



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 23, 2020

Published in the March 23, 2020 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 36, No. 06

Correction, Please!

Growing Trend: Putting Interests of Criminal Aliens Before Those of Law-abiding U.S. Citizens

Item: *The New York Times said in a February 14 headline that the Border Patrol is sending “elite tactical teams to many sanctuary cities.” The large feature photo depicted an intimidating officer pointing a weapon from within an armored vehicle, with the caption reading (in the online version): “An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol.”*



The left-wing paper quoted a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection who “confirmed that the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement], which conducts arrests in the interior of the country.”

Among those being deployed were members of BORTAC, said the Times. “With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.”

In sanctuary cities, according to the Times, “the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.”

Item: *A panel discussion on February 15 on MSNBC Live centered on the special agents being sent into sanctuary cities to arrest illegal aliens. (Media Research Center’s “Newsbusters” recorded the show.) A frequent guest named Danielle Moodie-Mills maintained that the action “means that this [Trump] administration is doing anything that it can to terrorize the Latinx community.”*

Attorney Midwin Charles then added: “I’m going to go a little bit step further and say that this isn’t just to terrorize the Latino communities. It is also for Trump to score political points with his base because cruelty is the point. The more he can show that he is cruel against immigrants of color — also very important to point out because you never see any talk of illegal immigrants from Europe or anything like that. It’s the brown immigrants.”

Item: *The Washington Post for February 11 said in its headline that President Trump is “fulfilling his pledge to build fortress America.” Said the largest paper in the nation’s capital: “During the past three*



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years, the president has hardened the nation's immigration system into an obstacle course of physical and bureaucratic barriers, causing illegal border crossings to plummet and legal immigration to slump."

Correction: Outrage is certainly a selective commodity. We don't recall the media and left-wing fury when, for example, the Obama administration deported more than three million people, including more than a million in his first term. We do, however, recollect that Barack Obama and George W. Bush used thousands of National Guardsmen to support border personnel without being widely accused of terrorizing law-breakers.

Meanwhile, as noted by commentator Rachel Bovard, President Trump deported fewer than "900,000 people during the same time period." And even while the administration was "tightening discretion for issuing legal status, approval for legal permanent residencies — including citizenship applications — reached a five-year high under the Trump administration in 2018."

Not all the news that is fit to print is apparently fit for us to read. In February, the *New York Times* clouted the president for his "scathing rhetoric on immigration," apparently overwhelmed that "he used the term 'illegal alien' at least five times during the State of the Union this month." Talk about shock and awe! That just happens to be the correct legal term, as has been pointed out by the Department of Justice and reinforced through its use by the Supreme Court, among others.

The perpetually affronted "woke" community, to be sure, is offended by the term and it has been dropped from some "liberal" publication stylebooks. And New York City, which is one of the sanctuary cities that shields lawbreakers from immigration laws, has outlawed its use. Really. The Commission on Human Rights there not long ago banned the use of the term of "illegal alien" by employers, housing providers (including hotels), and law enforcement — declaring that it is "discriminatory." Violators — that is, practitioners of the First Amendment — may be fined up to \$250,000 per offense.

The overwrought *New York Times* piece, cited first above — which falsely insinuates that armored vehicles manned by masked camouflaged agents with pitiless weapons of war are going to be raising havoc throughout innocent communities — does its best to hide this one-sentence tidbit deep in the story. Buried in paragraph 21, we find: "The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation." Oh.

Meanwhile, the editors of the *New York Times* also appear to have selective amnesia, having forgotten Trump's 2019 State of the Union address when he said: "Legal immigrants enrich our nation and strengthen our society in countless ways. I want people to come into our country in the largest numbers ever, but they have to come in legally." That, however, doesn't fit the Orange Man Bad narrative.

In the meantime, the advocates of and apologists for the sanctuary communities are obstructing federal immigration enforcement and, in many cases, providing a safe haven for dangerous criminals, as well as putting citizens at risk. Immigration personnel have a tough job already without it being made more difficult by local progressives. During fiscal 2019, enforcement and removal operations (ERO) from Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested about 143,000 aliens and removed more than 267,000, according to official data. More than 86 percent of those arrested by ICE had criminal convictions or pending charges, says the agency.

"There is no doubt that the border crisis, coupled with the unwillingness of some local jurisdictions that choose to put politics over public safety has made it more difficult for ICE to carry out its Congressionally mandated interior enforcement mission," in the words of ICE's Acting Director



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Matthew Albence. “No matter where you live in the U.S., your safety is impacted by criminal aliens who came to this country illegally and now live in your neighborhoods.”

These dangers are real to New Yorkers (and to those in other “sanctuaries”). James Jay Carifano, writing for Fox News in February, noted that earlier in the year,

an illegal immigrant was charged with the brutal rape and murder of a 92-year-old grandmother in Queens.

Despite tragedies such as this, New York lawmakers decided to make the entire state into a sanctuary for illegal immigrants. Its “Green Light Law” not only allows illegal immigrants to get driver’s licenses, it bars sharing those records with any immigration enforcement agency. This provision intentionally undermines post-9/11 security measures implemented to keep terrorists off airplanes.

Many other communities and jurisdictions are being similarly affected. In California, SB 54 puts many restrictions on cooperation between law enforcement and ICE. It took effect in January 2018. Since then, as summarized by the Daily Caller News Foundation (DCNF), Orange County has been obliged to release more than 2,100 illegal aliens from its custody, despite ICE detainers that were placed on all of them. “More than 400 of these illegal aliens were later re-arrested and charged with various heinous crimes such as rape, child sex offenses, domestic assault and other charges,” writes Jason Hopkins for DCNF.

“SB 54 has made our community less safe,” attests a recent statement from Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes. “The law has resulted in new crimes because my deputies were unable to communicate with their federal partners about individuals who committed serious offenses and present a threat to our community if released.”

Attorney General William Barr told a meeting of the National Sheriffs’ Association on February 10, when we are discussing sanctuary cities,

we are talking about policies that are designed to allow criminal aliens to escape. These policies are not about people who came to our country illegally but have otherwise been peaceful and productive members of society. *Their express purpose is to shelter aliens whom local law enforcement has already arrested for other crimes.* This is neither lawful nor sensible. [Emphasis added.]

Active interference with federal law enforcement at the state level is illegal under the “Supremacy Clause” of Article VI of the Constitution, noted the attorney general. “Enforcing a country’s immigration laws is an essential function of the national government,” he stated. “And no national government can enforce those laws properly if state and local governments are getting in the way.”

Barr was blunt: “‘Progressive’ politicians are jeopardizing the public’s safety by putting the interests of criminal aliens before those of law-abiding citizens.”

It wasn’t that long ago when notable Democrats were capable of common sense when it came to national sovereignty. For instance, the late Texas Representative Barbara Jordan (who chaired President Bill Clinton’s Commission on Immigration Reform) was on target when asserting:

We disagree with those who would label efforts to control immigration as being inherently anti-immigrant. It is both a right and responsibility for a democratic society to manage immigration so it serves the national interest.... Unless this country does a better job in curbing illegal immigration, we risk irreparably undermining our commitment to legal immigration.



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Where are the leading Democrats today when it comes to illegal aliens? These folks are certainly *not* aligned with Barbara Jordan. Here are some Democratic presidential candidates and their responses to questions on immigration, as compiled by the *Washington Post* (as updated on February 12):

- “*Would you seek the repeal of criminal penalties for people apprehended while crossing the border?*” Yes, said Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. (Sanders in fact says he would pause *all* deportations.)
- “*Do you support extending the existing physical barriers on the U.S.-Mexico border?*” No, said Warren and Sanders.
- “*Would you redistribute the responsibilities of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to other agencies? If so, would ICE be abolished?*” Sanders would both redistribute and abolish. Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar, and Warren would restructure ICE or redistribute some duties, but not abolish.
- “*Do you believe all undocumented immigrants should be covered under a government-run health plan?*” Yes, said Joe Biden, Sanders, and Warren; Buttigieg said Yes with a caveat; Mike Bloomberg and Klobuchar were among those not answering or unclear.

Bloomberg, who belatedly announced his candidacy, had equipped himself with a plan (according to Bloomberg.com) similar to those of his supposed “moderate” presidential rivals Biden and Buttigieg. Naturally, that included “reversing President Donald Trump’s policies.” To emphasize the point, Bloomberg released a statement declaring: “America doesn’t need more of Trump’s fear mongering.”

Embellishments and hyperbole are common among those seeking to take Trump’s job. That includes Elizabeth Warren — who vowed in February that, when in the White House, she “will make sure that these raids that sweep through our neighborhoods stop. We will not engage in this kind of deportation. It is wrong.”

Here’s what is wrong: her assertions. ICE has been clear on this, such as in the following public letter issued not long ago. In part, it reads:

ICE makes targeted arrests every day; ICE does not conduct “raids.”

ICE does not conduct raids or sweeps and does not operate roadblocks or checkpoints. The use of these terms evokes images of indiscriminate enforcement actions taken without probable cause. Nothing could be further from the truth.

ICE focuses its limited resources first and foremost by targeting those who pose the greatest threat to public safety and border security.

Radical critics have condemned and misrepresented Trump’s immigration policies. Trump’s enemies at the *Washington Post*, citing anonymous “immigration experts and advocates,” tried to demean and degrade the fact that under Trump new citizen oaths are at an 11-year high, but we also found some experts and, by contrast, they had some good things to say about left-wing newspapers: They are useful for swatting flies.

— William P. Hoar

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