



Jeff Sessions Announces a New Crackdown on Immigrants and “Filth”

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Sessions outlined a series of changes that he said mark a concerted effort to rid US cities and the border of what he described as “filth” brought on by drug cartels.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions told Fox News’ “Hannity” Tuesday night that the Trump administration is trying to send a strong message to anyone thinking of trying to enter America illegally.

“The lawlessness, the abdication of the duty to enforce our immigration laws, and the catch and release practices of old are over”, the attorney general declared.

The administration’s most vocal advocate for tougher border enforcement measures, Sessions’ trip to the region comes as the Department of Homeland Security recorded a 40% decline in illegal crossings along the southwest border during the first two months of the year.

He said his plan includes holding adults caught crossing the border illegally and adding dozens of judges to the nation’s immigration courts to handle an expected expansion of the caseload.

Sessions’ visit came in the wake of President Donald Trump’s campaign promises to impose **more** restriction on the border with Mexico, particularly by building a wall there and making the government of the southern neighbor pay for it. Also targeted for felony prosecutions: anyone who knowingly enters into a sham marriage to evade immigration laws.

Sessions added that each U.S. Attorney’s Office will designate an Assistant United States Attorney as the Border Security Coordinator for their district.

“I’m an admirer of Steve Bannon and the Trump family, and they’ve been supportive of what we’re doing”, he said.

Sessions’ announcement was the latest move by the Trump administration to deter illegal immigration. They said it could have an impact on those further inland, which haven’t historically focused on immigration violations. Half of federal arrests in 2014 were for

immigration-related offenses, according to a Pew Research analysis released this week. He also said that the civil rights of the people – who are charged with criminal offences at the border – will be protected.

Data from federal arrests, however, show an increasing emphasis on punishing those who break immigration laws well before the Trump election, according to an analysis by the Pew Research Center published April 10. But the DOJ's new guidelines indicate that prosecutors will seek felony charges in cases in which a person has a documented history of illegal entry into the U.S.

“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.