



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on October 22, 2021

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Correction, Please!

Doubletalk About the Surrender on the Southern Border

Item: *The Washington Post*, in its October 1 issue, reported that Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas had just “issued broad new directives to immigration officers ... saying that the fact that someone is an undocumented immigrant ‘should not alone be the basis’ of a decision to detain and deport them from the United States.”

Item: An Associated Press dispatch dated September 30 said the “new rules” just issued by the Biden administration “require authorities to pursue only migrants who recently crossed into the country without permission or are deemed to pose a threat to public safety.”

The related press release from the Department of Homeland Security declared that its personnel “are to use their discretion and focus the Department’s enforcement resources in a more targeted way.”

Item: Amid the worsening crisis at the southern U.S. border, CNBC — as did many other mainstream media outlets — featured condemnations of Border Patrol personnel by President Biden and others within and allied with his administration.

Earlier that day, said CNBC on September 24, Biden “condemned the U.S. Border Patrol’s treatment of Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, calling the behavior of agents on horseback ‘outrageous’ and vowing they will face consequences for their actions.

“It’s horrible what you saw. To see people like they did, with horses, running them over, people being strapped, it’s outrageous,” Biden said at the White House, referencing a series of photos and video showing mounted Border Patrol agents grabbing Haitian migrants trying to cross into the United States.

“I promise you, those people will pay. There is an investigation underway right now and there will be consequences,” he said.

It was the president’s first substantive comment on the situation in Del Rio, where approximately 30,000 Haitian migrants have tried to enter the U.S. from Mexico since Sept. 9.”

Many other accounts falsely claimed that migrants were being “whipped” by the mounted agents. On ABC, Vice President Kamala Harris compared the treatment of migrants to “some of the worst moments of our history where that kind of behavior has been used against the indigenous people of our country, has been used against African Americans during times of slavery.” Also widely quoted was Representative Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), who fumed: “What we witnessed was worse than what we witnessed in slavery ... cowboys with their reins, again, whipping black people.” Similarly, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) railed at the “images of inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants by Border Patrol — including the use of whips.”

Correction: For duplicitous ideologues, the preferred “narrative” is more important than the truth. That’s why, for example, *Time* magazine cited the “viral photos” about the alleged migrant lashing in its October 11/18 issue — long after it was clear that those charges were phony.

Even after the photographer who took the pictures in question repeatedly said nobody was whipped or hit with anything — neither whips nor reins — the narrative persisted. It also changed the subject from



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the administration's ineptitude.

When pressed, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz knocked down the tales. They explained that the border agents used the reins (as actually shown in the photos) to control their horses in the difficult riverine areas near the Rio Grande.

As noted by Ken Cuccinelli, the former acting deputy secretary of homeland security (which oversees U.S. Customs and Border Patrol): "The heated and false rhetoric and downright lies are even more concerning because Mr. Mayorkas actually corrected the record, four days before Mr. Biden's and Ms. Harris' comments, that the agents were not whipping the migrants or hitting them [at] all." After the damage was inflicted, even the left-wing *New York Times* issued a correction, acknowledging that it hadn't "seen conclusive evidence that migrants were struck with the reins."

That is not to say that Secretary Mayorkas doesn't dissemble. He does that, in spades. (He later altered his stance to better fit the operative narrative: "I was horrified by what I saw.") The secretary's call for "focusing" on "public safety" also muddies the waters.

If an individual is in this country without authorization, existing law says that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is supposed to deport said person. "All illegal aliens, not just those who have committed violent crimes, need to understand that they are potentially going to be deported if the goal is to discourage illegal immigration," according to Jon Feere, an ICE chief of staff during the Trump administration.

That is straightforward. Those of us with memories beyond the last news cycle can recall when even Democrats recognized this. Consider the stance of Barbara Jordan, a Democratic congresswoman from Texas known for her civil rights work who served as head of President Clinton's Commission on Immigration Reform. As she put it in February 1995:

Credibility in immigration policy can be summed up in one sentence: those who should get in, get in; those who should be kept out, are kept out; and those who should not be here will be required to leave. The top priorities for detention and removal, of course, are criminal aliens.

Biden's Homeland Security honcho, however, wants it otherwise.

Andrew Arthur, a resident fellow in law and policy for the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), rightly observes that Mayorkas turns Jordan's position "on its head, all but ensuring that 'those who should not be here' can stay, unbothered by pesky ICE officers asking troublesome questions — including removable criminals."

In an incisive CIS piece ("Mayorkas Memo Further Guts Immigration Enforcement: De facto amnesty degrades the ability of ICE officers to get criminals off the street"), former immigration judge Arthur points out that the secretary's memo requires Border Patrol personnel to "evaluate the totality of the facts and circumstances and exercise their judgment accordingly." He asks:

Does Mayorkas have any idea what Border Patrol agents do? How is a single agent who apprehends a group of 20 migrants in the middle of nowhere (which happens daily) supposed to "evaluate the totality of the facts and circumstances" of each before taking



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them into custody? Yet, that is what this memo requires.

Arthur doesn't pull punches, blasting the "humanitarian and national-security disaster that the Biden administration has created through its feckless immigration policies." Because of this, as he explains, "agents had to process more than 6,300 illegal migrants daily in August. That is more than six times the 1,000 daily apprehensions that Jeh Johnson, *President Obama's DHS secretary, explained in March 2019 would 'overwhelm' this system.*" (Emphasis in original.)

The changes in less than a year have been dramatic. Stephen Dinan, who does an admirable job for the *Washington Times* on immigration issues, lays out some of the figures. In August of 2020, writes Dinan,

the Trump administration managed something stunning. Border Patrol agents caught more than 47,000 illegal immigrants and immediately released just 10 of them into the interior.

This August, under President Biden, the Border Patrol made more than 195,000 arrests and released 43,941 people — an increase of more than 430,000%.

As striking as that is, those numbers could be much higher by the time you read this. NBC News not long ago reported that U.S. officials have issued warnings about a potential "record" of upwards of 400,000 illegal immigrants surging across the border in October.



Doing their jobs: Border Patrol officers are tasked with securing the borders of the United States. That includes preventing illegal entries. Despite hysterical media claims, officers were not "whipping" Haitians trying to cross into America. (*Photo credit: AP Images*)

Migrants can read the tea leaves. As Mark Morgan, who served as acting head of Customs and Border Protection in the Trump administration, just told the *Washington Times*: "If you tell the migrant they're not going to be released, they're not going to come. If a migrant knows they will not be released into the United States awaiting their immigration process, they will not come."

Why is this year so bad? Morgan and other observers speak of "push" and "pull" factors. They note that "push" factors — including the spread of COVID-19 and high crime rates in Central America — are pretty much the same this year as last. On the other hand, look at some of the "pull" factors.



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Among other actions, as Dinan writes, the Biden team dismantled “the Trump team’s rigid framework to derail bogus asylum claims.” This included attempting to revoke the “Remain in Mexico” policy (“Migrant Protection Protocols”) and agreements with Central American counties to take back people that crossed their counties. Then there were court rulings about how long ICE could detain illegals. Migrants also realized, said Dinan, “they would be caught and released if they showed up with a child and asked for protection.”

Well before the Del Rio chaos, the Biden administration ignored the signs of the coming wave of migrants. For example, Panamanian Foreign Minister Erika Mouynes said in September that her nation had “sounded the alarm” — to no avail — about the coming surge.

A group of U.S. governors, infuriated over the Biden administration’s border policy, have just written to the president denouncing recent federal actions, or inactions. As a result: “Border apprehensions are up almost 500% compared to last year, totaling more than 1.3 million — more people than the populations of nine U.S. states.”

The 26 governors continued: “The months-long surge in illegal crossings has instigated an international humanitarian crisis, spurred a spike in international criminal activity, and opened the floodgates to human traffickers and drug smugglers endangering public health and safety in our states.” (According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, more than 90 percent of the fentanyl on U.S. streets crosses the Mexican border.)

If the expected 400,000 RIMs (refugees, illegal aliens, and migrants) do reach the border, the chaos will be multiplied. Such a total would be around 10 times higher than the average month over the past decade (and a huge increase from the 78,000 in January 2021 when President Biden took office). Adding fuel to the fire, Biden’s DHS has just announced that it is cancelling the border-wall contract, among others, in the busiest southern border sector (Rio Grande Valley, Texas), which has experienced more than 550,000 illegal crossings this year.

That won’t be the end of it. If the Biden administration doesn’t prepare properly, Guatemalan activist Manfredo Marroquín told the *Los Angeles Times* in early October, “you will have 1 million people at the border.”

That is what happens when this is the effective message being sent by the Biden team: Sure, we’d prefer that you all not jump the border, but if you do come, you can stay.



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