IMMIGRATIONREPORT



Administration Determined to Break All Records: 3.2 Million People Encountered Illegally Entering the U.S. in FY 2023

Final figures are in for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, and the totals are astonishing. In total, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recorded 3,201,144 encounters along the borders during the fiscal year that ended on September 30. That figure represents an increase of 434,625 over FY 2022 and a *fivefold* increase over FY 2020, the last full year of the Trump administration.

September alone set a new monthly record for illegal entries with 341,392 encounters — eclipsing the previous record set only a month earlier. If that trend were to continue through the new fiscal year, total encounters for FY 2024 would top 4 million. These numbers are the results of open-borders policies that invite everyone in and orders for law enforcement to stand down to make sure they stay.

The stark statistics from FY 2023 speak for themselves:

- 3,201,144 total encounters a new record.
- 2,475,669 encounters at the Southwest border a new record.

- 189,402 encounters at the Northern border a new record.
- 2,063,692 Border Patrol encounters of people crossing between ports of entry.
- 1,137,452 Office of Field Operation encounters of illegal aliens attempting to enter at ports of entry a new record.
- 908,669 illegal aliens released into the U.S. by the Border Patrol including more than 150,000 in September alone.
- 736 encounters of individuals on the terror watchlist
 a new record.
- 1.7 million known 'gotaways' since President Biden came to office, and at least 769,174 during FY 2023.

The administration continues to insist that record levels of illegal immigration are due to causes beyond its control. "Separately, economic, political and climate instability exacerbated in the aftermath of the covid-19 pandemic is fueling the greatest level of global migration since World War II, particularly in our hemi-

Illegal Alien Encounters

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sphere," Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Mayorkas wrote in a national paper.

The DHS head explained that they are working with partners overseas to stem the flow while "expanding lawful pathways for migration and accelerating work permits...." Could it be that the use of "lawful pathways" that have no basis in law or the provision of American jobs to illegal aliens creates an incentive to encourage more to make the attempt? Or could it be because that the overall policies are actually designed to fail?

FAIR is demanding action from Congress to enact major legislation early in 2024 while empowering activists nationwide in furthering their understanding of the causes and remedies needed to stop this misfeasance in Washington undermining our borders and our laws.

FAIR's "Border School" Is Teaching, Reaching and Empowering Law Enforcement, State Legislators, and Activists

Nothing is more powerful than giving people a firsthand look at the border crisis, and FAIR is leading the charge with its hands-on events such as the training we sponsored in McAllen, Texas late September. There, FAIR's State and Local Engagement Department brought together over 100 state legislators, law enforcement officials and FAIR state advisors to

witness the border crisis in person. The goal of our border school was to demonstrate the true causes of the immigration crisis at our southern border and to provide attendees with solutions they can implement in their home states to mitigate its impact.

To help attendees absorb the scope of the crisis, FAIR



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invited numerous senior law enforcement officers to share their expertise. Among those addressing the attendees were Texas Border Czar Mike Banks, Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Victor Escalon, U.S. Border Patrol Deputy Chief for the Rio Grande Valley Sector Alfredo Lozano, and several Texas sheriffs.

After hearing from these experts, FAIR staff provided concrete steps that both legislators and law enforcement officers should undertake in their respective states to discourage illegal immigration. FAIR also provided the legislators with actual bills they can introduce as well as a legislative handbook they can reference as they dive into the issue. Given the administration's outright refusal to control the border and enforce immigration laws under, state and local action is essential. FAIR understood this decades ago and has over the years, developed a robust program to partner with lawmakers around the country in support of legislation that discourages illegal immigration and minimizes the burden of it on local communities.

FAIR also organized tours of high-impact areas along

the border for attendees. Texas Border Volunteers, a group that works in tandem with Border Patrol agents and local law enforcement, showed attendees where and how criminal cartels smuggle and traffick human beings and lethal drugs into the United States and, sadly, how they locate the bodies of those who die along the way.



Participants were also given a firsthand look at the situation along the Rio Grande river, courtesy of the Texas Department of Public Safety, as they patrolled the river onboard the department's boats. From the boats, participants were able to see how and where the cartels are bringing in large numbers of migrants and contraband.

The event was capped off by a press conference along the banks of the Rio Grande, where the lawmakers and law enforcement officers described what they had learned and shared the impact the border crisis is having on their constituents. The press conference received both local and national media coverage.

As one New Hampshire representative summed it the FAIR border school, "It was eye-opening and the future vision was rather scary!" FAIR is fighting to change the future, and we need you to join us in that battle.

FAIR Rallies for Mayorkas Impeachment: Publishes Comprehensive Review of a Record of Betrayal



FAIR is pushing for the removal of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for his complete failure to carry out the purposes for which he was appointed to his position.

For nearly three years, millions of illegal aliens have poured across our borders into cities all across America. Yet, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has steadfastly denied there is any border crisis, all while pointing fingers at others for the staggering collapse in order. There *is* a full-blown crisis at the border, and everyone knows it. Moreover, the responsibility rests squarely with the Biden administration and the policies Mayorkas has implemented at DHS.

What Secretary Mayorkas has done is clever, complex and effective. He has pieced together a variety of policies that allows DHS to parole in millions of aliens who have no prospect of ever being removed. Explaining these illegal policies and revealing how Mayorkas has implemented them has been priority number one for FAIR since his tenure began.

Last month, FAIR published its comprehensive review of Mayorkas' malfeasance that has produced chaos throughout our immigration system. His policies have not only led to historic levels of illegal immigration, they have imposed unsustainable burdens imposed on states, cities, and communities all across the United States. The report dispels any notion that circumstance, bad luck, or a "broken system" are the primary causes of the surge of illegal immigration that began when this administration came to office. Rather, FAIR's thorough examination of the record shows that the historic levels of illegal immigration under President

Biden are the direct and *intentional* result of policies primarily designed by Alejandro Mayorkas. This report is a roadmap for impeachment.

The report looks at seven categories of actions taken by Secretary Mayorkas that have intentionally weakened border and interior immigration enforcement and encouraged millions of people to come to our country illegally. Among these are:

Dismantling Border Security

- On his very first day in office, President Biden canceled construction of the border wall. To ensure that future administrations will not be able to easily resume construction, Mayorkas authorized a fire sale of border wall construction materials already paid for by American taxpayers for pennies on the dollar.
- In October 2021, Mayorkas announced the termination of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), also known as Remain in Mexico. The MPP required migrants to wait in Mexico while awaiting their asylum hearings. MPP took important steps towards decreasing asylum abuse and illegal border crossings. The cancellation resulted in a massive surge of asylum abusers.
- Mayorkas launched the CBP One mobile app that allows illegal aliens to enter through ports of entry disguising the effort as a legal pathway. As recently as August, more than 45,000 illegal aliens using the app were processed through ports of entry and granted work permits.
- Mayorkas initiated an unprecedented abuse of parole authority that, by statute, can only be exercised on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, at least 1.4 million illegal aliens have been granted parole, and he continues to create new categories of foreign nationals who are eligible.

Dismantling Interior Immigration Enforcement

- Mayorkas has publicly declared that mere illegal presence in the United States is not sufficient grounds for removal, even though federal law says it is.
- Accordingly, he issued a series of "guidelines" in 2021 that narrow the scope of illegal aliens who can be targeted for removal to a tiny sliver of the illegal alien population, and limited where immigration enforcement officers can seek and arrest illegal aliens who meet these guidelines.
- Mayorkas resumed catch-and-release policies, preventing officers from detaining and removing illegal aliens. Mayorkas has led an effort to expand various "alternatives to detention" programs that not only grant aliens freedom to roam but to also access community services such as therapy and legal representation.

Other actions taken by Mayorkas, which are addressed in FAIR's report, detail the new benefits and services (paid for by American taxpayers) that the Secretary has made available to illegal aliens, and how he has funneled federal dollars to organizations that aid and abet illegal immigration. The report also looks at the impact of these policies on national security, crime and public safety, and how they affect communities where large numbers of illegal aliens have settled.

Through this report, FAIR exposes Mayorkas' actions for what they are: an intentional assault on the rule of law and our immigration institutions—the very institutions he was appointed to lead. His impeachment and removal is vital to our nation's national security.

You can find our report, entitled *Secretary Mayorkas: Betraying the American People*, on our website, www.fairus.org.

FAIR Alerts Congress to the Rising Terror Threat: Reaches "Whole Other Level" Administration Placing Safety and Security at Risk

In Fiscal Year 2023, record numbers of individuals on the FBI's terror watch list were encountered attempting to enter the United States. Those are just the people we know about. Sources tell us that potential terrorists may not be on the watch list, and at least 1.7 million 'gotaways' have successfully entered the United States since President Biden took office. We must assume some national security risks are among those 1.7 millions who just snuck across.

While FAIR has been sounding the alarm about the deteriorating security situation, only FBI Director Christopher Wray is willing to confirm the risk to Congress in formal hearings. Testifying before the

Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee on November 1, Wray stated: "The reality is that the terrorism threat has been elevated throughout 2023, but the ongoing war in the Middle East has raised the threat of an attack against Americans in the United States to a whole other level," he warned.

FAIR has been pressing for a greater administration response to this heightened terror threat.

That same day as Wray's testimony, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei affirmed that striking against the U.S. is very much on the minds of officials in Tehran.

Rising Terror Threat

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Khamenei.ir 🐶 @khamenei_ir · Nov 1

The Muslim world mustn't forget it was the US, France, & Britain that stood against Islam & the oppressed Palestinians. The Muslim world must realize this isn't just about the Zionist regime & must also consider those countries in their dealings, analyses, & equations.

Khamenei's tweet was only the latest overt threat by Iran and its proxy terrorist groups around the world.

Iran has also been showing extreme interest in nations in our hemisphere, particularly those that have been sending large numbers of migrants to the United States over the past few years. In June, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi paid a visit to three Latin American Marxist dictatorships: Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela — not coincidentally three out of the four nations for which the Biden administration had recently established illegal parole programs. (They continue to add others.) Particularly concerning, the Maduro regime in Venezuela has been issuing Venezuelan passports to Syrian and Lebanese nationals since 2017, while the Biden administration's policy is to honor all Venezuelan passports for the purposes of parole, even those that are expired.

Given the seriousness of the threats to our homeland security, we are pressing the Secretary of Homeland Security to direct the agencies under his command to seal our borders and make a full-scale effort to locate potential terror threats who have already made it into the United States. That did not seem to be the case when Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas testified before the same Senate committee one day before Director Wray. (Here at FAIR, we have now coined a non-responsive answer as "a Mayorkas response.")

When asked point-blank by Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), "Approximately how many illegal aliens in this country or here on asylum have direct ties to Hamas, to Hezbollah, to the Islamic Jihad or the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran?", Mayorkas could not provide even a vague estimate. In fact, in typical Mayorkas fashion, his reply to the very serious question posed by the senator was "mystery meat and a lot of baloney": "Senator Marshall, let me assure you that individuals that pose a risk to our national security are our highest enforcement priority, the safety and security of the American public."

Sen. Marshall was not reassured by that reply and neither are we as we face the most serious threats to our homeland since 9/11. FAIR will continue to sound the alarm in the Halls of Congress and coordinate with law enforcement as the security situation continues to threaten communities nationwide.

Biden Wants "Border Security" Money: FAIR Exposes the Truth about His Plans

In the aftermath of Hamas' brutal attack on Israel in October, President Biden sent an "urgent budget request" to Congress seeking additional aid for Israel and Ukraine. Included in that request was \$13.6

billion that the President said would be used to secure America's own borders, particularly as Hamas and their paymasters in Tehran issued threats against the United States and other Western nations. November 2023



FAIR quickly drilled down into the particulars of the request, and now we have exposed the fact that most of that additional money would just be used to fund his "rapid processing and release" program that has attracted millions to the borders and wreaked havoc on American cities nationwide. FAIR's analysis, which received widespread attention in Congress, found as follows.

With only a few exceptions, the request would direct more money to agencies that process and release illegal aliens. Rather than combat illegal immigration, the funds are intended to speed up the process of delivering immigration benefits (such as work authorization), and to use taxpayer dollars to support sanctuary cities that aid and abet illegal immigration. The request also seeks to give the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) money to provide shelter and services to illegal aliens who are released into the U.S.

Of the \$13.6 billion requested, nearly \$5 billion was designated for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – not to install physical barriers or stop the flow – but rather to help process and transport illegal aliens along the southern border. Most of the funding would be funneled to nonprofit organizations that provide shelter and services to illegal aliens.

It didn't stop there. The president requested \$2.54 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hire criminal investigators, attorneys and support staff. The request noted that some of the \$2.54 billion (though the amount is not specified) is designed to support "immigration enforcement, detention, transportation, and removal." The request is laughable given that since day one, the Biden administration has

directed ICE to release illegal aliens and refuses to allow officers to apprehend or detain them. In effect, no one goes home.

The budget request also asks for \$755 million for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), an agency that has historically been funded by those seeking immigration benefits. This funding was sought for the purpose of hiring more staff to process asylum applications and other immigration benefits (such as parole). It would also go to processing work permits faster for the millions of illegal aliens who have crossed into the U.S.

The only meaningful part of President Biden's budget request was \$1.42 billion designated for the immigration courts, and more specifically to hire 375 additional immigration judges and related staff. The irony, of course, is that the courts would not be overwhelmed, and their backlog would not be measured by years if the Biden administration hadn't thrown open the borders and swamped our immigration institutions with its policies. Even if given funds for the courts, the Biden policies to delay cases, administrative close or dismiss cases would continue, diminishing the integrity of the system.

When President Obama was in office, we often heard the claim, "Never let a serious crisis go to waste." Clearly, President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas took this maxim to heart, attempting to leverage two serious international crises to further policies that accelerate the national security threats along our borders. FAIR is working to reprogram this money to serve a proper purpose: legitimate immigration and border enforcement.

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Charity Navigator has awarded FAIR four out of a possible four stars. In addition, FAIR continues its top-rated status with Charity Watch. FAIR has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of our peers in our efforts to manage and grow our finances in the most fiscally responsible way possible.



Support FAIR in the 2023 Combined Federal Campaign!

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) allows Federal employees from all over the country to easily make a tax-deductible donation by payroll deduction, credit card, check or cash.

The fight against illegal immigration and out-of-control immigration policies is a joint effort and one we would not be able to do without your generous support.

The Immigration problems we face in the U.S. have never been bigger. Your contribution to FAIR is needed now more than ever. The CFC is the largest workplace giving campaign in the world and an opportunity for you to join with other likeminded Americans to have a major impact on immigration reform.

Choose FAIR (#11696) in the 2023 Combined Federal Campaign. Not a Federal employee? Feel free to pass FAIR's CFC number along to your friends and colleagues who are Federal employees.

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