



BORDER OBSERVATORY 2024

Pain as Strategy

The Violence of U.S.-Mexico Immigration Enforcement and Texas' Operation Lone Star against People on the Move in El Paso-Ciudad Juárez

HOPE



The Hope Border Institute brings the perspective of Catholic social teaching to bear on the realities unique to our U.S.-Mexico border region. Through a robust program of research and policy work, leadership development and action, we work to build justice and deepen solidarity across the borderlands.

Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción (DHIA) is a Ciudad Juárez-based nongovernmental organization committed to the respect, promotion and defense of the human rights of people on the move, working at the intersection of age, gender and diversity.

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1. Introduction

On June 4, 2024, President Biden announced the *Proclamation on Securing the Border*.¹ Together with the accompanying *Interim Final Rule (IFR)*, the administration imposed a suspension of normal asylum processing at the U.S.-Mexico border when the seven-day average of encounters with migrants by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reached 2,500.² This executive action significantly limits the chances of *bona fide* asylum seekers to present their protection claims and increases the chances of forced removal.

These changes add to an already extensive list of actions which the administration has taken to significantly weaken the framework of asylum protection at the border, especially for those unable to access the 1,450 CBP One app appointments allotted daily.

In the State of Texas, these actions also come against the backdrop of Governor Greg Abbott's parallel immigration enforcement operation, known as Operation Lone Star (OLS), which first began in March 2021. Since its implementation, OLS has led to harrowing levels of cruelty at the Texas-Mexico border. An obscene amount of dangerous concertina wire fortifies the border, National Guard soldiers fire projectiles at families stranded at the border wall, and the Texas Department of Public Safety regularly engages in deadly high-speed chases in border communities.

In the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez region, many migrants who arrive at the Mexico-Texas border find themselves in a state of dangerous limbo, able to access safety neither in the United States nor in Mexico.

1 President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *A Proclamation to Secure the Border* (June 4, 2024), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/06/04/a-proclamation-on-securing-the-border/>.

2 *Interim Final Rule*, 89 FR 48710, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/06/07/2024-12435/securing-the-border>.

In recent years, Mexico has also taken increasingly drastic action to militarize its border cities and migration routes, detaining up to thousands of migrating persons per day and reaching an unseen level of 1.4 million enforcement encounters in the first five months of 2024.³ At the U.S. request, Mexico also accepts nationals from third countries who have been deported from the U.S. Abuse of persons in immigrant detention in Mexico is widespread.⁴ In order to avoid detention, families seeking safety must maneuver through a terrain of omnipresent violence from state-sanctioned unscrupulous criminal groups, who extort, kidnap and kill them.

This report sheds light on the reality of people on the move in the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez region under the layered pressures of the recent Interim Final Rule; the Biden administration's existing Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Rule (known as the 'Asylum Ban' and implemented in May 2023); Texas' Operation Lone Star; and Mexico's complex of immigration enforcement operations and systematic criminal exploitation of migrants.

This report relies on in-person observations made during the course of HOPE's medical interventions with migrants at the border wall between May and June 2024. It also draws from an analysis of joint U.S.-Mexican migration policies and monitoring exercises in temporary and permanent shelters and critical transportation infrastructures in Ciudad Juárez between

2023 and 2024. It is complemented by Jesuit Refugee Service Mexico data obtained during interviews with 841 family units and 2,278 individuals between June 2020 and May 2024.⁵

Although interrelated, this report presents the impacts of a multilayered border in El Paso-Ciudad Juárez in three sections: the impacts of Mexican enforcement actions before arriving to and while in Ciudad Juárez; the impacts of Texas' Operation Lone Star at the border wall; and the impacts of the U.S. asylum bans. It also unmasks how criminal organizations prey on those who migrate while they wait in Ciudad Juárez. We conclude with critical immigration policy recommendations for the future U.S. and Mexican administrations.

3 Univisión, *Cerca de 1.4 millones de migrantes irregulares fueron detectados en México en cinco meses* (June 17, 2024), <https://www.univision.com/noticias/inmigracion/reporte-instituton-nacional-migracion-mexico-detecta-migrantes-enero-mayo-20254>.

4 Fundación para la Justicia, IMUMI, DHIA, Asylum Access Mexico & Clínica Jurídica para las Personas Refugiadas 'Alaíde Foppa', *'No nos dejen morir aquí'. Incendio en la estancia migratoria de Ciudad Juárez* (April 9, 2024). <https://www.fundacionjusticia.org/no-nos-dejen-morir-aqui/>.

5 Jesuit Refugee Service Mexico-led monitoring, for the Danish Refugee Council (2024). Full data accessible here: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiOTc0NjViZTMtYjczMC00YWE1LTliZDEtMzU5ZGUxOTcxZTNjliwidCI6ljJhMjEyMjQxLTg5OUMtNDc1Mi1iZDMzLTUxZWZjM2M1ODJkNSlslmMiOjh9>.



2. Impacts of Mexican Immigration Enforcement

The Biden administration has leaned into efforts begun under previous administrations to expand the reach of immigration enforcement further south of the U.S.-Mexico border, with a particular focus on Mexico.

The Biden administration first collaborated with Mexico to continue the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (or ‘Remain in Mexico’). It then pressured Mexico to accept the deportation of nationals from Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti and Nicaragua under Title 42. Following the rollback of Title 42 and the transition to the 2023 Asylum Ban, both countries agreed on the continuing deportation of these nationals to Mexico ‘on humanitarian grounds’⁶ –

although neither Mexico nor the U.S. ever established guidelines for the humanitarian reception of those deported. Both governments renewed these efforts under the 2024 Asylum Ban and reportedly expanded them to include nationals from Central American countries.⁷

At the same time, the Biden administration continued to put pressure on Mexico to increase immigration enforcement operations within its borders to deter migration flows.⁸

In 2021, the administration touted that Mexico was ‘increasing border checkpoints and deployed more

6 White House, *Mexico and United States Strengthen Joint Humanitarian Plan on Migration* (May 2, 2023), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/02/mexico-and-united-states-strengthen-joint-humanitarian-plan-on-migration/>.

7 Alexandra Mendoza, *Biden’s asylum order takes shape along U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego with uptick in deportations* (June 9, 2024), San Diego Union Tribune, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/06/09/bidens-asylum-order-takes-shape-along-us-mexico-border-in-san-diego-with-uptick-in-deportations/>.

8 See *Appendix* for a detailed list of agreements and communications.

than 12,000 security personnel to southern Mexico as a result of U.S. actions to address the border challenge.’⁹ In 2022, it announced the deployment of DHS ‘mentors’ in Monterrey, Guadalajara and Tijuana to ‘counter human smuggling.’¹⁰ In addition, Mexico boosted forced relocation flights and bussing operations from the U.S.-Mexico border to its own southern border.

President Biden has praised these efforts to deter, detain and deport people seeking safety.¹¹

As a result, Ciudad Juárez in particular, and increasingly the whole state of Chihuahua, have become testing grounds for all these practices. In this area of the border, Mexican immigration enforcement operations have shown their most brutal face.

Mexican agents forcibly re-locate third-country nationals and U.S.-deported third-country nationals into southern Mexico, separating families

Following the deadly fire in the *Instituto Nacional de Migración* (INM) detention center in Ciudad Juárez in March 2023, INM created a new migration processing center (at kilometer 72 of the Panamerican Road) in a military checkpoint called Precos. Since mid-2023, Precos has become the main point from where families seeking safety are forcibly relocated from the north of Mexico to the south.

⁹ White House, *Action the Biden-Harris Administration Has Taken to Address the Border Challenge* (June 15, 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/action-the-biden-harris-administration-has-taken-to-address-the-border-challenge/>.

¹⁰ White House, *FACT SHEET: Update on the Collaborative Migration Management Strategy* (April 20, 2024), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/20/fact-sheet-update-on-the-collaborative-migration-management-strategy/>.

¹¹ See, for instance, President Biden’s praise to President López Obrador during their call on February 3, 2024. ‘President Biden expressed his appreciation for *Mexico’s operational support and for taking concrete steps to deter irregular migration* while expanding lawful pathways.’ [Emphasis added]. Full White House readout can be consulted here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/02/03/readout-of-president-joe-bidens-call-with-president-andres-manuel-lopez-obrador-of-mexico-3/>.

The horror of 11 families forcibly relocated through Precos on April 11, 2024

- ▶ On April 11, 2024, INM detained 11 families, including 17 children, from Brazil, Colombia and Bolivia at the Abraham González Ciudad Juárez International Airport.

INM accused the families of having fake visa stamps in their passports, despite the fact that INM personnel had already verified otherwise. Mexican immigration agents told the families they had to transport them to Precos, where their passports and visas would be verified.

DHIA denounced the violations of due process, including negligence to provide appropriate care and protection to minors.

Nevertheless, without providing additional information or avenues of recourse, Mexican immigration authorities forcibly removed the families to Villahermosa, in southern Mexico.

Since April 2024, DHIA has documented the forcible relocation of an increasing number of vulnerable persons, including children, pregnant women and seniors, from Precos to Villahermosa. Episodes of forced relocation include:

- April 12, 2024 | Two families from Brazil and one family from Bolivia, including six children
- April 15, 2024 | 18 people from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, one of them a pregnant woman from Ecuador in need of medical attention. INM determined that the mom had an infection but removed her south anyway
- April 16, 2024 | 20 people in five family groups from Brazil, Bolivia and Ecuador, which included 11 children
- April 22, 2024 | Two adults and one child from Brazil
- April 30, 2024 | Two children, their mom, uncle and grandmother, all from Venezuela¹²
- April 30, 2024 | 104 victims of trafficking, including 4 children, freed from stash houses and removed to an immigration detention center in Janos to be flown to southern Mexico¹³

In the course of these removal operations, INM has separated multiple families. This has become a form of state violence aimed at deterring families from crossing into the U.S.

Our organizations have documented at least five cases in which INM separated families in Chihuahua City and forcibly relocated half of their members to Villahermosa (southern Mexico). Mexican agents refused to provide any temporary humanitarian protection documents to the separated members in Villahermosa and provided no family reunification pathways.

12 DHIA denounced these and other forced relocations before the Mexican National Commission on Human Rights. As of publication, the claims are still under investigation.

13 Teófilo Alvarado, *Podrían deportar a mayoría de migrantes rescatados en Infonavit Casas Grandes* (May 2, 2024), Norte Digital, <https://nortedigital.mx/podrian-deportar-a-mayoria-de-migrantes-rescatados-en-infonavit-casas-grandes/>.

14 Austin Fisher, *Venezuelan refugees detained in NM fearful of more deportations to Mexico* (April 18, 2024), Source NM, <https://sourcenm.com/2024/04/18/venezuelan-refugees-detained-in-nm-fearful-of-more-deportations-to-mexico/>.

15 Omar Ornelas, *Migrants block Mexican immigration bus after being expelled from US at Zaragoza Bridge* (May 15, 2024), El Paso Times, <https://www.elpasotimes.com/picture-gallery/news/2024/05/15/migrants-refuse-to-board-mex-immigration-bus-after-expulsion-from-us/73704670007/>.

Furthermore, INM reported in a private meeting that transfers from the Ciudad Juárez airport to Villahermosa and Tapachula began on January 31, 2024, calling them 'humanitarian rescues'. Approximately four thousand persons have been returned under this operation.

INM also forcibly relocates asylum seekers removed from the U.S. to Ciudad Juárez.

In El Paso-Ciudad Juárez, the U.S. routinely deport Venezuelan asylum seekers through the Santa Teresa (NM) and Ysleta-Zaragoza (TX) ports of entry, where they are received by INM.^{14 15} The ensuing forced relocation of deported third-country nationals follows similar patterns than the ones described before. INM frequently transports them to Mexico City, Tapachula, or anywhere else in Chiapas. Forced relocations often involve verbal and physical abuse against families.

Mexican agents increasingly abuse migrants at growing checkpoints

On September 22, 2023, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), INM, the Mexican National Guard, the Mexican Secretariat of National Defense, the State of Chihuahua, and the national railroad transportation company, Ferromex, met in Ciudad Juárez to plan actions to stop families from arriving at the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez border.

The parties agreed to a 15-point document that included patrols of train and road routes, the submission of daily reports about migrants' presence in train routes to the El Paso CBP Office, and the randomization of train schedules to prevent people migrating from boarding trains.¹⁶

This agreement has led to a dramatic increase in immigration checkpoints in the state of Chihuahua and an increase in violence against people on the move. Multiple media reports have documented INM and National Guard members beating families, stealing their belongings (including cell phones needed for CBP One appointments), and destroying essential documents, such as identifications and evidence supporting asylum claims.¹⁷

At train routes, private Ferromex security contractors and INM work together to prevent people from boarding the trains, often using gunfire to disperse crowds. On April 12, 2024, migrant families reported to authorities that security guards shot in the air to frighten them. Although these families should have been given access to Mexican humanitarian visitor cards, INM didn't inform them and focused on preventing their movement further north.

Seeking to avoid checkpoints, people migrating through Chihuahua are increasingly forced to undertake new routes through the desert. Under extreme temperatures, exacerbated by climate change, there is an increasing number of deaths due to exposure¹⁸ and many others are falling prey to criminal groups.

Creation of special immigration enforcement forces presents disturbing militarization

On March 20, 2024, INM created a new elite enforcement body, the *Grupo Especializado de Atención a la Migración* (GEAM). Mexican authorities dedicated 210 agents to this new group with the mission of 'conducting verification and humanitarian rescue actions' in coordination with local police forces, the Mexican National Guard and Mexican military forces.¹⁹

GEAM began activities in Ciudad Juárez in late March 2024. Initial reports confirm the creation of an official facility, used as a center of operations by GEAM and run by INM and the local Ciudad Juárez government, where migrants are held in poor conditions.²⁰ A local police-GEAM detention pipeline has also emerged

16 Instituto Nacional de Migración, *Comunique 124/23, Acuerdan INM y Ferromex acciones con 3 niveles de gobierno y CBP para sistema ferroviario y que personas migrantes no arriesguen su vida* (September 22, 2023), <https://www.gob.mx/inm/prensa/acuerdan-inm-y-ferromex-acciones-con-los-tres-niveles-de-gobierno-y-cbp-para-la-ruta-del-sistema-ferroviario-a-fin-de-que-las-personas-migrantes-no-arriesguen-su-vida-a-bordo>.

17 Saúl Ponce, *Brinda CEDH acompañamiento a migrantes que fueron abandonados en Delicias* (April 11, 2024), El Heraldo de Chihuahua, <https://www.elheraldodechihuahua.com.mx/local/delicias/brinda-cedh-acompanamiento-a-migrantes-que-fueron-abandonados-en-delicias-11742954.html>.

18 El Heraldo de Juárez, *Muere mujer migrante en el desierto de Samalayuca* (June 13, 2024), <https://www.elheraldodejuarez.com.mx/local/juarez/muere-mujer-migrante-en-el-desierto-de-samalayuca-12084197.html>.

19 La Verdad de Juárez, *Reactiva INM 'redadas' contra migrantes en Ciudad Juárez* (April 2, 2024), Pie de Página, <https://piedepagina.mx/reactiva-inm-redadas-contra-migrantes-en-ciudad-juarez/>.

20 El Bordo, *Denuncian condiciones deplorables para migrantes y agentes de INM en albergue* (April 11, 2024), <https://elbordo.com.mx/local/denuncian-condiciones-deplorables-para-migrantes-y-agentes-de-inm-en-albergue-20240411-63185.html>.

which poses significant concerns in the city, especially against the backdrop of municipal collaboration in the detention of the majority of those who were killed in the fire in the INM detention center in Ciudad Juárez in March 2023.

GEAM plans to expand operations to deter informal migrant encampments in the states of Chihuahua, Durango and Coahuila. This represents another stage in the growth of militarized migration enforcement in Mexico that will undoubtedly deepen abuses against people seeking safety, including children.





3. Impacts of Texas Operation Lone Star

Although immigration law is the competence of the federal government in the United States, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has taken increasing actions to deter migration at the border. In 2021, Abbott launched Operation Lone Star, which deployed the Texas National Guard and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to conduct immigration enforcement actions at the border and in border communities. In collaboration with his counterpart in Mexico, Abbott also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chihuahua Governor María Eugenia Campos in order to collectively work to stop migrant flows to Texas in April 2022.²¹

Operation Lone Star and the cross-border Chihuahua-Texas collaboration have transformed the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez border into an area of systemic human rights abuses and death.

Between May and June 2024, the Hope Border Institute, during medical interventions made in the course of Clínica HOPE, its binational humanitarian

initiative, treated dozens of individuals who suffered from physical and psychological abuse at the hands of Texas agents.

Texas agents exert psychological violence and deny care in informal encampments

When families cross the Rio Grande river bank from Ciudad Juárez seeking safety in the U.S. – a right codified in international and U.S. laws – they encounter a wall of razor and concertina wire, illegally installed on US federal land by the Texas National Guard. There, Texas agents yell at families to go back to Mexico or cajole them to move from one part of the border wall door to another.

Therefore, families are often forced to walk miles along the border wall and often cross the razor wire in order to exercise their legitimate right to seek asylum – something the latest Biden Asylum Ban has significantly weakened. The presence of Border Patrol agents is

²¹ Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Texas and the Free and Sovereign State of Chihuahua (April 2022), <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/ChihuahuaMOU.pdf>.



Temporary encampments in front of the Texas razor wire

often disproportionately outweighed by personnel from the Texas Guard and DPS. In El Paso-Ciudad Juárez, we have observed that Border Patrol has a tacit policy by which it does not apprehend nor process families and other individuals until they have touched the federal border wall or until Texas agents refer these populations to them.²² This informal coordination is in direct contravention of the Border Patrol's duty to provide humanitarian assistance to people seeking safety already present on U.S. soil.²³

The Texas National Guard thus presents a veritable, illegal and physical obstacle to accessing protection. This macabre game between Texas and Border Patrol agents results in families either having to camp before crossing the razor wire or return to harm's way in Ciudad Juárez. The situation is compounded by the common inability of those present in the camp to return to Ciudad Juárez on account of with Mexican enforcement agents or criminal elements.

22 Border Patrol has denied collaboration with the Texas National Guard and the Texas Department of Public Safety in the implementation of Operation Lone Star. However, on June 11, 2024, during a hearing of the Texas Senate Committee on Border Security, the Texas DPS Director Steve McCraw stated otherwise. He noted that 'there is not a day that goes by that I don't communicate with the Border Patrol, either physically out there in the line, or in one of their offices. They are lockstepped; they know what we're going to do ... We are actually embedded in Border Patrol offices to make sure we keep that line of communication open.' Full remarks during the June 11, 2024 Texas Senate Committee on Border Security can be checked here: https://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=18517.

23 The U.S.-Mexico border line is settled in the middle of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo river, according to international boundary treaties. During the spring and summer season, the river frequently dries up, which complicates the determination on whether families in encampments are in Mexican or U.S. territory. Border Patrol and Texas agents exploit this ambiguity both to deny care and order people to return to Mexico.



Temporary encampments before the Texas razor wire

Informal camps near the razor wire lack access to running water, sanitation, or food. People, including children, are exposed to the weather's inclemencies and often present severe symptoms of dehydration. When families ask Texas agents for water, they refuse to provide it. HOPE has documented the refusal of Texas agents to provide water to those stranded before the razor wire.

Texas agents actively shoot at and hurt stranded families

Texas National Guard frequently fires pepper spray canisters as well as rubber bullets at families present in these encampments. Texas agents allege they recur to this practice when asylum seekers try to cut or cross the razor wire. Yet, we have documented multiple instances of Texas agents firing projectiles at encamped families while they were sleeping or simply resting on the Mexican side of the border.

Families we have assisted have detailed how they have had to cover babies and children with their bodies in

order to prevent the shots from injuring them. Others have detailed how the gas asphyxiated them and forced them to flee.

In less than two months, Clínica HOPE treated at least 25 projectile-related injuries. Many of these cases involved men who tried to protect their families or friends. Individuals have presented severe bruising, injuries which have led to immobility for extended periods of time, and severe damage to legs, arms and faces. Many of these injuries require weeks, if not months, to heal. Other injuries will have lifelong effects.

Julio's Story

Julio, a native from Venezuela seeking safety, was badly beaten up by Mexican immigration agents when he tried to jump onto a cargo train in Chihuahua. Agents broke his arm and caused multiple injuries to his body.

Despite the pain, Julio made it to Ciudad Juárez and crossed the river to surrender to U.S. Border Patrol and claim asylum. However, he got stranded in the



area before the Texas razor wire, where he decided to camp.

Texas agents shot pepper balls at him and Julio fell back into the riverbank. As a result, Julio broke his clavicle, a severe fracture which requires surgery.

Clínica HOPE's chief medical officer, Dr. Brian Elmore, urgently recommended his emergency transport to a hospital for immediate intervention. Julio refused to, fearing he would lose his chance to claim asylum.

The following, Julio's pain became unbearable. HOPE and DHIA coordinated the arrival of an ambulance to pick up Julio. But unofficial actors prevented its arrival. Julio eventually crossed into the U.S. with lifelong injuries.

Texas agents push people, including children, into the razor wire and separate families

When families, out of desperation, decide to cross the razor wire, Texas National Guard agents imperil the safety of people crossing by pushing them back into

the razor wire, often resulting in physical injury. In the process, Texas agents have separated families.

HOPE has documented two cases of pushback and family separation at the razor wire. In these cases, a mother, father and their two children crossed the razor wire. Once on the other side, Texas agents pushed the mother and one of the children back into the razor wire while leaving the father and the other child under their guard. When the father requested to go back to the razor wire to reunite with his wife and his child, Texas National Guard prevented it, effectively separating the family units. One of the mothers was berated for being a 'bad mother.'

The need to cross the razor wire, as well as these pushbacks into it, result in severe injuries for children and parents alike. Between May and June 2024, Clínica HOPE treated 8 people, 3 of them children, with deep razor wire cuts on the Mexican side of the border. They were nationals from Venezuela, Haiti, Mexico and Ecuador.

In El Paso, it is common to observe asylum seekers released from CBP custody with cuts on their bodies and clothes, which are often their only belongings.

Clínica HOPE | Treatment of Operation Lone Star-related injuries (May-June 2024)

- ▶ 8 people, including 3 children, with razor wire and concertina wire cuts
- ▶ 25 people, mostly men, injured by pepper and gas balls and rubber bullets shot by the Texas National Guard
- ▶ 2 moms and 2 children with intense psychological and emotional trauma after being separated from other family members at the Texas illegally deployed razor wire
- ▶ Numerous cases of intense dehydration and malnutrition due to denial of care by Texas agents

Texas agents charge unlawfully detained asylum seekers and kill border residents

When asylum seekers are finally able to cross the razor wire, Texas agents may arrest them or call Border Patrol for processing. If arrested, Texas DPS agents may charge them with charges such as evading arrest, transporting of persons, trespass or rioting.

As of January 2024, DPS has charged 2,260 people in El Paso in enforcement actions related to Operation Lone Star, mostly misdemeanors.²⁴ In El Paso, the most common charges are rioting and drug charges.

24 ACLU Texas, *Operation Lone Star: Misinformation and Discrimination in Texas Border Enforcement* (May 2024), <https://infogram.com/1peg1jpyl035j2tm2vpnedkqmmmtlmvw9mlq?live>.

25 Human Rights Watch, *'So Much Blood on the Ground': Dangerous and Deadly Vehicle Pursuits under Texas' Operation Lone Star* (November 27, 2023), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2023/11/27/so-much-blood-ground/dangerous-and-deadly-vehicle-pursuits-under-texas-operation>.

26 *Ibid.*

Trespass charges are lower than in other border counties given that most of the El Paso border wall territory is federal land.

OLS arrests are overcrowding the El Paso County jail system and burdening local taxpayers. In light of this reality, El Paso County is considering expanding its current carceral facilities to host the increasing number of OLS-charged people. This movement would only benefit the detention industry while continuing to harm thousands of legitimate asylum seekers trapped in Abbott's immigration detention system. The U.S. Department of Justice has taken no actions to stop this veritable parallel immigration regime in El Paso. Beyond the border wall, OLS' high-speed chases have injured and killed dozens of persons in El Paso. DPS high-speed chases have increased by 65% since the beginning of OLS in El Paso.²⁵ Increased DPS presence in El Paso has come as a result of a migration-related emergency declaration issued by the El Paso City Council in December 2022 and subsequent city actions to renew that declaration.²⁶

Texas's illegal parallel system of immigration enforcement is not limited to targeting just those who migrate. Since February 2024, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has repeatedly sought the closure of Annunciation House, one of the pillars of the humanitarian community in the region, under specious allegations of smuggling. The case represents a significant step forward in the criminalization of humanitarian aid.



4. Impacts of the Biden Asylum Bans

The impacts of the recent *Proclamation* and *Interim Final Rule* have been disparate across the border.²⁷ In El Paso-Ciudad Juárez, we documented the following impacts.

Asylum seekers stranded in overcrowded shelters

After finding out about the *Proclamation*, many asylum seekers decided to remain in Ciudad Juárez to understand the consequences of such a policy change and adjust their migration journeys. This was reflected in the number of encounters (at and between ports of entry), which decreased to an average of 450 encounters/day in the El Paso Sector during the first week of the proclamation implementation,²⁸ in comparison to the average of 800 to 1000 encounters/day in the first months of 2024.²⁹

As a result, humanitarian spaces in Ciudad Juárez are becoming overcrowded. A humanitarian space in the city with a capacity for 300 people hosted around 150 people prior to the Proclamation. Two weeks later, the space is at capacity. The experience in other shelters across the city is similar.

As we experienced during Remain in Mexico and Title 42, the latest asylum ban is stressing the humanitarian infrastructure in Ciudad Juárez. Many shelters in the city already require additional resources to provide food and hygiene products, provide healthcare, pay bills, and recruit additional personnel and volunteers. There are no additional public resources to meet these challenges. DHIA and HOPE verified these concerns in multiple facilities, including permanent shelters and temporary humanitarian spaces.

27 Christina Asencio, *Two weeks of the Biden Border Proclamation and asylum shutdown* (June 20, 2024), Human Rights First, <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/two-weeks-of-the-biden-border-proclamation-and-asylum-shutdown/>.

28 CBP data obtained by HOPE.

29 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Nationwide Encounters by Area of Responsibility FY21-FY24* (May 2024), via Adam Isacson, <https://bit.ly/4cvJPmD>.

At the same time, unscrupulous actors are taking advantage of families' needs. Some spaces are charging people for staying at facilities that do not meet the basic conditions to be safe humanitarian spaces. Others force people to perform unpaid duties like cleaning or cooking and threaten them if they don't do so. In many of these facilities, DHIA has documented cases of sexual abuse against children and women, which often go unreported and are now likely to increase.³⁰

Uncertainty and mental health deterioration

Migration practitioners on the ground, as well as people seeking safety, lack clarity about how the proclamation is implemented. DHS authorities have made little to no effort to explain the IFR implementing guidelines for Border Patrol, CBP Office of Field Operations (OFO) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).³¹ In direct conversations with the three agencies at the local level, HOPE failed to obtain a response about these guidelines and the agencies claimed that they hadn't yet received communication protocols from DHS.

The opacity regarding a rule that is already being implemented, combined with the high discretion levels that CBP officers enjoy at the border, naturally leads to an environment of confusion and potential abuse. Local organizations cannot provide reliable information because of the lack of knowledge regarding how the

policy is being implemented and how border officials are exercising their discretion.

Advocates and hospitality providers are encouraging people to try to obtain one of the 200 daily appointments available at CBP One in Ciudad Juárez, a frustrating endeavor that has left many waiting for months.³² We have witnessed a related deterioration in the mental health conditions of migrants due to stress.

Out of desperation, many are walking to the border wall where they will encounter Mexican immigration enforcement agents, criminal actors and the Texas National Guard; or they are undertaking the dangerous journey through the Chihuahua desert under extreme temperatures.

Rosa's Story: Deaths due to dehydration

Four days after the June 2024 asylum ban, Rosa, a national from Nicaragua, arrived at an El Paso emergency room in a coma with severe dehydration. She had attempted to seek safety by crossing the border under a scorching sun a few days prior. As a result of the severe dehydration, Rosa suffered from profound internal bleeding. Doctors couldn't save her life.

Local doctors fear that increasing restrictions on asylum will put many more like Rosa in a life-threatening situation as they try to reach safety.

30 Blanca Navarrete & Diana Solís, *Vulnerabilidad de las personas en contextos de movilidad humana: explotación y abuso sexual en espacios humanitarios* (June 2024). In Gabriella Sanchez (Ed.), *Reimagining the Migration Protection System: Critical Reflections from the Border*, Hope Border Institute. https://www.hopeborder.org/_files/ugd/e07ba9_57018ff7d26c44c4b5107337249be90f.pdf.

31 At the time of publishing this report, these memos have not yet officially been made public; however, the ICE IFR implementing guidelines have been leaked.

32 Stephanie Leutert and Caitlyn Yates, *Asylum Processing at the U.S.-Mexico Border: May 2024* (May 2024), Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin, <https://www.strausscenter.org/publications/asylum-processing-at-the-u-s-mexico-border-may-2024/>.

Likely pushback of third-country nationals

While there have been some reports of pushbacks at other parts of the border, we have not documented direct pushbacks by U.S. immigration enforcement agents in the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez region.

Two reasons may explain why.

First, the presence of the Texas National Guard in El Paso complicates the surrender of asylum seekers to the Border Patrol. If people cannot reach BP agents, then there is less chance for Border Patrol to implement the Proclamation and return asylum seekers to danger.

We have also documented an increase in traffic of INM authorities between Ciudad Juárez and an immigration detention center in Janos, a small town three hours away, which is currently under a level 3 travel warning advisory from the U.S. Embassy in Mexico due to crime and kidnappings.³³ People returned from El Paso to Ciudad Juárez are likely being transported to Janos and, from there, to southern Mexico. That can explain why the presence of persons removed from the U.S. to Ciudad Juárez has so far gone unnoticed.

33 U.S. Mission to Mexico, *Security alert: Janos, Chihuahua* (August 29, 2023), <https://mx.usembassy.gov/security-alert-janos-chihuahua/>.



5. Compounding Vulnerability: Criminal Profiting

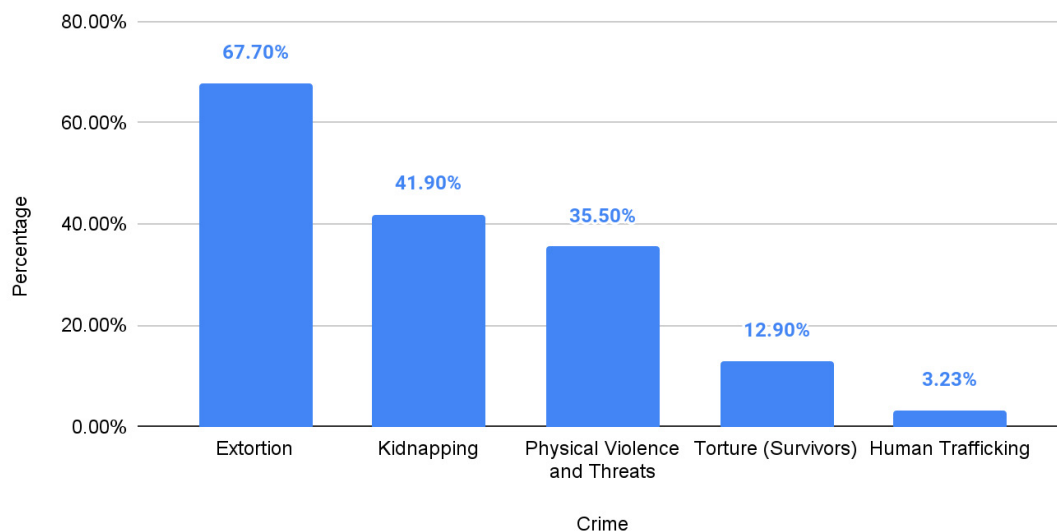
The current multi-layered reality creates ideal conditions for those aiming to prey on people's vulnerabilities - whether their desperation to cross the border or simply the condition of being abused and exploited. According to a monitoring project by the Jesuit Refugee Service Mexico, approximately 50% of people on the move in Ciudad Juárez are in extremely vulnerable conditions. Of these, around 60% had already suffered violence while traveling through Mexico and around 53% had suffered additional violence in Ciudad Juárez at the hands of both authorities and criminal actors (see Graph 1 for a detailed account).

Cartel Violence: Kidnappings, extortion and killings

Due to restrictionist transit migration and asylum policies, cartels have found a new, profitable niche: the exploitation of migrants. As detailed in *Map 1*, three main cartels operate along the border wall in Ciudad Juárez: *La Empresa* in the northwestern part of the city; *La Línea* in the downtown area and in the southeast (including the area between the border wall doors 35 and 45); and the Sinaloa Cartel in the Valle de Juárez area.

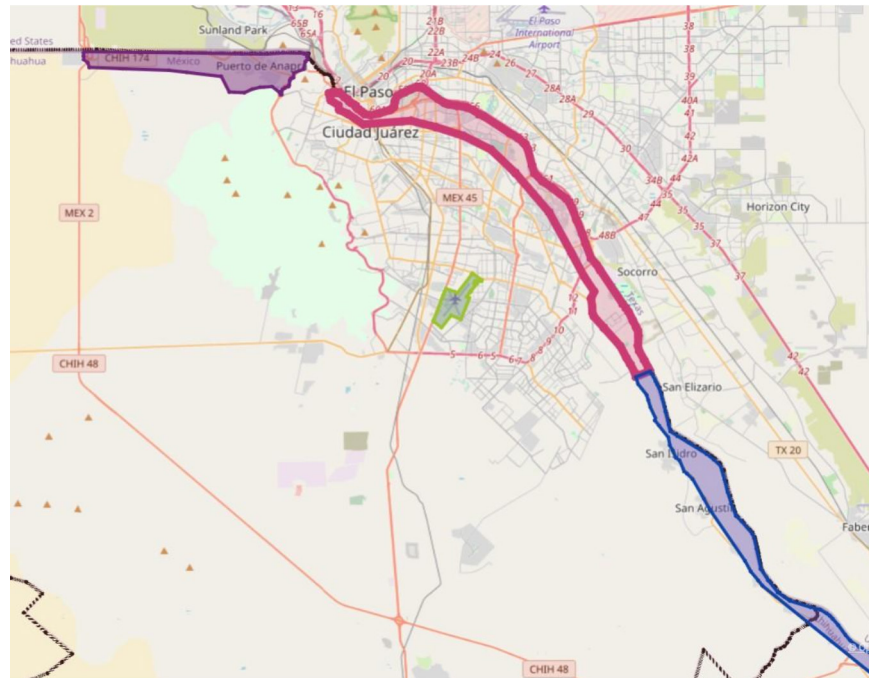
Graph 1. Types of violence suffered by people in Ciudad Juárez reporting having been abused in Mexico (2020-2024)

Kind of Violence Suffered among People Reporting Having Been Abused in Mexico (more than one type may apply) (n=580, N=2278)



Source: JRS-Mexico, for the Danish Refugee Council (2024).

Map 1. Cartel Territorial Control in Ciudad Juárez



Many migrants are unwittingly trafficked by cartel elements directly from their countries of origin, from southern Mexico, and even from Ciudad Juárez, under the false promise of facilitating travel to the U.S.-Mexico border.³⁴ From direct testimonies, we have observed a particularly intense corridor of such activity between Durango and the states of Chihuahua and Coahuila.

Once they arrive in Ciudad Juárez, cartels routinely kidnap migrants and stow them in stash houses, where they take away all their belongings, including cell phones. Our investigation of police reports alone shows that approximately 400 people have been kidnapped in Ciudad Juárez alone during the first five months of

2024; however, the majority of those kidnapped will make no official report due to fear of retaliation.

Having kidnapped migrants, cartel elements will proceed to contact family members to demand ransom (up to 20,000 USD according to survivors' testimonies), frequently after a week of having the person kidnapped, so that families are more anxious and prone to pay. In cases where families cannot pay or cannot pay on time, we have observed situations of torture and sexual violence. If families are able to pay, cartels frequently demand a second payment before dropping the individual near the border wall.

³⁴ It is important to note that cartels and smugglers are distinct actors; these groups do not typically work together, pursue similar goals or use the same methods to facilitate the movement of persons. See Samuel Loroña & Gabriella Sanchez, *Una visión fronteriza sobre la interacción entre el tráfico de migrantes y el tráfico de drogas: El caso del Valle de Altar* (June 2024). In Gabriella Sanchez (Ed.), *Reimagining the Migration Protection System: Critical Reflections from the Border*, Hope Border Institute, https://www.hopeborder.org/_files/ugd/e07ba9_57018ff7d26c44c4b5107337249be90f.pdf.

At the border wall, those wishing to access protection by crossing the Rio Grande and entering the United States must provide a codeword to cartel elements, available only to those who have paid the requisite fee. If people attempt to cross without having paid, cartel members may torture or kill them.³⁵ Cartel elements frequently extort families present in the area near the border wall, under the threat of bodily harm – all of this takes place under the gaze of the Texas National Guard.

INM and other Mexican authorities in collusion

Cartel activities in Ciudad Juárez cannot be understood without the active assistance of perhaps the fourth largest cartel in the city: Mexico's INM and National Guard.

According to the Mexican Prosecutor's Office for Strategic Operations (responsible for investigating and prosecuting kidnappings), most kidnappings of asylum-seeking people in Ciudad Juárez are taking place around the airport and the bus station. Both areas are heavily guarded by INM and National Guard agents and reports point to their explicit collaboration with cartels.³⁶

When migrants arrive at the airport or the bus station (both with and without a CBP One appointment), INM alerts cartel members about the migrants' presence so they can intercept them. Rideshare drivers (such as Uber) increasingly decline to take migrants as passengers in these areas due to the real increasing risks to them of murder, kidnapping and extortion by both authorities and cartels.³⁷ The number of homicide victims is difficult to ascertain, given significant discrepancies between data reported by public authorities and figures reported by the community of rideshare drivers themselves.³⁸ This phenomenon, however, is not contained to Ciudad Juárez but extends to other communities in the state; at the beginning of June alone, five rideshare drivers were killed.³⁹

For those seeking safety, INM, the National Guard and local police effectively represent a threat. Approximately 63% of surveyed migrants who report suffering violence in Mexico indicated that they suffered such violence at the hands of Mexican authorities or Mexican authorities in collusion with other actors.⁴⁰

35 El Diario de Juárez, *Cobra 'cártel' a migrantes hasta por cargar el celular* (June 18, 2024), <https://diario.mx/juarez/2024/jun/18/cobra-cartel-a-migrantes-hasta-por-cargar-el-celular-1016271.html>.

36 Milenio Policía, *Revelan complicidad entre Guardia Nacional, INM y traficantes de personas en Ciudad Juárez* (May 13, 2024), Milenio, <https://www.milenio.com/policia/acusan-guardia-nacional-e-inm-de-complicidad-trafficantes-migrantes>.

37 Norte Digital, *Pide ayuda familia de DIDI asesinado* (April 25, 2024), <https://nortedigital.mx/pide-ayuda-familia-de-didi-asesinado/>. Alejandra Sánchez, *Han asesinado a 53 choferes de plataformas en más de 4 años* (March 31, 2024), El Diario de México, <https://diario.mx/estado/han-asesinado-a-53-choferes-de-plataformas-en-mas-de-4-anos-20240331-2168006.html>.

38 El Heraldo de Juárez, *Hay confusión en cifra de choferes de plataformas asesinados en Juárez* (December 13, 2023), <https://www.elheraldodejuarez.com.mx/local/juarez/hay-confusion-en-cifra-de-choferes-de-plataformas-asesinados-en-juarez-11140500.html>.

39 Heraldo de Juárez, *Choferes de plataforma fueron asesinados horas después de ser secuestrados en Ojinaga: FGE* (June 18, 2024), <https://www.elheraldodechihuahua.com.mx/local/chihuahua/choferes-de-plataforma-fueron-asesinados-horas-despues-de-ser-secuestrados-en-ojinaga-fge-12105912.html>.

40 JRS-Mexico, for the Danish Refugee Council (2024).

6. Recommendations

Presidential elections in Mexico and the United States represent an opportunity to bring justice and dignity to the forefront of both countries' migration policies. For the incoming Sheinbaum administration in Mexico and the future US administration, we offer the following recommendations:

For the United States

1. The Biden administration should rescind the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Rule and the Interim Final Rule with the ultimate goal of restoring lawful access to asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border.
2. The Biden administration should restart migration cooperation with Mexico to
 - a. guarantee asylum seekers' human security during their journey and moving away from a deterrence-based model;
 - b. establish streamlined asylum processing and resettlement procedures coordinated between the Mexican Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda al Refugiado (COMAR) and the Office for Refugee Resettlement (ORR) through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program; and
 - c. deepen joint work in addressing the root causes of migration, aiming at fostering grassroots-led good governance and mitigating the US foreign policy and trade policy incentives to corruption and exploitation.
3. The Biden administration should take legal action against Texas to end the illegal Operation Lone Star.

4. The Biden administration and Congress should prioritize an increase in OFO and USCIS appropriations to enhance and accelerate the processing of asylum, visa, and parole applications.
5. The Biden administration and Congress should expand legal migration pathways by reforming and expanding the H2 migration programs and creating a new labor migration pathway based on private community sponsorship.

For Mexico

1. The Sheinbaum administration should work to halt the alarming militarization and expansion of immigration control by dissolving the National Guard, demilitarizing the high command of the National Migration Institute (INM), and launching an independent and thorough investigation of the INM and National Guard's collusion with criminal groups that includes a process to ensure reparations for affected asylum seekers and their family members.
2. The Sheinbaum administration should end agreements with the U.S. permitting the deportation of third-country nationals to Mexico and incentivizing repressive actions to deter migration, including the internal relocations of migrants.
3. The Sheinbaum administration should strengthen cooperation with Central American countries and work with the U.S. and other international donors to support communities' right not to migrate and to access decent living conditions in peace, freedom, and democracy.

4. The Sheinbaum administration should work to enhance transparency in humanitarian protection, asylum and immigration control policies. The new government should establish effective coordination mechanisms with civil society and faith organizations working with those who migrate, create accessible transparency mechanisms, and commit to transparency about migration negotiations with the United States.
5. The Sheinbaum administration should expand humanitarian protection mechanisms for internally displaced Mexican nationals, many of whom have fled to the northern border, through a process that centers their voices.
6. The Sheinbaum administration should strengthen security in communities with high rates of forced displacement, ending impunity and re-establishing decent conditions for affected families. Mexican nationals continue to be one of the main groups of people seeking protection within the United States.

7. Conclusion

The latest iteration of US efforts to weaken access to asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border is part of a broader effort of the United States, aided by its collaboration with Mexico and facilitated by the cruelty of Texas's parallel system of immigration enforcement, to evade its responsibilities to vulnerable migrants, militarize its borders, and continue to use pain as a form of migrant deterrence.

This report evidences the consequences of such an approach: increased injuries and deaths for those fleeing from danger and who encounter danger on their journey; the separation of families; mental distress, physical injury and traumatization; and the creation of a market of suffering that unscrupulous actors prey on.

We call on the governments of the United States, Mexico, Texas and Chihuahua to reverse course and establish policies that prioritize people's lives, dignity and rights.

We pray for humanity to be recognized and uplifted at the border – both for those seeking protection in these borderlands and for those who call this place home.

Appendix | U.S.-Mexico calls, joint statements, declarations and fact sheets regarding increased immigration enforcement in Mexico under President Biden (2021-2024)

Date	Publication	Relevant Content
2021.03.01	U.S.-Mexico Joint Declaration	'They [President Biden and President López Obrador] directed the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and the Department of State to engage with the governments of neighboring countries, civil society, and private sectors through policies that promote equitable and sustainable economic development, combat corruption, and improve law enforcement cooperation against transnational criminal smuggling networks.'
2021.06.08	Fact Sheet: U.S.-Mexico Bilateral Cooperation	'Operations Group on Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking: U.S. and Mexican law enforcement agencies will partner to exchange information and take appropriate actions to address the shared priority of disabling human trafficking and human smuggling organizations. (...) Law enforcement agencies will work jointly to identify targets, develop investigations, and take enforcement actions such as freezing bank accounts associated with criminal groups.'
2021.06.15	Action the Biden-Harris Administration Has Taken to Address the Border Challenge	'Mexico is <i>increasing border checkpoints and deployed more than 12,000 security personnel</i> to southern Mexico.' [Emphasis added]
2022.04.14	Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Texas and the Free and Sovereign State of Chihuahua	'NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved (...) 3. The States [of Texas and Chihuahua] will work cooperatively to stop the flow of migrants from over 100 countries who illegally enter Texas through Chihuahua - including providing resources to respond to hot spot areas as identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety. 4. Chihuahua has begun and will continue enhanced border security enforcement measures on the Chihuahua side of the border, both at ports of entry and along the Rio Grande River, to prevent illegal immigration from Chihuahua into Texas. (...)'
2022.04.20	Fact Sheet: Update on the Collaborative Migration Management Strategy	'Institutional Capacity Building: (...) In addition, DHS mentors in Monterrey, Guadalajara, and Tijuana in Mexico worked alongside Government of Mexico officials to counter human smuggling and fraud.'
2022.04.29	Readout of President Biden's call with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico	'In view of the unprecedented flows of migrants from throughout the hemisphere to our two countries, the Presidents reiterated the need to build stronger tools for managing regional migration surges. To that end, they agreed to enhance our collaboration to support just, humane and effective efforts to reduce irregular migration and to advance our shared goal that countries throughout the region improve their ability to manage their borders in furtherance of humanitarian and security objectives.'

2022.07.12	President Biden and President Lopez Obrador Joint Statement	'At the same time, we will maintain strong border enforcement policies while ensuring full protection of human rights.'
2022.10.18	Readout of President Joe Biden's Call with President López Obrador of Mexico	'President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke today with President Andres Manuel López Obrador of Mexico to discuss joint migration management efforts, including actions to reduce the number of individuals who unlawfully cross the U.S.-Mexico border and to expand legal pathways as an alternative to irregular migration.'
2023.01.05	Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Border Enforcement Actions	'Individuals who irregularly cross the Panama, Mexico, or U.S. border after the date of this announcement will be ineligible for the parole process and will be subject to expulsion to <i>Mexico, which will accept returns of 30,000 individuals per month</i> from these four countries who fail to use these new pathways.' [Emphasis added]
2023.01.09	Readout of President Joe Biden's Meeting with President López Obrador of Mexico	'The two Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to implement innovative approaches to address irregular migration, pursuant to the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection. President Biden discussed the recent announcement of additional enforcement actions, coupled with expanded pathways for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans in addressing irregular migration.'
2023.05.02	Mexico and United States Strengthen Joint Humanitarian Plan on Migration	'Today, the United States committed to continue to welcome individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela under our parole process. For its part, <i>Mexico will continue to accept back migrants on humanitarian grounds.</i> ' [Emphasis added]
2023.05.09	Readout of President Joe Biden's call with President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of Mexico	'The two leaders affirmed that after May 11th [2023, end of Title 42], they will continue to implement the successful joint initiative [of the removal of third-country nationals to Mexico] which, over four months, achieved a 95 percent drop in border encounters of individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela at the U.S.-Mexico border.'
2023.07.25	Joint Statement from Mexico and the United States on Shared Efforts to Combat Illicit Fentanyl, Disrupt Arms Trafficking, and Humanely Manage Migration	'Leaders also discussed expanding our joint development work in Central America, and maintaining strong consequences for irregular entry at our shared border.'
2023.09.24	Readout: U.S.-Mexico meeting on joint actions to further enhance border security	'He [U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Commissioner Troy A. Miller] urged coordination of efforts to diminish surging irregular migration, and continuation of lawful trade and travel while reiterating the need for coordinated engagement - to include mirrored patrols with local Mexican law enforcement agencies.'

2023.10.13	Joint Statement: U.S.-Mexico High-Level Security Dialogue 2023	'5. Continue coordinating actions to address irregular migration including measures to ensure that migration occurs in an orderly, safe manner, and through the legal channels established by both countries. ... 19. Support the U.S. Coast Guard and Mexican Navy (SEMAR) plan to strengthen efforts to counter the maritime threats of drug trafficking, irregular maritime migration, and illicit transport of weapons of mass destruction through a potential bilateral maritime enforcement arrangement. This will enable maritime operations and support sound maritime governance for our fleets, within our coastal areas, and on the high seas.' [Emphasis added]
2023.11.17	Readout of President Joe Biden's Meeting with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico	'President Biden recognized the <i>essential partnership that we have built with Mexico</i> to manage unprecedented levels of migration across the Western Hemisphere. With regard to enforcement, President Biden thanked President López Obrador for sustaining his effective containment operations and joining the United States in repatriating individuals who do not have a legal basis through which to remain in our countries.' [Emphasis added]
2023.12.21	Readout of President Joe Biden's Call with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico	'The President and President López Obrador agreed that additional enforcement actions are urgently needed so that key ports of entry can be reopened across our shared border.'
2023.12.28	Mexico-U.S. Joint Communique: Mexico and the United States Reaffirm Their Shared Commitments on an Orderly, Humane and Regular Migration	'Ongoing cooperation also includes enhanced efforts to disrupt human smuggling, trafficking, and criminal networks, and continuing the work to promote legal instead of irregular migration pathways.'
2024.02.03	Readout of President Joe Biden's Call with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico	'President Biden expressed his appreciation for Mexico's operational support and for <i>taking concrete steps to deter irregular migration</i> while expanding lawful pathways.' [Emphasis added]
2024.02.07	Readout of Homeland Security Advisor Dr. Liz Sherwood-Randall's Trip to Mexico	'They discussed the importance of <i>increasing enforcement measures to deter irregular migration</i> , expanding safe and lawful migration pathways, and strengthening cooperation to stem the cross-border flows of illicit drugs and weapons.' [Emphasis added]

2024.02.28	Joint Statement: United States, Guatemala, and Mexico Chart New Path for Hemispheric Migration Partnership at Trilateral Ministerial Meeting	‘The participants committed to strengthen joint law enforcement efforts, including by enhancing information sharing and working collectively to investigative and prosecute human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks. (...) Discussion also focused on the need to increase coordinated joint efforts on humane border management and enforcement, including at the U.S. - Mexico and Mexico - Guatemala borders. The three delegations committed to share data about migration flows by launching a new dashboard, which will enhance data-driven decision-making and coordination. (...) The three delegations also committed to establish an operationally focused trilateral working group which will work to improve security, law enforcement, processes, and infrastructure along their international borders. <i>Law enforcement authorities from the three countries will work together to identify security gaps, share information, and develop coordinated operational plans.</i> ’ [Emphasis added]
2024.04.29	Joint Statement by the President of the United States Joe Biden and the President of Mexico Andrés Manuel López Obrador	‘The two leaders discussed how to effectively manage hemispheric migration, <i>strengthen operational efficiency on our shared border</i> , (...)’ [Emphasis added]
2024.06.04	Readout of President Joe Biden’s Call with President López Obrador of Mexico	‘He [President Biden] thanked President López Obrador for the strong and constructive partnership they have built to enhance our bilateral economic cooperation, <i>manage migration at our shared border</i> , and advance regional security and prosperity.’ [Emphasis added]