

PPP Focus

Sessions To Tour Arizona-Mexico Border Tuesday

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Jeff Sessions has a message for people seeking to cross the southern border into the U.S.: “This is the Trump era”.

Josh Breisblatt, a policy analyst at the American Immigration Council, said the attorney general’s prosecution directive effectively makes illegal entry prosecutions a national priority, beyond the border states where the majority of cases are brought.

“The catch and release policies of the past are over”, Sessions said during a visit with Customs and Border Patrol agents on Tuesday referencing the decades old practice of repatriating detained undocumented immigrants rather than charging them with a crime.

“... It is here on this very sliver of land-on this border-that we take our stand”.

Sessions stated that in accordance with keeping the numbers illegal immigrants coming into the U.S down, the department will be adding 50 immigration judges this year alone and another 75 in 2018.

Sessions also said that 25 immigration judges have been sent to adjudicate deportation cases at Homeland Security Department detention centers on the border.

Sessions painted the matter in stark terms, saying that gangs and cartels “turn cities and suburbs into war zones, that rape and kill innocent citizens, and who profit by smuggling poison and other human beings across our borders”.

“The battle is far from over”.

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

“Starting today, federal prosecutors are now required to consider for prosecution all of the following offenses, often not prosecuted in the past”, Sessions said.

There’s a new sheriff in town, his name is Donald Trump, and the era of “catch and release” is over.

“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.

Sessions directed federal prosecutors in a memo Tuesday to give priority to prosecuting those who smuggle more than three people into the country.

He said his deputies are glad to work with the federal government but working as immigration officers is not an option. In this fight, I am here to tell you, the fearless men and women of Customs and Border Protection: we hear you and we have your back.

Since he was confirmed, Sessions has widened the Justice Department's role in immigration prosecutions.

All U.S. attorney's offices must immediately designate an assistant U.S. attorney as the "border coordinator" in that district to ensure the new guidelines are implemented.

After visiting the border Tuesday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions stopped outside Phoenix in Litchfield Park to speak to a conference of police chiefs.