



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on July 18, 2016

Published in the July 18, 2016 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 32, No. 14

Walling Out the Truth About Illegal Aliens

Item: *In an attempt to protect the White House's amnesty for illegal aliens, the U.S. Justice Department is refusing to provide details about President Obama's executive order on immigration.*

The Daily Caller for June 1, 2016, reported that the U.S. Department of Justice was "refusing an order from a federal judge to release details of benefits provided to over 100,000 illegal immigrants under President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration. U.S. District Court Judge Andrew S. Hanen ordered the Justice Department to produce a list of individuals who received deportation deferrals from the 2014 DHS directive in a decision made May 19. The decision was made after learning DoJ had not disclosed that approximately 100,000 illegal immigrants had received three-year deferrals from deportation."

Government lawyers, the Caller continued, "claim that producing a list of individuals who received deferrals and other benefits ... imposes an undue burden on the Department of Homeland Security and jeopardizes the privacy interests of individuals appearing on the list."

Item: *On its website, the American Civil Liberties Union carries a document of "Immigration Myth and Facts." Among these is the supposed "myth" that "most immigrants are undocumented and have crossed the border illegally." Rather, says the radical organization, the "fact" is that "almost half of all undocumented immigrants entered the United States legally." In the fine print, the ACLU attempts to vindicate that contention by rationalizing that many of those in question "became undocumented only when their visas expired and they didn't leave the country."*

Item: *The liberal Washington Post reported on March 10, 2016: "Hillary Clinton's pledge not to deport any illegal immigrants except violent criminals and terrorists represents a major break from President Obama, and it could vastly increase the number of people who would be allowed to stay in the country. The declaration this week from the Democratic presidential front-runner drew praise from immigrant rights groups."*

Item: *On June 3, 2016, the London-based Guardian, in an article entitled "Michelle Obama: 'In America we don't build walls to keep people out,'" reported that the First Lady had made a "withering attack" during a commencement speech at City College of New York directed at Donald Trump, although without mentioning his name. In part, she said: "Here in America we don't let our differences tear us apart. Here in America we don't give in to our fears, we don't build walls to keep people out."*

Item: *The Washington Post for April 28, 2016, took note of a proposal that would "replace the White House fence." The change would double its height, to nearly 14 feet, and provide other measures to deter would-be intruders. The U.S. Secret Service and National Park Service want to build a fence that would be 'tougher, taller and stronger,' said Nichole Mainor, a spokeswoman for the Secret Service." The paper noted that security concerns during that week had twice put the White House on lockdown.*

Correction: A lot of failures are good at making excuses. Yet, most excuses are just thin skins of falsehoods stretched over bald-faced lies.

So it is for many leading so-called progressives, who are delighted to overlook law-breaking when it is seen to be to their political advantage. Some illegals are to be let off because they didn't get caught. Others get alibied because they jumped the border long ago. Yet others get a pass because they



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allegedly did not break the law — until they again break another law, at which time they become “overstays.”

Such “overstays,” keep in mind, are not forgetful folks who just happened to miss their flights. For example, several of the September 11, 2001, terrorists were in this country on expired visas, as revealed by subsequent investigations.

And do you remember when Barack Obama said that he didn’t have the authority to change immigration law unilaterally? Some souls, perhaps blessed with more patience than sense, have counted his saying that 22 times. Yet, he and his Justice Department did just that when it came to giving benefits to 100,000 illegal aliens.

You can tell when a “liberal” is in charge. When a federal judge rules in his favor, the process is praised as if it came from the Almighty. On the other hand, if the ruling is not what was desired, it is defenestrated. All of a sudden, a chief executive is almighty.

The judge, by the way, saw through the duplicity, ordering the Justice Department attorneys to attend a legal ethics course.

And have you also noticed how many of these oh-so-tolerant characters are quick to preach to others by the yard but practice personally by the inch?

Wall? Who needs a wall? You should embrace, even subsidize, security threats. So say all too many of those living in gated housing, including those with armed bodyguards paid for by the taxpayers. That includes those seeking “tougher, taller and stronger” fences for themselves.

The *Washington Post* says that a President Hillary Clinton would be even more of an advocate than Barack Obama for illegal aliens (although not using such direct terms, usually opting for “undocumented”). That conclusion should give Americans pause, considering the record of the current administration. Clinton’s team, meanwhile, has been similarly industrious in their planning for security barriers in Philadelphia to keep the riff-raff distant from the Democrat Party officialdom at their convention.

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), who is the chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, has taken sardonic notice of the development, saying in early June:

It’s interesting that the Democratic National Committee will have a wall around their convention to keep unapproved people out while at the same time, their presumptive nominee, Hillary Clinton, pushes for open borders policies that are even more radical than President Obama’s.

She would refuse to deport dangerous criminal aliens until after they have been convicted of committing heinous crimes against Americans, close detention centers, issue even more extreme executive orders than Obama, and increase Syrian refugees five-fold. Her proposed policies make no sense, decimate the rule of law, further reduce wages for poor Americans, and increase the risk of terrorism and criminal behavior.

This is ongoing while there are at least 11 million illegal aliens in this country. Clinton of course wants to do something about that. She wants to take them “out of the shadows,” in her words.

Those numbers about illegals, which are widely used, are in actuality just an estimate based in large part of Census Bureau findings. The totals have not changed much for a decade or so. And the Census



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Bureau is careful to instruct those carrying out its surveys in selected homes not to ask subjects whether they are legal or not. The head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has acknowledged that the actual number of illegal immigrants could be 15 million. A 2005 study, obviously dated, put the total of illegals at 20 million.

The figures are not static. Some come, some go. And some — relatively few — are deported. Here are a few more numbers to show the scale involved. The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) has been analyzing new official data that indicate that more than three million new legal and illegal immigrants settled in the United States in 2014 and 2015. This represents a 39-percent increase over the previous two years. The head of research for CIS, Steven Camarota, has broken out some of the findings. The preliminary CIS estimates, as he said in June, have determined that, of the 3.1 million that arrived in those years,

about one-third, 1.1 million (or 550,000 annually) were new illegal immigrants, a significant increase from the 700,000 illegal immigrants (350,000 annually) who entered in 2012 and 2013.

The above estimate of illegal immigration represents the flow of new illegal aliens surreptitiously crossing the border, overstaying a temporary visa, or released into the country after a short detention, such as families from Central America. The numbers do not represent the net increase in the total illegal immigrant population.

Illegals comprise a wide range of people. They are from many home countries, of varied skills, young and old, male and female. Many have been in this country for years. The *Wall Street Journal* not long ago carried a piece describing research done by Harvard University Professor George Borjas, who has used new statistical methods to examine the data in the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. He found that illegal males give a lot less heed to how much, or little, they get paid, compared to legal native-born Americans. Borjas has argued that law-abiding lower-income American workers have suffered economically because of the presence of so many illegal immigrants. As the professor put it:

Undocumented immigrant men are far more likely to work than other groups, while undocumented immigrant women are far less likely to work.

The employment gap that distinguishes undocumented men from the other groups widened dramatically over the past twenty years. By 2014, the probability that an undocumented man was employed ... was around 12 percentage points larger than that of native men.

It also appears that a goodly number of illegals can live in the "shadows" without a great likelihood of being caught by the authorities — because the feds are not looking for them. According to Representative Lamar Smith (R-Texas), the Obama administration is paying less attention to "overstays" each year. While there were 12,500 deported in 2009, that was 6,800 by 2012, and down even further to 2,500 by 2015 — representing less than one of every 2,000 such illegals. The *Washington Times* summarized the situation on June 14:

Immigration agents catch an abysmally small percentage of the illegal immigrants who arrived on visas but overstayed their welcome, authorities admitted to Congress Tuesday, describing a loophole that those around the globe are increasingly using to gain a foothold in the U.S.

At least 480,000 people overstayed their visas last year, adding to a backlog that's reached some 5 million total, members of Congress said. But immigration agents launched investigations into just



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10,000 of them, or about 0.2 percent, and arrested fewer than 2,000, less than 0.04 percent, saying the others don't rise to the level of being priority targets.

Some of these in the country illegally are committing serious crimes and are still not deported. On April 19, 2016, Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) gave part of the sad litany to the House Subcommittee of Immigration and Border Security:

Americans deserve to know why this administration would release thousands upon thousands of criminal aliens from DHS [Department of Homeland Security] custody, despite convictions that included a total of 473 homicide-related offenses, 375 kidnappings, 890 sexual assaults, and 10,731 assaults, before their release.

And after their release from DHS custody, criminal aliens went on to commit 124 homicide-related offenses between 2010 and 2014. Those released in 2014 alone committed 1,423 additional crimes after their release from custody, including vehicular homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and driving under the influence of alcohol.

At least 95 percent of convicted criminal aliens known to DHS are not detained. How does that policy protect the American people? The harm is real and the risk is great.

No law or practice is going to be foolproof. But when the federal authorities do not even try to enforce the current law effectively, we shouldn't be surprised at the consequences. Illegal aliens of course are already breaking the law. But we are not supposed to notice that, which is one reason why "undocumented" is the preferred and politic term.

But these are not paperwork glitches. Even "criminal illegal immigrants" who commit serious crimes, as we have seen, get released. The number in that category for 2015 was 19,723, with a total of 64,197 convictions of various offenses, from traffic offenses to more than 200 homicide convictions.

Pressed by legislators earlier this year about these developments, the director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency sought to diminish responsibility, saying that her agency just had sole discretion over about one-third of those 19,723 releases. According to ICE Director Sarah Saldaña, the others got sprung when an immigration court judge granted bond or when that person's home country refused to take back the would-be deportee.

But as the saying goes, "If you don't try, you won't succeed." As is typical of bureaucrats in general, and especially those inhabiting the Obama administration, the thing they are best at making is excuses.

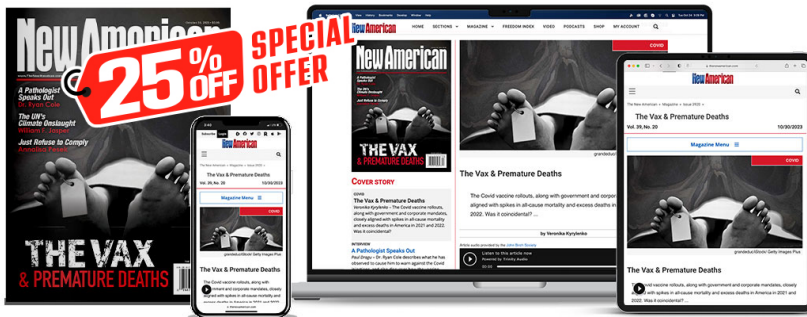


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