

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – MAY 21, 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 FY 2025									
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	5,878	5,765	6,118	2,748	734	631	788	22,662
	Family Units	15,239	12,250	14,266	7,096	807	470	534	50,662
	Single Adult	35,403	28,600	26,940	19,261	6,804	6,083	7,061	130,152
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		56,520	46,615	47,324	29,105	8,345	7,184	8,383	203,476

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

Immigration Quick Facts - Detention

By the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), 4/6/25

As of April 6, 2025, 47,928 individuals are held in ICE detention facilities, with 46.4% having no criminal record. Texas leads with 12,224 detainees, followed by Louisiana, California, Georgia, and Arizona. Additionally, 183,635 individuals are monitored through Alternatives to Detention programs.

Source: <https://tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts/detention.html>

House Reconciliation Bill Would Supercharge Immigrant Detention and Effectively Eliminate Asylum for Most

By Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, Immigration Impact, 5/5/25

On April 30, the House Judiciary Committee advanced a budget reconciliation bill which, if signed into law, would represent the single biggest increase in funding to immigration enforcement in the history of the United States. The bill would provide nearly \$80 billion for internal immigration enforcement, including \$45 billion dollars for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and \$14.4 billion for ICE transportation and removal operations. This adds to nearly \$67 billion the House is also planning to give to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including \$51.6 billion for border barriers. On top of these staggering sums of money, the House Judiciary bill would also impose mandatory fees on a wide variety of humanitarian immigration protections, putting them out of reach for most applicants.

Source: <https://immigrationimpact.com/2025/05/05/house-reconciliation-bill/>

DEPORTATIONS

How does deportation work, and how much does it cost? We break it down

By Ximena Bustillo and Alyson Hurt, NPR, 4/7/25

NPR spoke to immigration experts and lawyers and reviewed government documents to break down the steps of the U.S. deportation process and its cost. This is meant as a general breakdown of the process and not a rule for each individual's circumstances.

Identifying Individuals for Deportation

HSI Investigator Salary: \$32,918–76,649/year

CBP Agent Salary: \$64,229–137,875/year

Arrest & Detention Costs

ICE Detention Facility: \$152/day per person

Alternative to Detention Tracking: \$4.20/day per person (average)

ICE Bed Rate: \$75/day per person (median)

Medical Care in ICE Detention: \$34.05/day per person

Immigration Court Costs

Cost of ICE Counsel: \$850 per case (estimate)

Immigration Judge Salary: \$149,000–195,000/year

Deportation Process Costs

USCIS Agent Salary: \$22,360–162,672/year

White House Request for Border Security: \$175 billion

Deportation Flight Costs

Chartered ICE Flight: \$6,929–26,795 per flight hour (cost depends on risk level)

Military Flight on C-17: \$25,500 per flight hour

Pending Immigration Cases (As of Late 2024)

Asylum Cases in Immigration Court: 1.5 million

Asylum Cases with USCIS: 1 million

Pending Immigration Cases with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR): Over 4 million

Individuals with Pending Deportation Orders (ICE): 1.4 million

Agency Budgets

DHS Budget for ICE: \$8 billion

CBP Budget: \$20 billion

USCIS Budget: \$865 million

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/07/nx-s1-5308051/deportation-timeline-cost>

Trump offers illegal immigrants \$1,000 to 'self-deport'

By James FitzGerald, BBC News, 5/6/25

The U.S. government is offering migrants who are in the country illegally a sum worth \$1,000 and paid one way travel if they decide to leave the U.S. using the CBP Home App.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2y02wpz7po>

ICE just ordered \$30 million worth of new technology from Palantir to track immigrants

By Rosemarie Ho, Business Insider, 4/17/25

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has signed a \$29.8 million deal with Palantir for software add-ons to track self-deportations and immigrants who have overstayed their visas, government records show. A contract reviewed by Business Insider said the Immigration Lifecycle Operating System — or ImmigrationOS — will minimize "time and resource expenditure" for selecting and apprehending immigrants based on ICE enforcement priorities.

ImmigrationOS will expand ICE's case management system to include "near real-time visibility into instances of self-deportation." The prototype is expected to be delivered by September 25.

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/ice-palantir-new-technology-30-million-visa-overstays-self-deportation-2025-4>

U.S. seeking deportation deals with far-flung countries like Angola and Equatorial Guinea

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 5/5/25

The administration is negotiating deportation deals with Angola, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Libya, Moldova, and Rwanda to send migrants who are not their citizens. This expands an existing strategy of deporting migrants to Latin American nations like Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-deportation-deals-with-angola-equatorial-guinea/>

3 children who are US citizens — including one with cancer — deported with their mothers, lawyers and advocacy groups say

By Dakin Andone, CNN, 4/30/25

Three U.S. citizen children, including a 4-year-old undergoing cancer treatment, were deported to Honduras with their mothers last week after attending routine check-ins with immigration officials in Louisiana. Attorneys claim the mothers were detained without proper legal access, and removal orders were issued in their absence, raising concerns about the erosion of constitutional rights.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/27/us/children-us-citizens-deported-honduras/index.html>

Trump Administration Sues Colorado and Denver Over Immigration Policies

By Isabelle Taft, New York Times, 5/3/25

On May 2, the Trump administration sued Colorado and Denver, accusing the state, city and their leaders of impeding federal immigration actions. The lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in Colorado and includes Gov. Jared Polis and Mayor Mike Johnston of Denver as defendants, specifically challenges state and city laws that restrict or prohibit cooperation with federal agencies. One state law prohibits officers from holding someone solely on the basis of a civil immigration detainer, a request that a detainee not be released. Other state laws prevent state and local officials from sharing information with federal immigration authorities and stop local jails from working with the federal government to house people detained for civil immigration violations.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/03/us/politics/trump-colorado-denver-lawsuit-immigration.html>

DETENTION CENTERS

US to pay El Salvador to jail 300 alleged gang members, Associated Press (AP) reports

By Nelson Renteria, Reuters, 3/15/25

The United States is set to pay El Salvador \$6 million to imprison 300 alleged members of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang that it deports to the Central American country, for one year, the Associated Press reported on March 15, citing an internal memo.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-pay-el-salvador-jail-300-alleged-gang-members-ap-reports-2025-03-15/>

Trump wants to reopen one of America's most notorious prisons. Here's how Alcatraz earned its reputation

By Karina Tsui, CNN, 5/5/25

On May 4, President Donald Trump said he would order the government to rebuild and reopen Alcatraz, a former prison on a small island of the same name off the coast of San Francisco that once housed some of the most dangerous criminals in the country. The prison closed 60 years ago due to its crumbling infrastructure and high maintenance costs.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/05/us/trump-alcatraz-prison-history-hnk>

TEXAS IN THE NEWS

U.S. declares military zone around El Paso, allowing soldiers to arrest migrants

By Uriel J. García, Texas Tribune, 5/2/25

The Pentagon has created a second military zone in the El Paso area that U.S. soldiers will patrol as part of the administration's efforts to crack down on people crossing the southern border illegally, even as crossings are at a historic low. In a statement, the military's Northern Command said the latest military zone will be part of the Fort Bliss Army base in El Paso. The military newspaper Stars and Stripes reported that the area stretches about 53 miles east to the border community of Fort Hancock, according to Maj. Geoffrey Carmichael, spokesman for the Joint Task Force – Southern Border. Last month, the Pentagon designated a 60-foot-wide strip of land along the New Mexico-Mexico border as a military zone.

Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/05/02/texas-military-zone-el-paso-immigrants-soldiers-arrest/>

Experts cast doubt on state's report that undocumented immigrants cost Texas hospitals \$122M in a month

By Stephen Simpson, Texas Tribune, 4/25/25

Texas hospitals incurred \$121.8 million in health care costs in November from patients who were not "lawfully" permitted to be in the country, according to data released by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Hospitals throughout Texas reported to the state health agency the cost of more than 30,000 hospital visits by undocumented immigrants after Gov. Greg Abbott ordered Texas hospitals to ask all patients starting November 1 to disclose whether they were "lawfully in the United States." The report did not say how the costs from undocumented patients, who typically don't have health insurance, compare to that of uninsured U.S. citizens who used the Texas hospital system during the month of November. The report also does not clarify whether any of the costs have or will be recouped by hospitals at a later time. Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the country, according to recent estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. About 4.8 million or 19% of Texas children and adults under the age of 65 lacked health insurance in 2023. The state has 1.7 million undocumented immigrants.

Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/04/25/texas-hospitals-undocumented-immigrants-cost/>

Migrants form SOS sign in Texas detention center, fear notorious El Salvador prison

By Reuters, 5/1/25

Detainees at the Bluebonnet immigrant detention center in the small city of Anson, Texas, sent the outside world a message this week: S-O-S. With a Reuters drone flying nearby, 31 men formed the letters in the dirt yard of the facility on Monday, April 28. Ten days earlier, dozens of Venezuelan detainees at the center were given notices by immigration officials that alleged they were members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua and subject to deportation under a wartime law, according to documents shown to Reuters, recorded video calls and court proceedings. The families of seven detainees interviewed by Reuters said they were not gang members and that they refused to sign the document. Nevertheless, hours later on Friday, April 18, they were loaded onto a bus bound for nearby Abilene Regional Airport, according to the American Civil Liberties Union and family members, before the bus was turned around and sent back to the detention center. That night, the Supreme Court temporarily blocked their deportations. The Department of Homeland Security declined to comment on the halted deportations.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/venezuelan-migrant-detainees-form-sos-sign-rcna204055>

COURT CASES AND RULINGS

Judge rules Trump's use of wartime act for deportations is illegal

By Maria Sacchetti and Marianne LeVine, Washington Post, 5/1/25

A Trump-appointed federal judge ruled Thursday, May 1, that the president exceeded his authority by invoking the Alien Enemies Act to summarily deport Venezuelan migrants, dealing a blow to the administration's deportation efforts and permanently barring such removals in South Texas. In a 36-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr. in Brownsville, Texas, rejected President Donald Trump's declarations that the United States was being invaded by a Venezuelan gang to justify using a centuries-old act to deport migrants without a hearing. He said the president's action "exceeds the scope of the statute." Trump signed a proclamation invoking the act in March to summarily deport more than 130 immigrants to a megaprison in El Salvador, many from South Texas, and his officials have vowed to send more. But Rodriguez said the proclamation lacked evidence of an invasion and was therefore unlawful.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/05/01/trump-texas-alien-enemies-act-block/>

Appeals court rejects Trump bid to revoke migrants' status

By Nate Raymond, Reuters, 5/5/25

On May 5, a federal appeals court rejected a request by President Donald Trump's administration to allow it to revoke the temporary legal status of hundreds of thousands of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans living in the United States.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/05/05/appeals-court-rejects-trump-revoke-400000-migrants-status/83466908007/>

Trump-appointed judge reaffirms order that admin seek return of 2nd wrongly deported man from El Salvador

By Josh Gerstein, Politico, 5/6/25

U.S. District Judge Stephanie Gallagher refused to withdraw her order requiring the Trump administration to seek the return of Daniel Lozano-Camargo, a Venezuelan man deported to a high-security prison in El Salvador in violation of a legal settlement. Despite a Justice Department ruling suggesting he was ineligible for asylum due to alleged gang ties, Gallagher maintained that his deportation disregarded a 2024 settlement protecting unaccompanied minors from deportation before their asylum claims are adjudicated. She emphasized the importance of due process, rejecting the government's attempt to bypass a formal asylum hearing. Gallagher temporarily held her ruling to allow for appeal but warned that if not overturned, she would demand updates on efforts to return Lozano-Camargo to the U.S. His case echoes a similar deportation overturned by another judge, highlighting concerns over the administration's adherence to asylum protections.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/06/daniel-lozano-camargo-deportation-hearing-00331228?cid=apn>

DEVELOPING STORIES

Wisconsin Supreme Court temporarily suspends Milwaukee Judge Hannah Dugan after arrest

By Meredith Deliso, ABC News, 4/29/25

Judge Hannah Dugan of Milwaukee County has been suspended after being arrested for allegedly helping an undocumented immigrant avoid arrest. She faces two federal charges and could serve up to six years in prison if convicted. The incident involved her allegedly misdirecting ICE officers trying to arrest the immigrant in her courthouse. She denies wrongdoing and plans to fight the charges.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wisconsin-supreme-court-temporarily-suspends-milwaukee-judge-hannah/story?id=121296535>

Trump administration reverses termination of foreign students' visas

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

The Trump administration is restoring visas for hundreds of foreign students who had their legal status abruptly terminated, government officials have confirmed. The announcement follows more than 100 lawsuits filed by students who were abruptly stripped of their legal right to study in US universities. An estimated 1,800 students and 280 universities have been impacted, according to a tally from Inside Higher Ed.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgm8ekk173zo>

Trump signs orders on immigration, law enforcement and English proficiency

By Raquel Coronell Uribe, Garrett Haake and Caroline Kenny, NBC News, 4/28/25

On April 28, President Donald Trump signed executive orders on immigration enforcement, sanctuary cities and English proficiency for truck drivers.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/live-blog/trump-administration-approval-congress-budget-immigration-live-updates-rcna203166>

IRS agreement with ICE to share immigrants' info could lead to billions less in tax revenue

By Daniella Silva, NBC News, 4/15/25

Undocumented immigrants paid \$96.7 billion in federal, state and local taxes in 2022, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. The Institute estimated what would happen if more undocumented immigrants did not pay their taxes. It found that for every 10-percentage-point drop, tax revenues would decrease by \$9.5 billion annually, with \$8.6 billion of that coming from federal funds and an additional \$900 million from state and local tax revenue.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/immigrants-fear-deportation-filing-taxes-irs-ice-agreement-rcna200822>

Trump Migrant Detentions at Guantanamo Bay Cost \$100,000 Per Person Daily, Senator Says

By Ted Hesson, Reuters, 5/20/25

During a Senate hearing, Senator Gary Peters criticized the Trump administration's use of Guantanamo Bay to detain migrants, highlighting its high cost—\$100,000 per day per detainee—far exceeding the \$165 daily rate at U.S. immigration detention facilities. Peters questioned why migrants were sent to the naval base in Cuba, only to be returned to the U.S. at taxpayer expense. The White House has requested a \$44 billion funding increase for immigration enforcement, aligning with Trump's push for mass deportations. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, defending the budget request, said she was unaware of the cost. The ACLU has sued to prevent migrant transfers to Guantanamo, alleging inhumane conditions, including extended confinement, strip searches, and lack of family contact.

Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2025-05-20/trump-migrant-detentions-at-guantanamo-bay-cost-100-000-per-person-daily-senator-says>

'We don't have to choose': Gallego launches border and immigration platform

By Myah Ward, Politico, 5/12/25

Arizona Sen. Ruben Gallego has unveiled a new immigration plan aimed at balancing border security with comprehensive reform. His proposal includes hiring more border agents, improving port infrastructure and drug detection, and streamlining the asylum process while treating migrants with dignity. He advocates for expanded legal pathways for immigrants contributing to the U.S. economy and a path to citizenship for undocumented individuals, including Dreamers and long-term residents. Gallego emphasizes addressing root causes of migration, such as regional instability and economic crises, and argues that Democrats must find a stronger messaging strategy on immigration.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/12/ruben-gallego-immigration-border-security-plan-00341242?cid=apn>

Homeland Security subpoenas California's immigrant assistance program in latest crackdown on illegal immigration

By Nicole Sganga, CBS News, 5/12/25

The Department of Homeland Security has subpoenaed California's Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) to investigate whether undocumented individuals received Social Security-related payments. The probe targets records from Los Angeles County, including applicant details and immigration status. CAPI provides aid to certain legal immigrants, such as elderly and disabled individuals, who are ineligible for Social Security benefits. The investigation follows President Trump's executive order aimed at preventing undocumented immigrants from accessing federal financial assistance. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem criticized California officials for allegedly prioritizing migrants over American citizens, vowing stricter enforcement.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/homeland-security-subpoenas-california-immigrant-assistance-program/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Afghans in the US to Lose Temporary Immigration Protections

By Andrew Kreighbaum, Bloomberg Law, 5/12/25

The Trump administration has announced that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nearly 12,000 Afghans in the U.S. will end on July 12, 2025, citing improved security and economic conditions in Afghanistan. The decision has led to legal challenges, with a lawsuit arguing that the termination violates the Administrative Procedure Act and equal protection rights. This move follows similar TPS removals for Venezuelans and Haitians. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem stated that the administration aims to return TPS to its original temporary purpose and prevent misuse. Critics argue that the termination could endanger Afghans fleeing Taliban rule, while DHS claims some TPS recipients have been investigated for fraud and security threats.

Source: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/afghans-in-the-us-to-lose-temporary-immigration-protections>

Private prison firm CoreCivic sees Trump's mass deportation agenda as "catalyst" for growth

By Russell Payne, Salon, 5/12/25

CoreCivic, one of the largest private prison companies in the U.S., anticipates increased contracts from the GOP-controlled Congress and administration to expand ICE detention capacity, even before budget negotiations are finalized. Trump administration border czar Tom Homan has stated ICE needs at least 100,000 beds, more than double the current capacity. A continuing resolution passed by the House allocated \$9.9 billion to ICE, with additional funding expected. CoreCivic executives reported strong financial performance, reactivating previously idle facilities and exploring expansion opportunities. CEO Damon Hininger suggested new contracts could be signed before budget reconciliation. The company has spent millions lobbying Republicans, with leadership expressing confidence in future growth as immigration enforcement intensifies.

Source: <https://www.salon.com/2025/05/12/private-firm-corecivic-sees-mass-deportation-agenda-as-catalyst-for-growth/>

Judges warn Trump's mass deportations could lay groundwork to ensnare Americans

By Kyle Cheney, Politico, 5/10/2025

Federal judges across the U.S. are warning that due process rights are under threat due to the Trump administration's mass deportation policies. They argue that constitutional protections extend to immigrants in deportation proceedings and fear the erosion of legal safeguards could affect U.S. citizens as well. While the administration insists it has broad authority to deport individuals without extended legal review, courts have repeatedly ruled that immigrants have the right to challenge their deportation. Judges have blocked efforts to hastily remove individuals under wartime provisions, and the Supreme Court has reaffirmed due process requirements. The escalating conflict between the judiciary and the White House highlights concerns over executive overreach and constitutional rights.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/10/donald-trump-immigration-deportations-due-process-00339319?cid=apn>

USDA, DOGE demand states hand over personal data about food stamp recipients

By Jude Joffe-Block and Stephen Fowler, NPR, 5/9/25

The Department of Agriculture has requested states to provide personal data, including Social Security numbers and citizenship status, of food assistance recipients under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The unprecedented move is part of the Trump administration's broader effort to consolidate sensitive data, which critics argue may be used to justify immigration enforcement and mass surveillance. Privacy advocates warn this request could violate federal privacy laws and fuel misleading claims about fraud. The administration cites a new executive order aimed at eliminating waste and ensuring federal access to state data, while concerns grow over the involvement of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in expanding data-sharing efforts for enforcement purposes.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/09/nx-s1-5389952/usda-snap-doge-data-immigration>

Trump cannot use new executive order to skirt 'sanctuary' cities ruling, judge says

By Nate Raymond, Reuters, 5/9/25

A federal judge ruled that President Trump's latest executive order cutting off funding to sanctuary jurisdictions cannot override a prior court injunction prohibiting such actions. Sixteen cities and counties sued after Trump previously attempted to withhold federal funding unless they cooperated with immigration enforcement. The new order directs agencies to identify grants to sanctuary jurisdictions for potential suspension, raising concerns that the administration is coercing local governments to change their policies. Judge William Orrick stated that while some aspects of the order may align with legal requirements, any effort to target funds unrelated to sanctuary policies would violate the Constitution. San Francisco officials praised the ruling, emphasizing that federal funding cannot be used as a punitive tool against sanctuary cities.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/trump-cannot-use-new-executive-order-skirt-sanctuary-cities-ruling-judge-says-2025-05-09/>

Pentagon spent \$21 million on flights to Guantanamo Bay amid deportation effort

By Eleanor Watson, CBS News, 5/12/25

The Defense Department has spent over \$21 million on flights to Guantanamo Bay as part of the Trump administration's migrant deportation efforts, according to Pentagon data shared with Congress. President Trump designated the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo as a holding site for certain migrants, including those deemed "high-threat." Venezuelan migrants were transferred there before being sent to Honduras, and other detainees have been intermittently moved through the facility. The Pentagon revealed that 46 deportation-related flights occurred between January and April, costing an average of \$26,277 per flight hour. Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren criticized the spending as a misuse of military resources, while reports indicate that non-criminal migrants have also been detained at the site under broad rules outlined by the administration.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pentagon-guantanamo-bay-flights-deportation-effort/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Trump asks Supreme Court to revoke legal status of 500,000 immigrants

By Lawrence Hurley and Gary Grumbach, NBC News, 5/8/25

The Trump administration has petitioned the Supreme Court to revoke temporary legal status for over 500,000 immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, a program initially granted under the Biden administration. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem argues that the administration has broad discretion in immigration matters and that federal judges lack authority to intervene. U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani previously ruled that the government cannot end protections without individualized assessments, prompting legal pushback. The case joins several other immigration-related disputes brought by the administration to the Supreme Court after lower courts blocked its policies. A similar case involving Venezuelan immigrants is also pending review.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/trump-asks-supreme-court-revoke-legal-status-500000-immigrants-rcna205639>

Cooking the books? Fears Trump could target statisticians if data disappoints

By Robert Tait, The Guardian, 5/18/25

Mark Twain's famous phrase about "lies, damned lies, and statistics" resonates as experts fear economic data could be manipulated under new civil service rules proposed by the current administration. The policy could make it easier to fire statisticians who produce inconvenient economic figures, raising concerns about political interference in agencies like the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Experts warn that undermining these agencies could mirror past incidents where manipulated statistics led to economic turmoil, as seen in Argentina and Greece.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/18/trump-statisticians-economy-figures?CMP=oth_b-apnews_d-1

CBP Home App

By the Department of Homeland Security, 2025

The CBP Home app is a mobile tool provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that allows undocumented immigrants to voluntarily record their intent to leave the U.S. as part of a newly incentivized departure program. Those who participate can receive a \$1,000 stipend, financial and travel document assistance, and be deprioritized for ICE detention while preparing to leave. Eligible individuals include non-criminal aliens who have had prior encounters with CBP and parolees whose legal status has expired or will soon expire. Families can register together, and minors must be logged separately. The program does not have a deadline, but participants are encouraged to act before facing forced removal. Those who do not use the app may be subject to detention and a visa ban. Assistance is available for travel costs and obtaining necessary documents, with self-funded travelers given flexibility in departure timing.

Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/cbphome>

Scoop: First flight leaves U.S. under Trump's \$1,000 "self-deport" deal

By Marc Caputo and Brittany Gibson, AXIOS, 5/19/25

The administration's first charter flight for dozens of "self-deporting" immigrants took off early Monday, May 19, from Houston. The flight was part of a new program offering participants a free trip back to their home countries along with a \$1,000 incentive. The plane departed Houston at approximately 9:30 a.m., carrying 65 individuals from Honduras and Colombia to their respective destinations.

Source: <https://www.axios.com/2025/05/19/self-deportation-flights-1000-dollars>

USDA, DOGE demand states hand over personal data about food stamp recipients

By Jude Joffe-Block and Stephen Fowler, NPR, 5/9/25

The Department of Agriculture has requested states to provide personal data, including Social Security numbers and citizenship status, of food assistance recipients under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/09/nx-s1-5389952/usda-snap-doge-data-immigration>

Trump team mulls suspending the constitutional right of habeas corpus to speed deportations. Can it?

By Will Weissert, Associated Press, 5/10/25

The White House is considering expanding its legal authority to deport undocumented migrants, including possibly suspending habeas corpus—a constitutional right that allows people to challenge their detention in court. Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller argues that the Constitution permits suspending habeas corpus during invasions or when public safety is at risk. Habeas corpus, originating from English law, ensures individuals can contest their imprisonment before a neutral judge. The Suspension Clause in Article I, Section 9, outlines the conditions under which this right can be suspended.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/habeas-corpus-trump-migrants-deportations-constitution-28a598363d03bfc9448b5132c72f2b3d>

DHS Is Considering Reality Show Where Immigrants Compete for Citizenship

By Michelle Hackman, Elizabeth Findell and Joe Flint, Wall Street Journal, 5/16/25

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is reviewing a reality TV show proposal where immigrants compete in challenges inspired by American history and culture for a chance at U.S. citizenship. Producer Rob Worsoff, who first pitched the idea during the Obama administration, sees the show as a celebration of American identity. Contestants, already in the immigration process, would not face deportation if they lose. The project is still in its early stages of evaluation.

Source: https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/dhs-is-considering-reality-show-where-immigrants-compete-for-citizenship-47de277c?st=ofcByN&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

DHS: 'No plans' for immigration reality show

By Lauren Villagran, USA TODAY, 5/20/25

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem denied that the Trump administration is considering a reality show where immigrants compete for U.S. citizenship, contradicting reports by The Daily Mail. During a Senate hearing on May 20, Noem stated that neither she nor her leadership team had knowledge of such a project, dismissing any claims of a planned collaboration. However, Homeland Security spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin previously indicated to the Wall Street Journal that the department was exploring a TV concept pitched by producers of "Duck Dynasty." Despite McLaughlin's comments, Noem firmly rejected the idea, calling the reports inaccurate and false.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/05/20/dhs-no-plans-immigrant-reality-show/83743897007/>

Supreme Court allows Trump to revoke immigration protections for 350,000 Venezuelans

By Josh Gerstein, Politico, 5/19/25

The Supreme Court has allowed the administration to revoke Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 350,000 Venezuelans, stripping them of work permits and deportation protections. This decision overturns a lower court ruling that had blocked the move, enabling Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to end a 2023 designation that had expanded TPS eligibility. A separate group of 250,000 Venezuelans with earlier TPS status may also lose protections in 2025.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/19/trump-supreme-court-tps-venezuela-00357143?cid=apn>

What is the 1798 law that Trump used to deport migrants?

By Sofia Ferreira Santos, BBC News, 5/14/25

The administration has invoked the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to deport hundreds of Venezuelan migrants, arguing they are members of the Tren de Aragua gang and pose a national security threat. Originally designed to detain and remove foreign enemies during wartime, the act has historically been used only during major conflicts, such as World War II. On April 7, the Supreme Court ruled that Trump could use the Alien Enemies Act to deport alleged gang members, but deportees must be given the opportunity to challenge their removal in court. On April 19, the Supreme Court ordered the administration to pause deportations of Venezuelans detained in Texas after lawyers argued they were not informed of their right to contest the decision. On May 1, Trump-appointed Judge Fernando Rodriguez ruled that the act could not be used to deport Venezuelans, marking the first federal ruling that deemed its use unlawful. However, on May 13, Judge Stephanie Haines in Pennsylvania ruled in favor of the administration, stating that Trump could use the act to deport accused gang members but must provide at least 21 days' notice and allow legal challenges.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy871w21d3vo>

Trump admin must seek return of wrongly deported man to El Salvador, appeals court rules

By Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, Politico, 5/19/25

A federal appeals court has upheld an order requiring the administration to facilitate the return of Daniel Lozano-Camargo, a Venezuelan man deported to a Salvadoran prison in March. The court found that his deportation violated a legal settlement protecting asylum seekers who entered the U.S. as minors. The administration deported Lozano-Camargo under the Alien Enemies Act, citing alleged gang affiliation, but a judge ruled his removal was improper and mandated his return for due process. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to deny the administration's attempt to block the order, arguing the government must formally request his release from El Salvador. The ruling follows a similar case involving another deported Venezuelan, reinforcing judicial intervention in cases of wrongful deportation. The Trump administration could appeal further, but immigrant advocates welcome the decision as a victory for due process rights.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/19/donald-trump-deportations-el-salvador-ruling-00357685?cid=apn>

Judge scolds Trump administration in Abrego Garcia case: 'Exercise in utter frustration'

By Eduardo Cuevas and Michael Collins, USA TODAY, 5/16/25

A federal judge has criticized the administration for failing to provide details on efforts to return Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Maryland resident wrongly deported to El Salvador despite a court order barring his removal. The government admitted the deportation was a mistake but claims it lacks the authority to facilitate his return. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis ruled the deportation illegal and ordered his repatriation, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in a unanimous 9-0 ruling on April 10, which mandated the government to begin the process of releasing him. However, Abrego Garcia remains in a Salvadoran prison, and the administration has invoked state secrets privileges hundreds of times to avoid releasing information.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/05/16/kilmar-abrego-garcia-trump-administration-federal-court/83646192007/>

Thousands of foreign-born clergy working in U.S. at risk of being forced to leave

By Marc Ramirez, USA TODAY, 5/20/25

A change in U.S. immigration law has created a backlog in green card applications for foreign-born religious workers, putting thousands of clergy at risk of being forced to leave the country. Previously, these workers could apply for permanent residency after five years, but a 2023 policy shift combined their applications with those of neglected immigrant children without increasing the visa limit, extending wait times to over a decade. A bipartisan bill, the Religious Workforce Protection Act, aims to exempt clergy from these restrictions, allowing them to remain in the U.S. until their green card applications are processed.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/05/20/foreign-born-clergy-at-risk/83652152007/>

Trump administration fined this low-income migrant \$1.8 million

By Ted Hesson and Kristina Cooke, Reuters, 5/20/25

The administration has begun issuing fines to 4,500 migrants who remained in the U.S. after final deportation orders, with penalties ranging from thousands of dollars to a maximum of \$1.8 million.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/low-income-migrants-fined-up-18-million-by-trump-administration-2025-05-20/>

Court pauses controversial Oklahoma immigration law that adds 'impermissible occupation' charge

By Murray Evans and Alexia Aston, The Oklahoman, 5/20/25

A federal judge has temporarily blocked Oklahoma from enforcing a contentious immigration law that allows state prosecutors to charge individuals with "impermissible occupation" for being in the U.S. without authorization. U.S. District Judge Bernard Jones issued the order on May 20, citing constitutional concerns and the Supreme Court's precedent that immigration regulation falls under federal authority. The law, passed in 2024, had faced legal challenges arguing that Oklahoma lawmakers overstepped their power, but after President Donald Trump's administration withdrew federal opposition to the law in March, civil rights groups renewed their legal fight. The American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations hailed Jones' decision as a victory for immigrants' rights, though Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond strongly criticized the ruling. Jones provisionally certified a class of plaintiffs subject to the law and allowed some to remain anonymous due to fears of retaliation. If reinstated, the law would impose misdemeanor and felony penalties, including jail time and forced departure from Oklahoma within 72 hours of release.

Source: https://www.yahoo.com/news/court-pauses-controversial-oklahoma-immigration-220035016.html?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlMnVbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAADrvn08ReHozm1jYmrL7lqc0ALLZWYovJL_UyPrX9KpdvXLVWaTq0_ZjgnXziZy9EG8kTr9YPPZM6p5Ka8o5-O7NY3GcbtENOmzni6jPbmDER73xxffToWfQDJpL1Sm8vDoTlnznzAOeyU7vpCCA2zQWp0gEKrVNqf6k5DyQBZu

Judge warns US deportations to South Sudan may breach court order

By Ali Abbas Ahmadi, BBC News, 5/20/25

A federal judge has warned that the Trump administration could be held in contempt for deporting migrants to South Sudan, potentially violating a prior ruling that required individuals to have a meaningful opportunity to challenge their removal to third countries. Judge Brian Murphy raised concerns after immigration attorneys reported that a flight carrying a dozen migrants had landed in South Sudan, prompting an emergency request to block further deportations. The administration has sought to expand deportations, engaging in discussions with multiple countries, including Rwanda and Benin, about accepting removed migrants. Murphy indicated that his preliminary injunction may have been violated, though the Department of Justice argued that at least one migrant was sent to Myanmar instead. While Murphy did not order the flight to return, he ruled that deported individuals must remain in government custody and be treated humanely. This case represents another constitutional clash between the executive branch and federal courts over immigration policy, following previous rulings against mass deportations of migrants from Venezuela.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0lnnk5ld5lo>

Trump sent 50 Venezuelans to prison in El Salvador. They were in the US legally.

By Eduardo Cuevas, USA TODAY, 5/20/25

An analysis by the libertarian Cato Institute challenges the Trump administration's claim that all 240 Venezuelan men sent to El Salvador's Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT) were gang members living in the U.S. illegally. The report found that at least 50 of them entered the U.S. legally through visas, refugee status, or the CBP One App, which previously allowed migrants to seek asylum. Despite their legal entry, these individuals were deported without due process. While administration officials insist that the men are dangerous criminals, journalists and researchers have found little evidence to support these claims, with many of the deported individuals having active asylum cases and no criminal records. The families of those deported have denied any gang affiliation, while experts argue that tattoos cited as proof of membership in Tren de Aragua do not necessarily indicate gang ties.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/05/20/trump-sent-legal-venezuelans-el-salvador-prison/83744579007/>

Trump team mulls suspending the constitutional right of habeas corpus to speed deportations. Can it?

By Will Weissert, Associated Press, 5/10/25

The Trump administration is considering suspending habeas corpus, a constitutional right allowing detainees to challenge their confinement in court, as part of its broader immigration crackdown. White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller argued that the Constitution permits suspension during an invasion and suggested the administration is exploring this option despite expected legal challenges. Historically, habeas corpus has been suspended during major conflicts, including the Civil War and World War II, but never for immigration enforcement. Federal judges have blocked previous attempts to frame mass immigration as an invasion, casting doubt on the administration's justification. Legal scholars argue that only Congress has the authority to suspend habeas corpus, making this move highly controversial.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/habeas-corpus-trump-migrants-deportations-constitution-28a598363d03bfc9448b5132c72f2b3d>

What Is Habeas Corpus and How Is It Under Threat By the Trump Administration?

By Rebecca Schneid and Chantelle Lee, TIME, 5/20/25

The concept of habeas corpus became a focal point in a Senate hearing when Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem incorrectly defined it as the President's constitutional right to deport individuals. Senator Maggie Hassan corrected her, explaining that habeas corpus is a fundamental legal protection against arbitrary detention, distinguishing free societies from police states.

What Is Habeas Corpus? Habeas corpus, which translates to "you should have the body," is a legal principle that allows individuals to challenge unlawful detention in court. It applies to both U.S. citizens and noncitizens held in the country. The U.S. Constitution (Article I) states that habeas corpus can only be suspended in cases of rebellion or invasion when public safety requires it. However, this authority rests solely with Congress, not the President.

Current Political Context: The Trump administration has emphasized mass deportations, arguing that the Alien Enemies Act, a wartime measure from 1798, justifies these efforts. Trump framed unauthorized immigration as an "invasion" and used this act to target alleged gang members for deportation. However, federal judges—including a Trump-appointed one—have blocked the administration's attempts to invoke it.

Can the Trump Administration Suspend Habeas Corpus? Stephen Miller, White House deputy chief of staff for policy, hinted that the administration was considering suspending habeas corpus to streamline deportations. However, legal experts, including Brandon Garrett from Duke University, assert that only Congress has the power to do so. Habeas corpus safeguards against government overreach and unlawful detention, making its suspension a drastic legal move.

Historical Suspensions of Habeas Corpus

Habeas corpus has been suspended only four times in U.S. history:

1. Abraham Lincoln suspended it during the Civil War to quell Confederate uprisings.
2. Reconstruction-era South Carolina counties faced suspension due to Ku Klux Klan violence.
3. The Philippines in 1905 saw a suspension amid an insurrection.
4. Hawaii during World War II, following the Pearl Harbor bombing.

These instances all involved extreme circumstances, such as war or widespread insurrection, reinforcing why the framers restricted suspension powers to Congress.

Concerns About Constitutional Protections: While Senator John Barrasso dismissed concerns about habeas corpus suspension reaching Congress, Trump himself questioned whether every U.S. resident—regardless of legal status—deserves due process. His statement, "I don't know. I'm not a lawyer," fueled concerns that his administration may push the limits of executive power regarding immigration enforcement.

Why Habeas Corpus Matters: Legal scholars stress that habeas corpus prevents government tyranny by ensuring that individuals—especially those unpopular with the ruling power—retain legal protections. Its suspension has historically occurred only in severe emergencies, reinforcing the constitutional separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches.

Source: <https://time.com/7284743/what-is-habeas-corpus-under-threat-suspension-trump-administration/>