

# NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – JULY 10, 2025

## LATEST STATISTICS

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

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

| U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2024 |                     |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |        |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| USBP                                                  | Demographic         | OCT     | NOV     | DEC     | JAN     | FEB     | MAR     | APR     | MAY     | JUN    | JUL    | AUG    | SEP    | Total     |
| Southwest Border                                      | Unaccompanied Child | 10,697  | 11,940  | 12,456  | 7,483   | 9,355   | 7,926   | 7,632   | 7,693   | 6,662  | 5,624  | 6,397  | 5,839  | 99,704    |
|                                                       | Family Units        | 84,411  | 82,676  | 101,707 | 39,806  | 45,972  | 45,987  | 40,160  | 41,819  | 27,817 | 16,080 | 15,544 | 13,599 | 555,578   |
|                                                       | Single Adult        | 93,641  | 96,490  | 135,577 | 76,926  | 85,314  | 83,560  | 81,103  | 68,393  | 49,053 | 34,696 | 36,068 | 34,420 | 875,241   |
| Southwest Border Total Apprehensions                  |                     | 188,749 | 191,106 | 249,740 | 124,215 | 140,641 | 137,473 | 128,895 | 117,905 | 83,532 | 56,400 | 58,009 | 53,858 | 1,530,523 |

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

| U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY 2025 |                     |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |       |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| USBP                                                   | Demographic         | OCT    | NOV    | DEC    | JAN    | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | Total   |
| Southwest Border                                       | Unaccompanied Child | 5,877  | 5,765  | 6,118  | 2,747  | 733   | 631   | 789   | 1,008 | 23,668  |
|                                                        | Family Units        | 15,241 | 12,248 | 14,265 | 7,096  | 809   | 468   | 534   | 461   | 51,122  |
|                                                        | Single Adult        | 35,403 | 28,600 | 26,940 | 19,263 | 6,805 | 6,083 | 7,059 | 7,256 | 137,409 |
| Southwest Border Total Apprehensions                   |                     | 56,521 | 46,613 | 47,323 | 29,106 | 8,347 | 7,182 | 8,382 | 8,725 | 212,199 |

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

### Unlawful crossings along southern border reach new historic low

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 7/1/25

During the month of June, Border Patrol agents along the U.S.-Mexico border recorded just over 6,000 apprehensions of migrants who entered the country without authorization.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/unlawful-crossings-along-southern-border-reach-new-historic-low/>

### **Immigration Quick Facts - Detention**

*By the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), 6/15/25*

As of June 15, 2025, 56,397 individuals are held in ICE detention facilities, with 71.7% having no criminal record. Texas leads with 12,623 detainees, followed by Louisiana (7,289), California (3,199), Georgia (2,790), and Arizona (2,499).

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

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

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

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).

Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/18/trump-statisticians-economy-figures?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/18/trump-statisticians-economy-figures?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)

## **THE ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT**

### **How Trump's tax cut and policy bill aims to 'supercharge' immigration enforcement**

*By Juliana Kim, NPR, 7/3/25*

President Trump's sweeping domestic policy bill—dubbed the “big, beautiful bill”—has passed Congress and is headed to his desk, marking a historic \$170 billion federal investment in immigration enforcement. The legislation includes \$45 billion for immigration detention centers, \$30 billion for ICE personnel and operations, and \$46.5 billion to complete the border wall. An additional \$10 billion is allocated for broader border security initiatives, \$5 billion for CBP facilities, and \$13.5 billion to reimburse states and local governments for immigration-related enforcement. The American Immigration Council estimates the funding could expand detention capacity to at least 116,000 beds. The bill also introduces significant changes to immigration fees. The asylum application fee was reduced from \$1,000 to \$100 in the final version, while the cost to appeal an immigration judge's decision will rise from \$110 to \$900. The bill further restricts access to safety net programs, cutting eligibility for ACA marketplaces, Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP for many lawfully present immigrants. Only green card holders past the five-year waiting period, certain Cubans and Haitians, and Compact of Free Association migrants remain eligible. The Child Tax Credit will now require at least one parent to have a Social Security number, effectively excluding children with two undocumented parents. To address the nearly 4 million-case immigration court backlog, the bill allocates over \$3 billion to the Justice Department and caps the number of immigration judges at 800—far short of the 1,300 estimated by the Congressional Research Service as necessary to eliminate the backlog.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/03/g-s-1-75609/big-beautiful-bill-ice-funding-immigration>

### **Texas border set for drastic changes under Trump megabill**

*By James Osborne, Benjamin Wermund, Washington Bureau, 7/7/25*

The newly passed federal budget injects \$150 billion into border security, marking a historic transformation of Texas' southern border and nationwide immigration enforcement. Key allocations include \$46 billion for continued border wall construction—triple the \$15 billion granted during Trump's first term—and \$45 billion for new detention centers, expected to expand ICE's detention capacity from 41,000 beds to at least 125,000. ICE also receives nearly \$30 billion in funding, tripling its budget, while the Department of Justice gains \$3.3 billion to hire additional immigration judges. Trump has already contracted facilities like the 2,400-bed Dilley center near San Antonio. States stand to receive \$13.5 billion in reimbursements for detention efforts, including \$10 billion for building border barriers and \$3.5 billion through the “BIDEN” reimbursement fund. Governor Abbott's \$3 billion in state border spending and Operation Lone Star efforts could qualify Texas for a significant share of these funds. Despite hiring challenges, the budget lays the foundation for an expanded deportation infrastructure that may endure beyond the current administration.

Source: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/article/texas-border-security-immigrants-trump-20417960.php>

### **DC archbishop slams Trump megabill, immigration crackdown**

*By Ashleigh Fields, The Hill, 7/3/25*

Cardinal Robert McElroy, the archbishop of Washington D.C., denounced President Trump's immigration policies, calling mass deportations “inhumane” and “morally repugnant,” and arguing they conflict with Catholic teaching. McElroy criticized the administration's “big, beautiful bill,” claiming it favors the wealthy while slashing healthcare programs for the poor, including Medicaid. After visiting the controversial Everglades detention center dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz,” he condemned its isolated design and alleged intent to instill fear in immigrants.

Source: <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5384354-dc-archbishop-slams-trump-megabill-immigration-crackdown/>

## DEPORTATIONS

### **Flyers warning immigrants to 'self-deport' show up in immigration courts, creating uproar**

*By Daniel Gonzalez, Arizona Republic, 7/7/25*

Flyers titled "Message to Illegal Aliens: A Warning to Self-Deport" have sparked outrage among immigrant advocates after being distributed at immigration courts, including Phoenix, as part of a broader Trump-era initiative to encourage undocumented immigrants to self-deport. Created by the U.S. Department of Justice and appearing in court documents and on courtroom tables, the flyers have been criticized for misleading content, questionable accuracy, and violating the impartial role of immigration judges. Advocates argue that the flyers pressure vulnerable, often unrepresented immigrants to leave the country prematurely, potentially forfeiting legal options to remain. The flyers promote self-deportation via the CBP Home app, offering financial incentives and warning of steep fines and deportation consequences, though many of the claimed benefits—such as future legal return—are legally unrealistic for most immigrants.

Source: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2025/07/07/flyers-at-courts-warn-immigrants-to-self-deport/84439903007/>

### **Trial to begin over Trump-backed deportations of pro-Palestinian students**

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

In a landmark legal move, university professors and academic groups—including the American Association of University Professors and the Middle East Studies Association—have taken the Trump administration to trial over allegations of retaliatory deportations targeting international students and faculty engaged in pro-Palestinian advocacy. The two-week non-jury trial, set for June 7 in Boston, will be overseen by U.S. District Judge William Young, who emphasized trial as the best path to truth. Plaintiffs argue that federal agencies adopted an unofficial policy of arresting, detaining, and canceling visas for non-citizens based on political speech, violating their First Amendment rights. The trial stems from arrests like that of Columbia graduate Mahmoud Khalil and Tufts student Rumeysa Ozturk, and could set a precedent regarding free speech protections for immigrants on U.S. campuses.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/07/07/trump-deportation-trial-gaza-palestine-activists/84489248007/>

### **US completes deportation of eight men to South Sudan after legal wrangling**

*By the Associated Press, 7/7/25*

Eight men from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, Vietnam, and South Sudan were deported by the Trump administration after a series of legal battles, ultimately arriving in war-torn South Sudan—a country deemed unsafe by the U.S. State Department. Originally diverted to a military base in Djibouti where they were detained in a converted shipping container, their transfer proceeded after the Supreme Court ruled in June that immigrants could be deported to third countries, curtailing legal avenues for challenging such removals. Although a judge briefly paused their deportation, he later acknowledged the Supreme Court had limited his authority. DHS officials cited the men's criminal records and described the move as a win for national security. Meanwhile, the administration continues negotiating agreements with other countries to accept deportees who cannot be repatriated to their home nations.

Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/07/us-deportation-men-south-sudan?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/07/us-deportation-men-south-sudan?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)

### **ICEBlock, an iPhone App Intended to Alert Users of Nearby ICE Sightings, Comes Under Fire**

*By Callum Sutherland, TIME, 6/30/25*

ICEBlock, an iPhone app that alerts users to nearby ICE activity, has gained over 30,000 users amid President Trump's intensified immigration enforcement. The app allows users to anonymously report ICE sightings, which then trigger push alerts to others within a five-mile radius. Developed by Joshua Aaron as a grassroots tool to help communities avoid ICE encounters, the app emphasizes privacy and does not collect user data. ICE officials have condemned the app, calling it dangerous and accusing it of endangering agents. Aaron insists the app is meant to inform, not incite, and includes warnings against interfering with law enforcement. Usage spiked following ICE raids and protests in cities like Los Angeles, where Trump deployed the National Guard and Marines without state approval. ICEBlock is available in 14 languages and aims to empower immigrant communities through real-time alerts and awareness.

Source: <https://time.com/7298880/iceblock-iphone-app-ice-sightings-backlash/>

## **200 Marines deployed to Florida to help ICE in immigration crackdown**

*By Ellen Mitchell, The Hill, 7/3/25*

The Trump administration is deploying 200 Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 272 to Florida in support of ICE's expanded deportation operations, marking the first wave of a broader military mobilization across several states. These Marines will provide logistical and administrative assistance within ICE facilities but are prohibited from direct contact with detainees. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth authorized up to 700 service members for such duties following a May 9 DHS request. In total, 8,500 troops have been sent to the U.S.-Mexico border and 5,000 to Los Angeles, including 700 Marines. Additionally, nearly 70 Florida National Guard troops have been assigned to provide security at the controversial Everglades detention center dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz."

Source: <https://thehill.com/policy/defense/5384867-200-marines-deployed-to-florida-to-help-ice-in-immigration-crackdown/>

## **Stephen Miller's Financial Stake in ICE Contractor Palantir**

*By Nick Schwellenbach, Project on Government Oversight, 6/24/25*

Stephen Miller, President Trump's deputy chief of staff and homeland security advisor, is a key architect of the administration's hardline immigration policies. He owns between \$100,001 and \$250,000 in stock in Palantir Technologies, a tech firm deeply involved in U.S. immigration enforcement through its contracts with ICE and other federal agencies. This stock ownership was not previously reported and was revealed in a recent White House financial disclosure. The stock is technically held in a brokerage account for one of Miller's young children, but under federal ethics law, it is treated as Miller's own asset. Palantir provides data analytics tools to ICE, enabling the agency to identify, track, and deport undocumented immigrants. ICE has called its services "mission critical." The company has recently been contracted to enhance ICE's systems to track "self-deportation" and inform enforcement policy and resource allocation. At least 10 other Trump White House staffers and DHS officials have owned Palantir stock, though in smaller amounts. Gregory Barbaccia (federal CIO and former Palantir employee) and nine others each own \$1,001–\$15,000. Kara Frederick, Miller's senior policy advisor, owns \$50,001–\$100,000. DHS officials Troy Edgar and Robert Law agreed to divest. Paul Ingrassia (DHS White House liaison) and Zachariah Hoag (special assistant) also own Palantir stock; it's unclear if they've divested.

Source: <https://www.pogo.org/investigations/stephen-miller-conflicts-of-interest>

## **Migrants deported from US to Salvadoran prison remain under US control, Salvadoran officials tell UN**

*By Mark Sherman, Associated Press, 7/7/25*

The government of El Salvador has admitted to United Nations investigators that the Trump administration retains control over Venezuelan men deported from the U.S. to El Salvador's CECOT prison, contradicting public claims by both governments. This disclosure, revealed in court filings by lawyers representing over 100 migrants, supports legal challenges to the deportations and the broader immigration crackdown. Despite a U.S. judge's order to halt the deportation flights, the men were sent to El Salvador, where the U.S. claims it no longer holds jurisdiction. However, El Salvador's statement to the U.N. suggests otherwise, prompting criticism from legal advocates who accuse the administration of misleading the courts and the public. The U.S. had paid \$6 million to house 300 migrants at CECOT under a controversial deal invoking the Alien Enemies Act. One migrant, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, was mistakenly deported despite a court order and later returned to the U.S., where he now faces charges. Immigrant rights groups have since filed a lawsuit to invalidate the prison deal, arguing it unlawfully places detainees beyond the protection of U.S. constitutional rights.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/trump-migrants-el-salvador-prison-3c46db296c219c7b3a701474eaea5184>

# **TEPORARY PROTECTION STATUS**

## **DHS Nixes Honduran, Nicaraguan Immigrants' Temporary Protections**

*By Andrew Kreighbaum, Bloomberg Law, 7/7/25*

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it will terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for immigrants from Honduras and Nicaragua, effective September 6—60 days after formal publication in the Federal Register. TPS permits individuals from designated countries to remain in the U.S. for up to 18 months due to unsafe conditions in their home countries, including natural disasters or conflict. Honduras and Nicaragua received TPS designations in 1999, and the Biden administration had previously extended protections due to environmental disasters and violence. DHS estimates that 72,000 Hondurans and 4,000 Nicaraguans currently hold TPS. The Trump administration has aggressively moved to end TPS for multiple countries—Venezuela, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Nepal, and Haiti—arguing continued designations are not in the national interest, prompting ongoing legal challenges.

Source: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/dhs-nixes-honduran-nicaraguan-immigrants-temporary-protections>

## **Trump administration sued after it ends program for 60,000 Hondurans, Nicaraguans and Nepalese**

*By Kimmy Yam, NBC News, 7/8/25*

A group of immigrants with temporary legal status in the U.S. is suing the Trump administration after the Department of Homeland Security terminated the legal protections for people from Nicaragua, Honduras and Nepal. Seven plaintiffs from the affected countries, along with the National TPS Alliance, an advocacy group, have filed the lawsuit against DHS and the agency's secretary, Kristi Noem, alleging that the terminations were, at least in part, motivated by racial animus and violated the Constitution.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/trump-administration-sued-ends-program-60000-hondurans-nicaraguans-nep-rcna217354>

## **DETENTION CENTERS**

### **How ICE's massive cash infusion is poised to transform America**

*By Hayes Brown, MSNBC, 7/7/25*

The recent \$150 billion budget allocation for immigration enforcement and border security has positioned Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to become the nation's largest law enforcement agency. With \$45 billion earmarked each for expanding immigration detention and building a border wall—over 13 times ICE's current annual detention budget of \$3.4 billion and more than five times the Federal Bureau of Prisons' budget of \$8.6 billion—the agency could maintain around 116,000 detention beds annually, up from 41,000 currently. As of June 15, reports indicated 56,000 immigrants were already in custody. ICE is soliciting \$45 billion in contracts for new facilities and services. Additionally, \$15 billion is allocated for deportations, \$16.2 billion for hiring more agents—including \$8 billion to hire 8,500 ICE officers—and another \$1.46 billion for recruitment efforts. State-level funding includes \$3.5 billion for detention reimbursements and \$10 billion for border hardening. Investors have reacted strongly: CoreCivic stock rose 56% and GEO Group's by 73% since Trump's re-election. However, hiring challenges persist, as the Department of Homeland Security once estimated 500,000 applicants would be needed to meet Trump's ICE staffing goals.

Source: <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/ice-deportation-detention-centers-rcna216482>

### **Prison stocks rally as detention center funding passed**

*By Vahid Karaahmetovic, Investing.com, 7/7/25*

Geo Group and CoreCivic—two leading private contractors for U.S. immigration detention centers—saw shares rise by 7.4% and 2.7%, respectively, following the passage of President Trump's tax and spending bill. The legislation allocates \$45 billion over four years for immigrant detention, tripling prior spending across previous administrations. It also includes \$46.5 billion for the border wall and \$6 billion for surveillance technology. ICE aims to double detention capacity to 100,000 beds, with its current daily population at a record 56,000. New or expanded contracts have been awarded to at least nine facilities, and Geo and CoreCivic report having 14 unused prisons ready for use. Despite growing criticism over safety and fiscal oversight—including a House Appropriations Committee warning of "budgetary mismanagement"—hiring is already underway. Immigrant rights groups continue to push back against expanded contracts amid shifting detainee profiles and rising concerns over medical care standards.

Source: <https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/analysisus-secs-guidance-is-first-step-toward-rules-governing-crypto-etfs-4124475>

### **Democratic lawmakers denied entry to 'Alligator Alcatraz' immigration jail**

*By José Olivares, The Guardian, 7/4/25*

Florida's newly opened immigration detention center—nicknamed "Alligator Alcatraz"—sparked controversy after five Democratic lawmakers were denied entry one day after its first detainees arrived. Located about 50 miles west of Miami and funded largely by FEMA, the facility is part of a federal-state partnership under the Trump administration's aggressive deportation agenda. Florida leads the nation in 287(g) deputizations, allowing local law enforcement to arrest and detain immigrants, many without criminal records. The center, expected to expand to 5,000 beds, drew criticism over transparency and human rights concerns, with lawsuits alleging environmental violations and Trump making provocative remarks during his tour of the site.

Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/04/florida-democrats-alligator-alcatraz?CMP=oth\\_b-aplnews\\_d-1](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/04/florida-democrats-alligator-alcatraz?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1)



### **Heat, storms, mosquitoes the big threats at Alligator Alcatraz, experts say**

*By Lori Rozsa and Rachel Hatzipanagos, Washington Post, 7/5/25*

Florida's swiftly built immigration detention camp, dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz," has begun housing immigrants despite concerns over flooding, inadequate hurricane safety, environmental impact, and restricted access for lawmakers and legal observers. Located in the Everglades, the facility lacks federal approval and may violate building codes for high-velocity hurricane zones. Experts warn of severe mosquito-borne disease risks, including encephalitis, while environmentalists and Indigenous groups are suing to halt operations. The \$450 million facility—funded largely by state emergency funds—relies on tents, portable ACs, and chain-link cells in a sweltering, rain-prone ecosystem. Critics argue the isolated location hinders detainees' access to legal support and oversight, raising alarm about human rights and long-term plans to replicate such camps statewide.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/07/05/alligator-alcatraz-immigrants-detention-florida/>

### **We Asked Trump's Former Prisons Chief How \$45 Billion Will Reshape Immigrant Detention**

*By Samantha Michaels, Mother Jones, 7/6/25*

President Trump's newly enacted immigration legislation commits \$170 billion over four years, including \$45 billion specifically to expand immigrant detention—making ICE the best-funded law enforcement agency in U.S. history, surpassing the FBI, DEA, and federal prison system combined. Experts warn this vast expansion—growing ICE's daily detention capacity from 41,000 to 100,000—poses major logistical, medical, and ethical challenges. Because ICE lacks its own prisons, much of the funding will likely go to private contractors and hastily constructed facilities like tent camps. Staffing shortages, especially for medical professionals in rural detention areas, raise safety concerns. Attorneys report worsening conditions, including abuse, medical neglect, and the refusal to release detainees—even those who've won legal cases—while the scale of investment may entrench a long-term detention infrastructure with limited oversight. The \$45 billion expansion of immigrant detention under President Trump's immigration budget has raised serious logistical, ethical, and safety concerns. Experts criticize the rushed construction of facilities like Florida's "Alligator Alcatraz," noting its swampy location, heat risks, flooding, and lack of hurricane code compliance. ICE plans to grow detention capacity from 41,000 to 100,000 beds, relying heavily on private prison companies like CoreCivic and GEO Group, which already house 90% of immigrant detainees and own transit subsidiaries for deportations. Advocates warn that local and state prisons often lack the resources and infrastructure needed for civil immigration detainees—especially regarding access to legal counsel and healthcare. ICE now requires 72-hour notice for congressional visits, and federal offices overseeing detention conditions have been defunded.

Source: <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/07/prison-officials-talk-about-trump-budget-spending-ice-enforcement-immigrant-detention-expansion-aligator-alcatraz-deportations/>

### **DHS Suddenly Pulls Weird 180 on "Alligator Alcatraz" After Trump Visit**

*By Edith Olmsted, The New Republic, 7/3/25*

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is now distancing itself from the controversial "Alligator Alcatraz" ICE detention center in the Florida Everglades, despite previously promoting it as a key part of the Trump administration's immigration agenda. In a court filing responding to a lawsuit from environmental groups, DHS claimed it had not authorized, funded, or implemented the facility's construction, asserting that Florida was solely responsible under state emergency authority and a general federal delegation. This contradicts earlier DHS statements that touted the project, including plans to house up to 5,000 detainees and use FEMA funds to cover the \$450 million cost.

Source: <https://newrepublic.com/maz/post/197593/donald-trump-homeland-security-weird-180-alligator-alcatraz>

### **Trump administration using Guantanamo to detain foreigners from 26 countries, including criminal detainees**

*By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 7/8/25*

The Trump administration is using the Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba to detain 72 immigration detainees from 26 countries across six continents, including individuals with serious criminal convictions. This marks an expansion of Guantanamo's role from housing Latin American migrants to detaining people from regions such as Africa, Asia, and Europe. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), 58 of the detainees are classified as "high-risk" due to convictions for crimes like homicide, sexual offenses, and drug smuggling, and are held at Camp IV, while 14 "low-risk" detainees are housed at the Migrant Operations Center. DHS officials say all detainees have final deportation orders. The administration began using Guantanamo for immigration detention in February 2025 as part of a broader strategy to deter undocumented immigrants, especially those with criminal records. DHS has defended the move as a necessary measure to protect public safety, citing other controversial facilities like CECOT in El Salvador and "Alligator Alcatraz" in Florida. However, civil rights advocates and Democratic lawmakers have condemned the practice as punitive, unlawful, and costly—highlighting the \$21 million spent on detainee transfers and the deployment of over 650 federal personnel.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-guantanamo-detain-foreigners-from-26-countries/>

## **10 held in Texas immigration detention center shooting that was 'planned ambush,' US attorney says**

*By the Associated Press, 7/8/25*

Ten individuals have been arrested and charged with attempted murder following a coordinated shooting outside the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas, on the night of July 4. The attack, described by Acting U.S. Attorney Nancy Larson as a “planned ambush,” targeted U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel. The assailants, dressed in black military-style clothing, began by launching fireworks, vandalizing property, and displaying anti-ICE messages to lure officers outside. When two unarmed corrections officers responded, an Alvarado police officer who arrived at the scene was shot in the neck by a gunman hiding in the woods. Another attacker across the street fired 20–30 rounds at the officers. The officer was hospitalized and later released. Authorities recovered an AR-style rifle, body armor, radios, and protest materials including a flag reading “Resist fascism, fight oligarchy.” Seven suspects were apprehended nearby, some armed and wearing tactical gear. Additional searches uncovered more weapons and equipment. The ten suspects face three counts each of attempted murder of a federal officer and discharging a firearm during a violent crime. An eleventh person was charged with obstruction of justice and conspiracy for trying to destroy evidence.

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/texas-donald-trump-fort-worth-dallas-mcallen-b2784816.html>

## **Cuts to DHS watchdogs spark more questions as deportation efforts increase**

*By Angélica Franganillo Díaz, CNN, 7/8/25*

Three months after Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem shut down three oversight offices, slashing staff from hundreds to a dozen, advocates and whistleblowers say the move gutted an already fragile accountability system. The oversight is crucial as at least 11 people have died in ICE custody since the start of the fiscal year, according to agency data and press releases. With months still left in the fiscal year, 2025 is already nearing the 12 deaths reported in all of fiscal year 2024 as the Trump administration continues its immigration enforcement push. Michelle Brané, a former Immigration Detention Ombudsman, which is an office providing neutral oversight of federal immigration detentions, said the true toll “could be much higher.” The closures have significantly reduced internal oversight at a time when DHS is handling complex immigration operations. The department is also moving to open new detention sites, including one in the Everglades dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz,” which President Donald Trump visited. Private immigration detention contractors are also ramping up: CoreCivic is reopening the Dilley detention center and is expanding in four states, while GEO group is reactivating sites in Georgia and Newark, New Jersey. Advocates have raised alarm about the lack of accountability, citing inhumane conditions, medical neglect, and abuse in some federal detention facilities.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/08/politics/homeland-security-watchdog-cuts>

# **TEXAS IN THE NEWS**

## **Texas' immigration law is unconstitutional, appeals court rules**

*By Uriel J. García, Texas Tribune, 7/4/25*

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 to block enforcement of Texas Senate Bill 4, a 2023 immigration law permitting local police to arrest individuals suspected of crossing the border illegally. The court determined the law conflicts with federal authority, affirming that immigration enforcement is exclusively a federal power, as upheld by the Supreme Court for nearly 150 years. Although the Trump administration dropped the federal challenge, El Paso County and two immigrant rights groups continued their legal opposition. SB 4 would make illegal border crossings a Class B misdemeanor, escalating to a second-degree felony for repeat offenses with up to 20 years in prison. The law requires convicted migrants to be transported to a port of entry for removal, though judges could drop charges if migrants agree to return to Mexico voluntarily.

Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/07/04/texas-immigration-law-senate-bill-4-fifth-circuit-court-ruling/>

## **Two men get decades in prison for roles in trailer deaths of 53 migrants**

*By Elizabeth Zavala, San Antonio Express-News, 6/27/25*

On the third anniversary of one of the deadliest human-smuggling tragedies in U.S. history, a federal judge sentenced Felipe Orduna-Torres to two life terms and Armando Gonzales-Ortega to 87 years for their roles in a 2022 smuggling operation that resulted in the deaths of 53 migrants—47 adults, six children, and a pregnant woman—inside a locked, overheated trailer in San Antonio. Prosecutors described the men as leaders of a sophisticated criminal network transporting migrants from Central America through Mexico. With temperatures reaching 150 degrees and no ventilation, victims screamed for help before the driver abandoned the rig. Judge Garcia emphasized the gravity of the case, reading each victim's name, while officials vowed continued prosecution of remaining conspirators and warned others against trusting cartels that exploit vulnerable migrants for profit.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/immigration-deaths-trailer-53-san-antonio-20395441.php>

### **Texas says undocumented immigrants visited hospitals 80K times in 3 months. That's 2% of all visits.**

*By Terri Langford, The Texas Tribune, 7/5/25*

Texas hospitals received nearly 80,000 visits from undocumented patients from December through February at a cost of \$329 million, according to data released by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission on Wednesday. That's about 2% of all patient visits during that three-month period. The state released its second round of data intended to show how much Texas hospitals spend on care for undocumented immigrants but excludes critical context, such as how much of that cost is actually paid by undocumented patients or how it compares to total unpaid hospital care costs, according to advocates. While the state characterizes the figure as costs from Dec. 1, 2024 through Feb. 28, 2025, the data does not reflect any payments made by patients to cover those treatment costs according to an HHSC spokesperson, who said the agency does not have that data. Earlier this year, HHSC reported that 30,000 undocumented patients received about \$118 million worth of care.

Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/07/02/texas-hospitals-undocumented-patients-greg-abbott/>

## **COURT CASES AND RULINGS**

### **Federal judge strikes down Trump's order suspending asylum access at the southern border**

*By Jasmine Garsd, NPR, 7/2/25*

A federal judge in Washington, D.C. ruled that President Trump cannot deny entry to asylum seekers crossing the southern border, finding the order unconstitutional and in violation of federal immigration law. The proclamation—issued on Trump's first day in office—attempted a sweeping ban beyond prior presidential actions. In his 128-page ruling, Judge Randolph D. Moss emphasized that the president cannot override Congress's asylum statutes. Immigrant rights groups, including the ACLU and Texas Civil Rights Project, brought the case, warning the policy endangered thousands fleeing persecution. The ruling takes effect in two weeks, though the administration is expected to appeal. Critics also condemned the administration's framing of the border situation as an "invasion," while White House aide Stephen Miller reacted to the decision with inflammatory rhetoric online.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/02/nx-s1-5455076/judge-rules-against-trump-asylum-ban>

### **Federal judge blocks Trump from ending temporary Haitian immigration program**

*By Bart Jansen, USA TODAY, 7/2/25*

A federal judge in Brooklyn, Brian Cogan, blocked the Trump administration's attempt to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 500,000 Haitian immigrants months ahead of its scheduled expiration in February 2026. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem planned to terminate the program early—initially on August 3, then September 2—but Cogan ruled the move unlawful for failing to follow congressional procedures, including a mandated review of conditions in Haiti. Advocacy groups condemned the termination, citing Haiti's instability following the 2021 assassination of its president, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake, widespread violence, and collapsing infrastructure. The ruling emphasized that Haitian immigrants' right to work and remain in the U.S. outweighs potential harm to the government.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/07/02/haiti-temporary-work-deportation-program-trump-dhs/84439053007/>

## **DEVELOPING STORIES**

### **Jobs Report Casts Warning On Immigration And Labor Force Declines**

*By Stuart Anderson, Forbes, 7/6/25*

The July 3, 2025 jobs report reveals concerning trends despite 147,000 new nonfarm payroll jobs and a stable unemployment rate at 4.1%. Since January 2025, the foreign-born labor force has declined by 735,000, contributing to an overall seasonally adjusted labor force drop of 364,000. Although unadjusted totals rose by 1.5 million due to seasonal effects, labor economist Mark Regets warns the fall in immigrant workers hasn't translated into higher participation among U.S.-born workers. Between June 2024 and June 2025, participation rates declined for both groups: U.S.-born from 62.1% to 61.8% and foreign-born from 67.0% to 66.3%. Over the past 30 years, immigrant labor contributed 19.1 million new workers compared to 16.8 million U.S.-born additions. The Trump administration's immigration policies—including ending CHNV parole for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans, and blocking 100,000 approved refugees—removed work authorization for over 528,000 people, fueling labor shortages, especially in healthcare where 99,000 Haitians worked in 2024, including 28,000 non-citizens. Researchers Peri and Caiumi found immigration raised wages by 1.7%–2.6% for less-educated natives from 2000–2019. However, in 2025, occupations with high foreign-born presence saw wage growth slow below average despite reduced competition. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell confirmed that restrictive immigration policies are slowing U.S. economic growth by shrinking the labor force.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stuartanderson/2025/07/06/jobs-report-casts-warning-on-immigration-and-labor-force-declines/>



## **Justice Department sues Los Angeles to end 'sanctuary' immigration policies**

*By Bart Jansen, USA TODAY, 6/30/25*

The U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against Los Angeles on June 30, challenging its sanctuary policies that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. The move follows protests triggered by ICE raids, some of which turned violent, prompting President Trump to deploy the National Guard. Attorney General Pamela Bondi blamed sanctuary policies for the unrest, while local officials, including Mayor Karen Bass, criticized the federal response as excessive and fear-driven. The lawsuit is part of a broader crackdown that includes legal actions against other states and judges seen as obstructing Trump's immigration agenda. Despite local resistance, federal officials pledged continued strict enforcement of immigration laws in Los Angeles.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/06/30/justice-department-los-angeles-lawsuit-sanctuary/84419931007/>

## **States sue Trump administration for sharing health data with DHS**

*By Jude Joffe-Block, NPR, 7/1/25*

Twenty states, led by California (Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington), have filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration after the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services shared confidential Medicaid data—including names, Social Security numbers, immigration status, and health details—with the Department of Homeland Security. The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco, argues that the data transfer violates privacy laws and creates a climate of fear that discourages immigrants from seeking medical care. Plaintiffs demand that the federal government cease sharing such data, and destroy any information already given to DHS and the White House's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which critics claim is amassing personal data to aid immigration enforcement. The legal challenge coincides with the Senate's passage of President Trump's domestic policy bill slashing Medicaid and other benefits, intensifying concern over data misuse and surveillance.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/01/nx-s1-5453885/medicaid-data-immigration-dhs-lawsuit>

## **US Immigration Backlog Hits All-Time High**

*By Billal Rahman and Dan Gooding, NewsWeek, 7/8/25*

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is facing a historic backlog of 11.3 million pending immigration applications, the largest in its history. From January to March 2025, processing times worsened across several categories, with some applicants now waiting years for decisions. Immigration attorneys attribute the delays to the Trump administration's intensified fraud detection efforts, staff reductions, and the suspension of the Streamlined Case Processing program. These policies have led to a surge in Requests for Evidence (RFEs), further slowing approvals. While some progress has been made—such as a 60,000-case reduction in the backlog for Form I-131 (advance parole)—other areas remain overwhelmed. For example, over 775,000 work permit applications are pending, with more than 500,000 tied to the CHNV parole program. Despite a 90.2% approval rate for the quarter, the agency's "frontlog" of over 34,000 unopened cases signals delays even before formal processing begins. USCIS, which operates on application fees rather than taxpayer funding, continues to struggle with staffing and infrastructure. Although digital filing is expanding and helping somewhat, experts warn that the agency's increasing reliance on AI could compromise decision quality. Immigration courts are also overwhelmed, with a separate backlog of 3.7 million cases. Critics argue that these delays reflect policy choices rather than administrative necessity, with serious consequences for family reunification, employment, and humanitarian relief.

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/us-immigration-backlog-hits-all-time-high-2095846#:~:text=The%2011.3%20million%20applications%20backlog,stands%20at%20more%20than%2034%2C000.>

## **ICE Agents Forced to Wear Visible ID Under New Bill**

*By Billal Rahman, NewsWeek, 7/8/25*

Democratic Senators Alex Padilla and Cory Booker have introduced the VISIBLE Act, a bill that would require federal immigration agents from ICE and CBP to wear visible identification, including their agency name or acronym, and either their name or badge number during public enforcement operations. The legislation also prohibits most face coverings and applies to both federal agents and state or local officers assisting in immigration enforcement. The bill responds to growing criticism over ICE agents conducting raids in plain clothes and masks, which has led to fear, confusion, and even the detention of individuals with legal documentation. The Trump administration's pledge to carry out the largest mass deportation in U.S. history has intensified these concerns. The VISIBLE Act would also mandate DHS to establish disciplinary measures for violations, submit annual compliance reports to Congress, and manage complaints through its Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. A similar bill in the House, the No Anonymity in Immigration Enforcement Act, echoes these transparency and accountability goals. Supporters argue the legislation is essential for public trust and safety, while its future in the Senate remains uncertain.

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-immigration-agents-forced-wear-visible-id-under-new-bill-visible-act-2096010>

### **US farm secretary says 'no amnesty' for farmworkers from deportation**

*By Leah Douglas, Reuters, 7/8/25*

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced there will be “no amnesty” for undocumented agricultural workers, reaffirming the Trump administration’s mass deportation plans despite warnings from the farm sector about food supply disruptions. Rollins suggested automation and tapping into the Medicaid-eligible workforce as alternatives. She also pledged to curb farmland purchases by foreign adversaries, including China, and hinted at an upcoming executive order to address existing foreign-owned land. Currently, foreign entities own about 3.4% of U.S. farmland, with Canada holding the largest share. Rollins will now serve on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. to help oversee national security risks tied to foreign land ownership.

Source: <https://www.aol.com/news/us-farm-secretary-says-no-150145634.html>

### **In Birthright Citizenship Case, Supreme Court Limits Power of Judges to Block Trump Policies**

*By Abbie VanSickle, New York Times, 6/27/25*

The Supreme Court ruled 6–3 to limit the use of nationwide injunctions by lower courts, allowing President Trump’s executive order ending birthright citizenship to take effect in 28 states that haven’t challenged it. The decision, written by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, does not address the constitutionality of the order but curtails judges’ ability to block federal policies nationwide. Critics warn the ruling expands presidential power and undermines judicial oversight, while legal groups are pursuing class-action lawsuits to challenge the policy. The ruling takes effect in 30 days and could lead to a patchwork of citizenship rules across the U.S.

Source: [https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/27/us/supreme-court-birthright-citizenship.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.U08.twbe.xfznYf53hloU&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/27/us/supreme-court-birthright-citizenship.html?unlocked_article_code=1.U08.twbe.xfznYf53hloU&smid=url-share)

### **Immigration Officials Issue New Warning to Green Card Holders**

*By Billal Rahman, NewsWeek, 7/9/25*

Green card holders have been warned that federal authorities may revoke their legal status if they have a criminal record and violate immigration laws. "Under our nation's laws, our government has the authority to revoke your green card if our laws are broken and abused," Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter. The agency added that lawful permanent residents arriving at a U.S. port of entry with prior criminal convictions could end up detained ahead of removal proceedings.

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/border-patrol-issues-warning-green-card-holders-2096545>