detentions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/trump-raids-will-now-target-migrants-entered-us-families-children-rcna193611>

## **Trump plans to revoke legal status of Ukrainians who fled to US, sources say**

*By Ted Hesson and Kristina Cooke, Reuters, 3/6/2025*

- ❖ The Trump administration plans to revoke temporary legal status for 240,000 Ukrainians who fled the conflict with Russia, potentially fast-tracking their deportation. This move is part of a broader effort to strip legal status from over 1.8 million migrants allowed entry under Biden's humanitarian parole programs. The administration also aims to revoke parole for 530,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans. Migrants stripped of parole could face expedited removal. The rollback affects more than 70,000 Afghans and 1 million migrants who used the CBP One app. The administration paused processing applications for certain parole programs, leaving many in limbo. Critics argue the move betrays allies and creates uncertainty for those seeking asylum.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/03/06/trump-ukrainian-legal-status-deportations/81729204007/>

## **DETENTION CENTERS**

### **Map Shows Where ICE is Expanding Immigrant Detention Facilities**

*By Dan Gooding, NewsWeek, 2/27/2025*

- ❖ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is expanding detention capacity under President Trump, reopening a 1,000-bed facility in New Jersey and adding 784 beds across facilities in Ohio, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Mississippi. Military bases, including Fort Bliss in Texas, are being considered for up to 10,000 additional beds. Guantanamo Bay has also been used, with 200 migrants temporarily held there before deportation. ICE currently has funding for 41,000 beds, while over 7 million immigrants are on its docket. The GOP budget includes \$170 billion for immigration enforcement, but capacity remains limited, with detainees averaging 40 days in custody. Immigrants' rights groups have sued over conditions and access to legal counsel.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-immigrant-detention-expansion-announced-map-2037263>

### **These states have seen the biggest crackdown on immigration since Trump returned to office**

*By Rhian Lubin and Alicja Hagopian, Independent, 3/2/2025*

- ❖ As of February 8, 43,759 people are being held in ICE detention facilities across the U.S., with over 55% having no criminal record. Texas leads with 12,259 detainees, followed by Louisiana (6,878), California (3,024), Georgia (2,382), Arizona (2,300), and Mississippi (2,169). The Adams County Detention Center in Mississippi holds over 2,100 detainees, while the South Texas ICE Processing Center averages 1,680. ICE detention centers are operating at over 110% capacity, with 38,000 beds available at the start of February. The Trump administration plans to expand capacity to 100,000 beds, including reopening a 1,000-bed facility in New Jersey under a \$1.2 billion contract. Over 188,000 individuals are monitored through Alternatives to Detention programs. Advocacy groups warn of worsening conditions, particularly in remote facilities, as the administration pushes for mass detentions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/states-most-immigration-detainees-trump-b2706067.html>

### **Private prison firms prepare to reopen closed facilities to hold immigrants**

*By Marianne LeVine, Douglas MacMillan and Silvia Foster-Frau, Washington Post, 2/28/2025*

- ❖ The Trump administration is rapidly expanding immigrant detention capacity, aiming to double it to 100,000 beds. ICE plans to reopen Delaney Hall in Newark, a GEO Group facility with a 1,000-detainee capacity, making it the largest ICE detention center on the East Coast. GEO and CoreCivic, the two largest private contractors, are adding 17,000 and 28,000 beds, respectively, while military facilities like Fort Bliss and Guantánamo Bay are also being considered. Senate Republicans proposed a \$175 billion budget for border security, nearly tripling DHS's annual budget. Concerns persist over poor conditions, with 11 ICE detainee deaths in 2024 and allegations of abuse at facilities like Guantánamo. Critics highlight the reopening of facilities like Delaney Hall, which faced lawsuits over inadequate care, and the administration's reliance on private prisons, reversing Biden's 2021 ban. GEO Group's valuation has nearly doubled to \$3.8 billion since Trump's election, with shares rising 6% after securing a \$1 billion, 15-year contract for Delaney Hall.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/28/ice-detention-private-prison-newark/>



## **US Tent Facility is Holding Migrant Families Longer Than Recommended**

*By Fola Akinnibi and Rachel Adams-Heard, Bloomberg, 2/28/2025*

- ❖ Migrant families with children are being detained at a California tent facility near San Diego for over 10 days, far exceeding the 72-hour limit set by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) guidelines. Despite border crossings dropping 76% from January 2024 to just over 29,000 arrests, families face prolonged stays in facilities designed for short-term adult detention, raising risks to children's mental and physical health. A flu outbreak at the facility highlights ongoing medical care issues, echoing past failures like the 2023 death of an 8-year-old girl in Texas. President Trump's policies have ended programs allowing low-risk immigrants to await court dates in the U.S., expanded deportation authority, and sought \$86 billion for mass deportations. Migrants are now sent to Guantanamo Bay, Panama, and Costa Rica, while ICE considers reopening family detention centers like Dilley, Texas. Critics warn of trauma and harm to children from extended detentions.
- ❖ Source: [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-28/us-border-facility-violating-rules-on-holding-migrant-families?utm\\_campaign=news&utm\\_medium=bd&utm\\_source=applenews](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-28/us-border-facility-violating-rules-on-holding-migrant-families?utm_campaign=news&utm_medium=bd&utm_source=applenews)

## **Trump administration rethinking Guantánamo immigrant detention plan amid cost issues and power struggles**

*By Courtney Kube, Carol E. Lee, Julie Tsirkin and Julia Ainsley, NBC News, 3/5/2025*

- ❖ President Trump's plan to detain 30,000 immigrants at Guantánamo Bay has faced significant legal, logistical, and financial challenges since its announcement. The plan has struggled with high costs, with military flights costing \$23,000 to \$27,000 per detainee and tents lacking necessary facilities. At its peak, Guantánamo held 178 immigrants, but as of February 20, 177 had been returned to Venezuela, and only 20 remained. The administration is now considering cheaper alternatives like Fort Bliss, Texas. ICE and military coordination issues, budget shortfalls, and unclear policy guidance have further complicated the plan. The administration aims to fulfill Trump's mandate for mass deportations despite the hurdles.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/trump-admin-rethinking-guantanamo-immigrant-detention-plan-rcna194274>

## **Private Prison Execs Envision Trump Windfall For Immigration Detention**

*By Matt Shuham, HuffPost, 3/3/2025*

- ❖ Three months after President Trump's "mass deportation" campaign promise, private prison executives remain optimistic about a potential increase in immigration enforcement funding from Congress. GEO Group CEO David Donahue and CoreCivic CEO Damon Hininger expressed excitement about the opportunities ahead. As of February 27, 43,759 undocumented people were in ICE custody, the highest since Trump's first term. ICE estimates that new laws could require 60,000 to 110,000 additional detention beds, with potential for up to 200,000 beds. The Trump administration plans to reopen a 1,000-bed facility in New Jersey and use military bases for detention. The Senate approved a ten-fold budget increase for ICE and Customs and Border Protection, but specifics are pending. The administration's deportation goals depend on securing more funding, with private prison companies closely monitoring budget negotiations.
- ❖ Source: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/private-prison-executives-trump-deportation-immigration-enforcement\\_n\\_67c62c05e4b03c5688a7525f?ncid=APPLENEWS00001](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/private-prison-executives-trump-deportation-immigration-enforcement_n_67c62c05e4b03c5688a7525f?ncid=APPLENEWS00001)

## **These private companies seem eager to aid Trump's immigration crackdown**

*By Ja'han Jones, MSNBC, 3/5/2025*

- ❖ Private companies are poised to profit from the Trump administration's mass deportation plans. GEO Group executives expressed excitement about "unprecedented opportunities" to provide detention bed capacity and electronic monitoring services. The Newark detention center, Delaney Hall, will be the largest ICE processing facility on the East Coast. Other private companies, including those led by former Blackwater CEO Erik Prince, have proposed a \$25 billion plan for mass deportations using military bases and private resources. Palantir Technologies CEO Alex Karp also showed enthusiasm for aiding the administration's deportation and surveillance efforts. Palantir's software has already been used to target immigrant families for deportation, according to a 2020 Guardian report.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.msnbc.com/the-reidout/reidout-blog/trump-mass-deportations-private-companies-rcna194949>

## TEXAS IN THE NEWS

### Trump administration removes five immigration judges in Texas, union says

By Alejandro Serrano, *Texas Tribune*, 2/27/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has fired five immigration judges in Texas, including three associate chief judges, raising concerns about worsening backlogs in the already overwhelmed immigration court system, which faces nearly 4 million pending cases. These judges, part of 28 recent removals nationwide, handled courts in Houston, Laredo, and El Paso, where judges typically hear 500–700 cases annually. The backlog has tripled since 2017, delaying decisions for vulnerable populations and prolonging removals for those without valid claims. Critics argue the firings will exacerbate delays and push the administration toward expedited removals, which bypass court hearings and have been expanded to include undocumented immigrants residing in the U.S. for less than two years.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/02/27/texas-immigration-courts-judges-fired/>

### Trump officials to reopen Texas detention center for migrant families

By Maria Sacchetti, Arelis R. Hernández and Douglas MacMillan, *Washington Post*, 3/5/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration is reopening the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, to detain migrant families, resuming the practice four years after it was ended. The facility, managed by CoreCivic, Inc., can hold up to 2,400 parents and children and is expected to generate \$180 million annually. This move aligns with Trump's goal of the largest mass deportation campaign in U.S. history. Advocates for immigrants oppose the decision, citing harm to children. President Biden ended family detention in 2021, converting facilities to house adults. ICE aims to detain families together for deportation, with more than 49,000 migrant parents and children deported in fiscal year 2024. CoreCivic anticipates increased demand and has added 784 new detention beds across multiple states. The agreement for the Dilley facility expires in March 2030.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/03/05/dilley-texas-family-detention-center-ice/>

## COURT CASES AND RULINGS

### ACLU sues to block migrant transfers to Guantanamo, alleging 'degrading conditions'

By Ted Hesson, *Reuters*, 3/3/2025

- ❖ The ACLU has sued to block the Trump administration from transferring 10 migrants from Venezuela, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, citing harsh conditions, including 23-hour confinement, abuse, and suicide attempts. The administration began using Guantanamo in February for deportations, with 177 Venezuelans initially sent there, a third of whom had no criminal record. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem claims Guantanamo houses "the worst of the worst," but the ACLU argues the transfers violate U.S. immigration law. Separately, lawsuits have been filed against the administration's termination of Biden-era "parole" programs, which allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants to enter legally. Critics argue these actions lack proper regulatory steps and undermine migrant rights.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/aclu-sues-block-migrant-transfers-guantanamo-alleging-degrading-conditions-2025-03-01/>

### Judge blocks Trump immigration policy allowing arrests in churches for some religious groups

By The Associated Press, 2/26/2025

- ❖ U.S. District Judge Theodore Chang issued a preliminary injunction blocking immigration enforcement operations in houses of worship for Quakers, a Georgia-based Baptist church network, and a Sikh temple in California, finding that the Trump administration's policy could violate religious freedom. The lawsuit challenges the administration's elimination of Department of Homeland Security's 30-year policy limiting arrests in "sensitive locations." Plaintiffs argue the change, which allows operations without supervisor approval, deters immigrants from attending services. The Maryland-based case, representing Quaker groups from Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, is one of multiple lawsuits filed. Government lawyers claim no specific religious groups have been targeted, while plaintiffs seek to block the policy nationwide. The case highlights the ongoing conflict between religious rights and immigration enforcement under the Trump administration.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/judge-blocks-trump-immigration-policy-arrests-churches-schools-rcna193857>

## Appeals court maintains injunction against Trump birthright order

By Nate Raymond, Reuters, 2/28/2025

- ❖ President Trump's executive order to end automatic birthright citizenship faced another legal setback as the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 vote, upheld a nationwide injunction blocking the order, citing its unconstitutionality and potential to cause "chaos." The order, signed on January 20, aimed to deny citizenship to children born in the U.S. if neither parent was a citizen or lawful resident, applying to births after February 19. Judges in Seattle, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire have also blocked the order, referencing the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause. U.S. District Judge Deborah Boardman ruled on February 5 that the order violated constitutional protections, aligning with immigrant rights groups and Democratic attorneys general. The Supreme Court may ultimately decide the order's fate.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/appeals-court-wont-disturb-injunction-against-trump-birthright-order-2025-02-28/>

## DEVELOPING STORIES

### Some Immigrants Have Only Two Weeks Left to Enter US

By Dan Gooding, NewsWeek, 3/2/2025

- ❖ The Special Immigrant Religious Workers visa (EB-4), which grants Green Card status, will expire on March 13, 2025, potentially affecting religious organizations that rely on non-minister workers such as counselors and translators. The program, offering up to 5,000 visas annually, issued only a few hundred in 2023. While ministers and their families are unaffected, non-minister applicants must meet strict criteria, including two years of prior work for sponsoring organizations. Despite its critical role in supporting vulnerable communities, extensions are unlikely under the current administration. All visas issued will be valid only until the deadline, and no further EB-4 visas will be issued after March 13.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/immigration-visa-deadline-us-migrants-religious-workers-2037913>

### In child care centers and on farms, businesses are bracing for more immigration raids

By Ximena Bustillo, NPR, 2/28/2025

- ❖ Since President Trump's election victory, businesses across the U.S. have been preparing for increased immigration enforcement targeting worksites employing undocumented workers, who make up 8.3 million workers or nearly 5% of the U.S. workforce. ICE has begun worksite raids, arresting 16 workers in Mississippi and 9 in New York, with industries like agriculture, construction, and hospitality most affected. Half of crop farmworkers lack legal status, and 23 states require employers to use E-Verify to verify documents. Employers face hefty fines, while workers risk deportation. Immigration enforcement under Trump echoes Obama-era workplace raids, which contributed 18% to rising housing prices. The workforce shortage remains a critical concern as businesses brace for further disruptions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/28/g-s1-50958/business-workplace-raids-immigration-ice-deportation>

### Vance acknowledges Pope Francis' criticism of U.S. immigration crackdown

By Peter Smith, Associated Press, 2/28/2025

- ❖ Vice President JD Vance, speaking at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, acknowledged Pope Francis' criticism of the Trump administration's immigration policies but avoided addressing specifics, including the pontiff's response to Vance's use of "ordo amoris" to justify such policies. Vance, a Catholic convert since 2019, called himself a "baby Catholic" and emphasized humility in discussing faith. He defended the administration's protection of religious liberty, citing a task force to combat bias against Christians, while criticizing the Biden administration's stance on abortion. Vance also faced backlash for claiming bishops received government aid to resettle "illegal immigrants," though the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops clarified the funds were for legally approved refugees. Highlighting Trump's foreign policy as peace-oriented, Vance referenced its impact on Christian communities in Iraq and Ukraine, where the Catholic minority supports defense against Russian aggression. Trump was set to meet Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to discuss U.S. support for Ukraine's security.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/vance-acknowledges-pope-francis-criticism-of-u-s-immigration-crackdown>



### **Trump proposes offering \$5 million "gold card" to wealthy immigrants. Here's how it would work.**

*By Aimee Picchi, Edited By Alain Sherter, CBS News, 2/27/2025*

- ❖ President Trump introduced a "gold card" residency program for wealthy foreigners willing to pay \$5 million, replacing the EB-5 visa program. The gold card offers green card privileges, including permanent residency, work flexibility, and a pathway to citizenship, without requiring congressional approval. Trump projects the program could raise \$5 trillion if 1 million cards are sold, though annual EB-5 applicants have historically been around 8,000, which would generate \$40 billion annually. Applicants must undergo vetting, and the program aims to attract global investors while addressing U.S. debt. Similar investor visa programs exist in over 100 countries, including the U.K. and Canada.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-gold-card-eb5-visa-5-million-immigration-oligarch-cbs-news-explains/?tag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

### **Health care workers are rushing to learn about immigration law in case of ICE raids**

*By Jackie Fortiér, KFF Health News, 2/25/2025*

- ❖ Since President Trump's return to office, the rollback of policies protecting "sensitive locations" like hospitals from immigration arrests has caused fear among immigrant communities, leading some patients to avoid health clinics. Acting DHS Secretary Benamine Huffman revoked the directive on January 21, citing law enforcement needs. Clinics like St. John's Community Health in Los Angeles and La Clínica de La Raza in the Bay Area are training staff to read warrants and educate patients on their constitutional rights. California, home to 2 million undocumented residents, is a key target for enforcement. Health workers are racing to prepare, with over 1,000 staff still needing training, while clinics post resources to support patients amid heightened deportation fears.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/02/25/nx-s1-5307229/health-care-workers-are-rushing-to-learn-about-immigration-law-in-case-of-ice-raids>

### **Top Trump official overseeing migrant children program removed**

*By Ted Hesson, Reuters, 3/5/2025*

- ❖ Mellissa Harper, the acting director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), was abruptly removed from her position on Tuesday, March 4. Harper, who previously held a senior role at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), had brought a small team from ICE to the refugee office. The change in leadership comes as President Trump's administration intensifies efforts to track down unaccompanied migrant children and expand mass deportations. Harper had planned to target smuggling and use DNA tests to establish familial relationships. Angie Salazar, a special agent in charge of ICE's investigative unit in Detroit, is expected to become ORR's acting director. This personnel change follows a pattern of reassignments under Trump, including top ICE officials like acting Director Caleb Vitello.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/top-trump-official-overseeing-migrant-children-program-removed-2025-03-05/>

### **On Mexico's Once-Packed Border, Few Migrants Remain**

*By Annie Correal, Photographs by Alejandro Cegarra, New York Times, 3/3/2025*

- ❖ On the eve of President Trump's tariff deadline on Mexico, migrant presence at the U.S.-Mexico border has drastically decreased. Shelters in Ciudad Juárez, Tijuana, and Matamoros, once overflowing, are now almost empty. Customs and Border Protection apprehended only 200 people at the southern border in a single day, the lowest in over 15 years. Mexico's measures, including checkpoints, visa restrictions, and dispersing caravans, have significantly curbed migration. Mexico now apprehends more migrants than the U.S., with numbers dropping by 90%. The deployment of 10,000 Mexican national guardsmen has further deterred crossings. Shelters have closed due to reduced arrivals and cuts in international aid. Local shelter operators report fewer migrants attempting to enter the U.S. and more applying for asylum in Mexico.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/03/world/americas/mexico-border-migration-trump-tariffs-deadline.html>

### **Hegseth Warned of Military Action if Mexico Fails to Meet Trump's Border Demands**

*By José de Córdoba, Santiago Pérez and Vera Bergengruen, Wall Street Journal, 2/28/2025*

- ❖ During a tense January 31 call, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth warned Mexico's top military officials that the U.S. might take unilateral action if Mexico didn't address government-cartel collusion. This warning looms over trade talks with President Trump, who has threatened 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada, and an additional 10% on China. Mexico's recent concessions include deploying 10,000 National Guard troops to the border and extraditing 29 drug gang bosses to the U.S. Despite these efforts, Trump insists on further action to curb fentanyl smuggling and migrant trafficking. Hegseth's suggestion of potential U.S. military action has alarmed Mexican officials, recalling past U.S. interventions. The Trump administration's threats have sparked discussions in Washington about the severe economic and security consequences of military strikes in Mexico.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-mexico-drug-cartel-tariff-hegseth-military-action-5f507ab0>

## **Justice Department fires 20 immigration judges from backlogged courts amid major government cuts**

*By Elliot Spagat, Associated Press, 2/15/2025*

- ❖ The Trump administration fired 20 immigration judges without explanation, including 13 judges who had yet to be sworn in and five assistant chief immigration judges. This move is part of broader efforts to shrink the federal government and ramp up mass deportations. The U.S. Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, overseeing roughly 700 judges, did not comment on the firings. Immigration courts face a backlog of over 3.7 million cases, taking years to decide asylum cases. The administration also replaced five top court officials and issued new instructions reversing Biden-era policies. Last month, the Justice Department briefly halted funding for NGOs providing deportation guidance but restored it after a lawsuit. The firings align with Trump's priorities of reducing government size and increasing deportations.
- ❖ Source: <https://apnews.com/article/trump-immigration-court-judges-fired-firings-d35eed0f685739c4a19d4c8baf39113a>

## **Donald Trump is reportedly planning a Muslim Ban 2.0.**

*By Hafiz Rashid, New Republic, 3/6/2025*

- ❖ President Trump may introduce a new travel ban similar to the "Muslim ban" from his first term, potentially barring people from Afghanistan and Pakistan from entering the U.S. This order, based on security and vetting risks, could also include other countries. In his first term, Trump banned visitors from several Muslim-majority countries, a move upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018. The new ban could hinder efforts to resettle tens of thousands of Afghans cleared to come to the U.S. as refugees or on special immigrant visas. The State Department is seeking an exemption for these visa holders, but it is unlikely to be granted. The previous travel ban caused significant confusion and protests, and it's uncertain if similar protests will occur this time.
- ❖ Source: <https://newrepublic.com/maz/post/192423/trump-muslim-travel-ban-new-countries-list>

## **Mass exodus of immigration officials could delay millions of deportations**

*By Lucien Bruggeman and Laura Romero, ABC News, 3/6/2025*

- ❖ Earlier this month, Kerry Doyle, a longtime immigration attorney, was fired just days before she was to be sworn in as an immigration judge, part of the Trump administration's mass layoffs to reduce government size. Since Trump's inauguration, over 100 immigration officials have been dismissed or voluntarily departed, including 43 immigration judges and 85 administrative staff. Critics warn that this undermines Trump's pledge to clean up the immigration process and deport millions. The Justice Department has removed multiple judges and officials, and withdrawn protections for administrative law judges. The administration has also made it harder for vulnerable immigrants to secure legal representation, potentially burdening the immigration court system further. The Trump administration has not yet articulated a plan to reduce the backlog of 3.7 million immigration cases.
- ❖ Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/mass-exodus-immigration-officials-delay-millions-deportations/story?id=119386541>

## **Homeland Security appoints new leadership at ICE amid faltering deportation push**

*By Raphael Satter, Reuters, 3/9/2025*

- ❖ Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem appointed new leadership at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as the agency struggles to meet President Trump's goal of massive deportation operations. Trump's administration deported 37,660 people in his first month, far below the monthly average of 57,000 during Biden's last year. Acting ICE Director Caleb Vitello was reassigned for failing to meet expectations. Noem promoted Todd Lyons to acting director and Madison Sheahan to deputy director, emphasizing their roles in targeting, arresting, and deporting illegal aliens to fulfill Trump's campaign promise of deporting millions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/homeland-security-appoints-new-leadership-ice-amid-faltering-deportation-push-2025-03-09/>

## **Legal immigration agency employees asked to volunteer to help ICE operations**

*By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 3/8/2025*

- ❖ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) employees have been asked to volunteer for 60-day assignments to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations, starting March 10. This move supports President Trump's mass deportation efforts. USCIS staff, primarily those with immigration experience, will help with detainee processing, case management, records checks, and data entry. The Trump administration has already empowered various federal agencies to support immigration enforcement and directed the Department of Defense and Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide facilities for detainees. ICE's network of for-profit prisons and county jails is at 120% capacity, holding over 46,000 immigrants despite being structured for 38,500 detainees.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/legal-immigration-agency-employees-asked-volunteer-help-ice-operations/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

### **Freeze on funding to help green card holders get citizenship stirs uncertainty**

*By Nicole Acevedo, NBC News, 3/7/2025*

- ❖ The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles (CHIRLA) and over 100 other organizations faced disruptions in their services after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) froze their congressionally approved funding on February 4. This funding freeze affected students receiving civics instruction, English classes, and citizenship interview preparation. CHIRLA was set to receive \$450,000 from USCIS to help hundreds of green card holders. The freeze has forced CHIRLA to seek alternative funding. On February 28, 35 Democratic members of Congress sent a letter to USCIS Acting Director Kika Scott and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, seeking answers and expressing concerns over the justification for the funding freeze. USCIS cited concerns about the efficiency of the grants as the reason for the freeze.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/freeze-funding-help-green-card-holders-get-citizenship-stirs-uncertain-rcna195336>

### **Trump deported fewer people last month than Biden a year ago, but border crossings have plummeted**

*By Julia Ainsley and Laura Strickler, NBC News, 3/10/2025*

- ❖ According to the data, ICE deported around 11,000 migrants in February, the first full month Trump was in office, compared to just over 12,000 in February 2024. One major reason for the higher numbers under the Biden administration was higher traffic from attempted border crossings, both legal and illegal, in 2024 compared to 2025. When removing recent border crossers from the total and counting only immigrants who were deported after first being arrested by ICE, nearly 4,300 immigrants were deported this February compared with roughly 2,100 in February 2024.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/trump-deported-fewer-people-biden-year-ago-border-crossings-plummeted-rcna195605>

### **US unveils new app for 'self-deportations'**

*By Bernd Debusmann Jr., BBC News, 3/10/2025*

- ❖ The Trump administration is repurposing a mobile application - originally created to facilitate asylum appointments - into a way for undocumented migrants already in the US to "self-deport". The app, known as CBP Home, allows migrants to submit an "intent to depart", which US Customs and Border Patrol says offers them a chance to leave without "harsher consequences". Originally launched as CBP One in 2020, the mobile application was expanded during the Biden administration to allow prospective migrants to book appointments to appear at a port of entry. Now, on the newly rebranded application, undocumented migrants identify themselves and declare their intention to leave the country. The app also asks migrants whether they have "enough money to depart the United States" and whether they have a "valid, unexpired passport from your original country of citizenship". CBP Home can also be used to apply and pay for I-94 entry and exit cards up to seven days before travel, book inspections for perishable cargo and check wait times at US border crossings.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c7430kq7eyxo>

### **Border Protection contractor cuts most jobs at 5 Texas migrant camps**

*By Brandon Lingle, San Antonio Express-News, 3/6/2025*

- ❖ A contractor providing staffing for five Customs and Border Protection migrant camps along the southern border has laid off 666 people, apparently in response to a continuing decline in illegal border crossings. Luke Holdings Inc. of Rockledge, Fla., dismissed employees from sites in Del Rio, Donna, Eagle Pass, Laredo and El Paso, according to a notice Wednesday to the Texas Workforce Commission. Their last day was Feb. 27, when workers received letters from the company saying the federal government had mandated the immediate firings as part of a contract modification. The company cut 36 jobs in Del Rio, 73 in Laredo, 129 in Eagle Pass, 201 in Donna and 227 in El Paso, according to documents filed with the state.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/business/article/customs-border-protection-migrant-camps-layoffs-20204864.php>

### **More layoffs at Customs and Border Protection migrant camps in Texas**

*By Brandon Lingle, San Antonio Express-News, 3/10/2025*

- ❖ A second contractor providing staffing at Customs and Border Protection migrant camps along the southern border is laying off 379 people as illegal crossings continue to decline. MVM Inc., of Ashburn, Va., dismissed employees from its sites in McAllen and El Paso, it told the Texas Workforce Commission last week. Their last day will be March 17. The provider of transportation for unaccompanied children and families blamed the layoffs on the "termination of MVM's contract with the Office of Refugee Resettlement," which is a part of the Department of Health and Human Services. The firm is cutting 132 workers at its McAllen site and 247 in El Paso.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/business/article/migrant-camp-border-protection-layoffs-mvm-20208349.php>

## 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/1YuV0eGDLgCdx0zShWEsvGBOLuMagvALi/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>