



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on June 18, 2021

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Correction, Please!

Amid Alien Surge on the Border, Betrayed Agents Decry “Let ‘Em Go Joe”



Come on in, the water's fine: Would-be immigrants from Mexico and Central America know they have a window of opportunity with Biden in the White House and Democrats running Congress. (Photo credit: AP Images)

Item: *The left-wing New York Times, in its May 25 print issue, reported: “House Democrats, who led an angry charge against the Trump administration’s treatment of migrant children, have taken a much quieter tack since concerns began emerging about conditions at some of the emergency shelters set up by the Biden administration to deal with minors at the southern border.”*

Democrats, according to the Times, “say the contrast is for good reason: former President Donald J. Trump’s immigration policies were deliberately cruel, devised as a deterrent to would-be migrants, while the Biden administration is trying hard to deal with a bad hand.”

Item: *Illegal border-crossers are not just from Mexico and Central America, notes the New York Times — which seems to have invented a new category not recognized by the law: “pandemic refugees.” In a May 16 piece (“From India, Brazil and Beyond: Pandemic Refugees at the Border”), the Times said: “Fleeing virus-devastated economies, migrants are traveling long distances to reach the United States and then walking through gaps in the border wall.”*

Item: *During a House Appropriations Committee hearing on May 26, Alejandro Mayorkas, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, defended the Biden administration’s handling of the ongoing surge of migrants seeking access to the United States. He contended to incredulous committee members that “the border is closed.”*

When critical congressmen noted the ill-directed message being sent by the administration — some comparing the situation to an “invasion” — the secretary insisted: “The president could not have been clearer in his articulation of this administration’s position nor could I have been clearer and continue to be so, which is the border is closed, and this administration administers and enforces the laws of the United States of America.”



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The secretary — as have other Democrats, including President Biden — always has a fallback position about problems on the southern border: It's Trump's fault. Mayorkas, for example, said on CNN's State of the Union in March that the "entire system" was "dismantled" by the prior administration.

Correction: While our southern border's condition is clearly a catastrophe, the White House has steadfastly refused to call it a "crisis." Then, in the spring, when Joe Biden himself referred to the situation on the U.S.-Mexico border as a "crisis," his press people backtracked furiously, arguing that he was really talking about the conditions in Central America that cause people to flee.

The Biden folks, however, do seem inordinately skittish about certain words. Accordingly, the incoming administration banned Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from using the terms "alien," "illegal alien," and "assimilation." The alleged reason? Illegal aliens breaking our nation's laws are said not to like those terms. Oh.

Anyway, exactly how *closed* is our southern border? Saying it doesn't make it so. It is, by any honest reckoning, quite open.

There were 178,662 people stopped while breaching the U.S.-Mexico border in April, a 21-year high in monthly apprehensions, according to figures published by CBP. Of course, not all get caught (and being stopped doesn't mean what it used to under the Trump administration). Nowadays, many just try again without fear of prosecution. Border officials, according to the most recent projections, report that around 1,500 illegal immigrants are entering the United States *every day* because agents are overwhelmed with the number of crossings (up from 1,000 daily the previous month).

Immediately after he assumed office, Biden put chains on not the lawbreakers, but the law-enforcers. A dispatch was essentially sent to the cartel-linked human traffickers and border-crossers when he stopped construction of the wall, instructed ICE to curb arrests and deportations, and called for a path to citizenship for illegals within the United States.

As a result, border crossings are at a two-decade high even as ICE deportations have plummeted to the lowest level on record.

Tens of thousands are being released. They are assuredly *not* being sent back to Mexico. That was in the cruel old days. Biden halted President Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy as soon as he got to the Oval Office; that program required migrants seeking asylum to wait in Mexico while their claims were processed. However, if Trump did it, it's automatically bad to Joe and his team. Accordingly, as summarized by [GOP.com](#) in late May:

Customs and Border Protection released 61,000 illegal immigrants in February, March, and April, up from only 18 in Trump's last full month in office.

And yesterday, when asked if DHS knows where illegal immigrants released into the U.S. are, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas admitted there's too many illegal immigrants to "know and track."

Mark Morgan, the former acting CBP commissioner, isn't buying the line being pushed by the current crew in Washington. He has pointed out that, contrary to Mayorkas' claims, the Trump administration did not leave its successors unprepared or uninformed about managing the southern border. The truth, writes Morgan in a *Washington Times* column, is that Trump's Department of Homeland Security "alone



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provided the Biden administration with over 200 briefings during this transition period — with the vast majority of these briefings focusing on border security and illegal immigration. I know this because I was still the acting commissioner of CBP during the transition.”

An angered Morgan pointed out:

I have served this country for 35 years under six different administrations. But I have never seen someone mislead the American people like Mr. Mayorkas has done in the past few months.

Mr. Mayorkas claims that our borders are closed and secure. It’s not only absurd but also insulting to the front-line defenders on our nation’s borders who know that what he’s saying is a blatant lie. Right now, our country is seeing the largest levels of illegal immigration in nearly 20 years. Last month more than [180,000] illegal aliens were apprehended by the Border Patrol.

Within the first 120 days of the Biden administration the Border Patrol has apprehended more illegal aliens than during the entire 2020 fiscal year. There has been a 900 percent increase in apprehensions from this time last year. As a direct result of the Biden administration’s dismantling of almost every effective tool, authority and policy, 38 percent of the illegal aliens being apprehended are intentionally released into the U.S. In the month of April alone, under Mr. Mayorkas’ direction, almost 70,000 illegal aliens were released — never to be heard from again.

The future of the border isn’t promising. Even the Trump-hating *Washington Post* acknowledges that Biden’s Department of Homeland Security budget is “flat” despite the “surge” at the border — this during “a period when border arrests and detentions have soared.” (The *Post* does note that the administration will boost funding for DHS programs designed to, among others, “improve climate change preparedness.”)

Morale is low among enforcement personnel, as you might imagine. Brandon Judd, the president of the Border Patrol Council, recently told reporters (as recorded on YouTube): “I have never seen worse policy, never worked under worse policy, than I have under this administration.”

Some Democrat politicians are not blind to what is happening. It’s even more obvious when you are on the frontier. Representative Henry Cuellar (D-Texas), vice chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, represents a district that has 200 miles on the border with Mexico. The district, according to Cuellar, is affected with different types of human trafficking — largely families in one, mostly single adults from Mexico in another, and a third with migrants that are mostly from beyond Central America.

Laredo has the preponderance of single-adult migrants. The CBP recently described how, in just over a 24-hour period in that area, Border Patrol agents “apprehended over 160 undocumented individuals during two separate alleged human smuggling attempts.” According to the account, a K-9 service dog helped in the apprehension of a tractor hauling a tanker trailer; upon investigation, 50 individuals were found in the tanker — all in the country illegally and nationals of Mexico.

A second incident, the following morning, involved a commercial tractor-trailer. A service dog also was



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involved in the alert. After a chase, agents found more than 100 individuals inside the trailer — all in the U.S. illegally and from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

The CBP website is replete with such accounts.

Not long ago, Cuellar told the *Washington Examiner* that border officials are so busy processing people that they do not have time to identify the courts to be seen by the migrants. He said the “overwhelmed” agents just “don’t have the time” to issue notices to appear. Cuellar also revealed that migrants being shipped from the border have been found COVID-positive at double the rate of the United States at large, with some of them being released directly to bus stations and then sent to the interior of the nation.

In parts of the country, as reported by Reuters, some agents are calling Biden “Let ‘Em Go Joe,” while others are purchasing mock border coins — with a redesigned U.S. Border Patrol logo that reads “U.S. Welcome Patrol.”



Want another example about Washington’s collaboration with border jumping? A reporter from the Center for Immigration Studies recently saw in person what is being done repeatedly on parts of the southern border. The article (“Washington Won’t Let Border Patrol Arrest Human Smugglers Offloading Aliens Right in Front of Them”) includes a photo showing a cartel smuggler standing on Texas territory offloading his cargo of women and children.

Meanwhile, various state and federal personnel had orders not to arrest the cartel’s raft paddler. Todd Bensman quoted an officer from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as he explained that “all federal agents on the river operate under this arrest stand-down nowadays.”

The situation at ICE is also miserable. As the leftist *Washington Post* reported in late May:

Under new Biden administration rules curtailing immigration enforcement, ICE carried out fewer than 3,000 deportations last month, the lowest level on record. The agency’s 6,000 officers currently average one arrest every two months.

ICE under President Biden is an agency on probation. The new administration has rejected calls from some Democrats to eliminate the agency entirely, but Biden has placed ICE



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deportation officers on a leash so tight that some say their work is being functionally abolished.

Frustrated ICE officials, says the *Post*, “describe a workplace environment where officers spend time doing paperwork, idling or working out, more fearful of facing reprimand for making an arrest than not making one.”

Authorities expect a big spike in migrant deaths this summer in desert areas near the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, beyond the human smugglers, there are the drug smugglers — who are clearly enjoying the less-secure Biden border.

The border crisis feeds multiple ills. It has, for instance, exacerbated the influx of fentanyl pouring from Mexico. As Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott said in a late May press conference, “It is clear that Biden’s open-border policies are unleashing deadly consequences right here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.” The governor cited statistics from the Texas Department of Public Safety about the increase in drug seizures — from the equivalent of about 2.4 million lethal doses of fentanyl in 2020 to this year’s approximately 21 million lethal doses to date. This, noted Abbott, represents an increase of nearly 800 percent year over year.

The Biden-Harris team is also reverting to a familiar and failed “solution” previously employed by the Obama-Biden administration: Throw U.S. taxpayer money at foreign governments so their people won’t jump our border.

As we write, the *New York Times* has just published a page-one piece expressing apparent surprise about its futility. (The online headline puts it this way: “U.S. Aid to Central America Hasn’t Slowed Migration. Can Kamala Harris?” The print version is shorter: “Billions in Aid, but the Migrants Keep Coming.”) Shocking, eh?

While the Biden administration frets about phrases such as “illegal alien” and “crisis,” actions speak louder than problematic words.



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