



Border surge includes people from countries other than Central America, highlighting terror threat

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The governors of 20 states sent a letter to President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in which they ask them to take action immediately on the crisis at the southern border. According to the governors, contrary to what the administration has been saying, the border is not closed or secure.

In fact, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) has reported a staggering surge in illegal border crossings: 172,000 in March, the highest number in nearly 20 years; as well as 18,890 unaccompanied children, which — the governors note — is the largest monthly number in history.

They blame Biden. He “incentivized an influx of illegal crossings by using irresponsible rhetoric and reversing a slew of policies — from halting border wall construction to eliminating asylum agreements to refusing to enforce immigration laws.”

Brandon Judd, president of the National Border Patrol Council, also blames Biden for the crisis.

A border patrol agent said, “We have so many people coming across, and then we're out there killing ourselves to catch them, rescue them or whatever it is, and then they're being released. Why even bother?”

Some agents are reportedly calling Biden “Let 'Em Go Joe.”

The situation is actually worse than the governors indicated.

CBP’s monthly totals do not include illegal crossers who are detected by surveillance technology but are not apprehended. These crossings are referred to as “got-aways.” Border Patrol Deputy Chief Raul Ortiz said that the agency is recording 1,000 got-aways a day.

Biden chose a futile strategy for controlling the border

Biden appointed Harris to lead the administration's efforts to persuade Mexico and the Central American countries to address the root causes that push people to flee their homes in the first place. And he is proposing a \$4 billion four-year plan for decreasing violence, corruption and poverty in the Central American countries.

The "root causes" approach has been tried already. Between fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2018, the United States gave \$2 billion in aid to Central America. And the Obama-Biden administration sought to promote economic prosperity, improved security, and strengthened governance in Central America in 2014 with its U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America program.

These programs didn't work then and aren't working now.

The border patrol apprehended 85,326 aliens from the northern triangle countries in March and 78,252 in April.

The differences between conditions in Central America and the United States are too great, particularly the economic conditions. The average annual income in El Salvador is \$4,000; in Guatemala it is \$4,610; and in Honduras it is \$2,310. In the United States it's \$65,850.

In any case, it is a long-term strategy, and the current border crisis requires immediate action.

Illegal crossers from other countries

Biden's root causes strategy ignores illegal crossers from countries other than Central America and Mexico, and the number of illegal crossers from the other countries has been increasing rapidly. It more than tripled from fiscal 2014 to fiscal 2019, increasing from 37,000 per fiscal year to 118,000.

And their numbers have continued to rise.

CBP statistics indicate that 57,690 of the 342,673 illegal crossers who were apprehended at the southern border in March and April of this year were not from northern triangle countries or Mexico. At this rate, the yearly total of aliens from other countries will likely be more than 346,000, which would be almost three times as many as in fiscal 2019.

The diversity of the illegal crossers is reflected further by the fact that at least 40 different languages were spoken by the nearly 30,000 asylum seekers who were waiting in Mexico for an asylum hearing as of the end of March 2021.

The "other countries" category includes international terrorists

The administration claims that Republican warnings about terrorist crossings don't accurately capture how unlikely it is that international terrorists will access the United States through the U.S.-Mexico border.

Alex Nowrasteh, from the Cato Institute, says, "The notion that the Southwest border is open to terrorists is ludicrous."

But CBP recently announced the arrest of two Yemeni men who were on the Terrorist Watch List and the No-Fly List.

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has acknowledged that aliens referred to as "known or suspected terrorists" (KSTs) have tried to enter the United States by air and across land borders this year and in previous years. Mayorkas says that DHS' multi layered security apparatus has made it possible to successfully identify and prevent KSTs from entering the United States.

You won't find much information about these operations in the news media. The most comprehensive source of information I have found is Todd Bensman's book, "America's Covert Border War: The Untold Story of The Nation's Battle to Prevent Jihadist Infiltration."

Bensman managed teams of intelligence analysts in the Texas Department of Public Safety's Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division for nine years.

He says in his book that Islamic extremists — and others who are associated with terrorist organizations — cross the U.S. southern border with the help of specialized global smuggling networks.

Bensman says our government has been deploying counterterrorism programs at the southern border and throughout Latin America since 9/11, and they have succeeded in shielding America from the bloodshed Europe has suffered since organized terrorist border infiltrations began there in 2015.

He doesn't know how much longer these programs can stave off Europe's fate without public recognition that they exist, and the care and attention they deserve.

Will Biden support the covert border war, end the border crisis, and do something about the rapidly increasing number of illegal crossers from places other than Mexico and Central American?

I don't think so.

Instead, Biden seems to think he can end the border crisis and secure the border with his "root causes" strategy and a check for \$4 billion.