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Sessions Outlines Plan While Visiting the Border

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"The lawlessness, the abdication of the duty to enforce our immigration laws and the catch and release practices of old are over", he said.

The Trump administration is reportedly moving fast to assemble a deportation force to tackle illegal immigration.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions went to Arizona this week to spend some time visiting the U.S. - Mexico border as well as to give a speech in which he highlighted parts of the Justice Department's plan for further tackling the problem of illegal immigration.

After answering questions, Attorney General **Jeff Sessions** leaves a news conference after touring the U.S. -Mexico border with border officials, Tuesday, April 11, 2017, in Nogales, Ariz.

Sessions said federal prosecutors should consider felony prosecutions for immigrants who enter the country illegally and have two or more previous illegal entry convictions.

Sessions announced that repeat offenders at the border would be charged with a felony.

Sessions' memo to federal prosecutors (PDF) said each U.S. Attorney's office should designate a "border security coordinator" to oversee the prosecutions. Also targeted for felony prosecutions: anyone who knowingly enters into a sham marriage to evade immigration laws.

The new directives could result in a surge in undocumented immigrants detained in US prisons.

Later that evening, Sessions emphasized during an interview that undocumented immigrants who are caught at the border will face unprecedented legal penalties.

The most important thing for us is to send a message to the world that the border is not open.

"Pursuant to the President's executive order, we will now be detaining all adults who we apprehend at the border", Sessions said.

According to Sessions, the White House shares his commitment to immigration enforcement and stricter border security. But his Tuesday speech during his first visit to the border offered the most comprehensive look yet at his plans for federal prosecutions of those in the country illegally. "All of this is long overdue".

"Every dollar spent on prosecuting an illegal immigrant for illegal reentry is a dollar that could have been spent on prosecuting or investigating a real real", said Alex Nowrasteh of the libertarian think tank Cato Institute.

- Finally, and perhaps most importantly: I have directed that all 94 U.S. Attorneys Offices make the prosecution of assault on a federal law enforcement officer a top priority. "It's a shame the government is prioritizing the enforcement of, essentially, labor market regulations over violent and property crimes".

"If someone dares to assault one of our folks in the line of duty, they will do federal time for it", Sessions said.