

➤ *Customs and Border Protection “Nationwide Encounters”*

I wrote in Addenda #65, October 2024, “According to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) website, since January 2021, border agents recorded 10.457 million “encounters” with migrants attempting to cross into the U.S. illegally. These are just the *known* encounters. The true number of immigrants attempting to cross into the U.S. can only be guessed at.

What *is* known, is that in the first four months of Fiscal Year 2021, *before* Joe Biden took office, monthly encounters averaged less than 92,000. In February 2021, nationwide encounters spiked to more than 115,500 and continued to increase to a high of 370,883 in December 2023.

In Addenda #72 (January 2025) I wrote about President Trump signing an executive order invoking the National Emergencies Act and declaring that a national emergency exists at the southern border. the “enforcement actions” Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was taking in cities around the United States. The President also authorized ICE to begin rounding up and deporting illegal immigrants with criminal records.

ICE Arrests in First 50 Days of Trump Administration

Department of Homeland Security, Release Date: March 13, 2025

WASHINGTON – In the first 50 days of the Trump Administration, Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) has made 32,809 enforcement arrests. To put this figure into perspective, in the entire fiscal year 2024, ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations made 33,242 of these at-large arrests.

As of Tuesday, ICE has officially made more at-large arrests in the first few weeks of President Trump’s presidency than the entire last year under the previous administration.

Of the illegal aliens we’ve arrested in the past 50 days:

- *14,111—nearly half—were convicted criminals.*
- *9,980—About a third— have pending criminal charges.*

So, ICE made 32,809 arrests, 24,091 were convicted criminals or had been arrested for criminal offenses which have yet to be decided through the judicial system. Included in the numbers arrested by ICE are 1,155 suspected gang members and 44 foreign fugitives. One of the gang members arrested was David Alejandro Orellana-Aleman, a 27-year-old Salvadorian national, a high-ranking leader of the MS-13 transnational terrorist organization, who controlled the operation of MS-13 groups in the U.S., Mexico and Europe. Orellana-Aleman, who has pending charges for possession of a firearm, extortion and terrorist affiliation, entered the U.S. illegally (of course, criminals don’t obey laws!) on an unknown date.

"We ended catch [and] release, and we have returned ICE to its core mission, which is arresting people who violate our immigration law," said acting ICE Director Todd Lyons. "Secretary Noem and I are changing the culture of ICE to one of action and accountability."

In a letter sent to Congress in September 2024, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Deputy Director Patrick Lechleitner stated that 662,566 illegal immigrants with criminal histories, including more than 13,000 immigrants convicted of homicide — either in the United States or abroad — are living outside of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention. This includes thousands of gang members, including members of MS-13 and Tren de Aragua. Translation, they are living among us in the United States.

* The number of “nationwide encounters” reported by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials fell from 142,763 to 124,990 following the November election, and illegal border crossings fell almost 18%, from 56,523 to 46,615.

* After Donald Trump’s inauguration and executive order was issued, the numbers dropped to 81,528 encounters and 29,101 illegal crossings for the month of January.

* After ICE enforcement and removal operations began in earnest, the numbers dropped to 28,654 encounters and to 8,347 illegal crossings for the month of February.

* As removal operations continued, and ICE began weekly deportation flights to Central and South American countries, the numbers continued to drop to 29,065 encounters and 7,000 illegal border crossings for the month of March.

In contrast, over the five months following the November 2020 election, encounters surged from 90,000 per month to 192,000 by March 2021 in response to President Bidens open border policies, which included the policy of “catch and release” of illegal immigrants.

“... We heard the sheriff say it, the governor say it and the migrants I spoke to say it... They are coming across because they believe they will be welcomed under the Biden administration. You said yourself three weeks ago we're not saying don't come, we're saying don't come now...”

“Martha good morning. The message is quite clear, do not come. The border is closed, the border is secure.”

ABC’s *This Week* co-anchor Martha Raddatz interviewed Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas exactly two months after Joe Biden took the oath of office as president in January 2021. Encounters at all U.S. borders surged after his inauguration and continued increasing over the next 32 months. In December 2023, there were 370,883 encounters at all U.S. borders, an increase of 300% from the month *before* Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas began to direct immigration policy. Between 2022 and 2024, 3.845 million non-citizens were released into the United States on their own recognizance with a “notice to appear” at a later date, or through the administrations “humanitarian release” program. More migrants were apprehended trying to cross the United States-Mexico border in 2023 than in any year since 1960.

Apparently, the message was not clear, and the border was not closed!

Ref: U.S. Customs and Border Protection website; Stats and Summaries – Custody and Transfer Statistics

On December 18, 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents ‘encountered’ more than 12,500 immigrants at the southern border, the highest number of encounters on record for a single day. CBP agents in Eagle Pass, Texas encountered more than 4,000 immigrants that same day and the following morning more than 3,000 were waiting along the border to be processed into the United States.

In fiscal year 2023, U.S. CBP reported 3.201 border encounters ‘nationwide’, 2.061 million of those encountered were “unaccompanied adults.” Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents could not do the job they were tasked to do; to safeguard the border and to protect the American people. They had no time to investigate and evaluate thousands of immigrants at that time, to see if they were risks to public health, public safety or national security. All they could do was to process them and give them a date to appear before an immigration court judge.

In January 2024, President Biden stated to reporters, “I’ve done all I can do to secure the border...”

In November 2024, candidate Donald Trump promised to close the US-Mexican border.

March numbers show most secure border in history - operational control is becoming a reality

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Press Release, April 1, 2025

The month of March recorded the lowest southwest border crossings in history, marking a pivotal achievement in our nation’s border security efforts. This milestone demonstrates that operational control is becoming a reality — which seemed impossible just a few months ago under the Biden administration — as enforcement measures continue to yield significant results.

In March, the Border Patrol data shows that around 7,180 southwest border crossings were recorded, a dramatic drop compared to the monthly average of 155,000 from the previous four years. Daily southwest border apprehensions have also fallen to around 230 per day—a 95% drop from the previous administration’s average daily encounters of 5,100 per day.

"Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, the administration has taken bold, decisive action to restore control at the border. Border Patrol agents are empowered like never before to shut down unlawful entry and protect American lives," said Acting Commissioner Pete Flores. "The message is clear: the border is closed to illegal crossings, and for those still willing to test our resolve, know this — you will be prosecuted, and you will be deported."

* In March 2021, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas stated: “*The border is closed, the border is secure.*” Over the next forty-six months, nationwide border encounters averaged 230,995 per month.

* In March 2025, under Homeland Security Director Kristi Noem, the message delivered was, “the border is closed to illegal crossings.” In the first two months of the Trump administration, nationwide border encounters averaged 28,860 per month.

* In January 2024, President Biden said, “Just give me the power. Give me the border patrol. Give me the people. The judges. Give me the people who can stop this and make it work right”

* In January 2025, President Trump again declared a “National Emergency” at the southern border and ordered the U.S. military and National Guard to deploy “as many units or members of the Armed Forces, including the Ready Reserve and the National Guard, as the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate to support the activities of the Secretary of Homeland Security in obtaining complete operational control of the southern border of the United States.”

* In January 2021, President Biden froze all money appropriated for border wall construction projects by the Trump administration. The White House announced this decision saying, “Today’s action reflects this Administration’s continued commitment to defending our nation and supporting our service members and their families”

* In 2023, the Biden administration sued the state of Texas over installation of floating barriers in the Rio Grande river to prevent immigrant crossings, and to stop the installation of razor wire placed along the Texas – Mexican border. The Biden administration also proceeded to sell millions of dollars of unused parts previously purchased for construction of the border wall saying, “a border wall is not a serious immigration solution.”

* In January 2025, President Trump authorized the construction of “additional physical barriers along the southern border.”

* One president gave “lip service” to securing the southern border and protecting U.S. citizens, while actively promoting illegal immigration and permitted the *Great Replacement* “conspiracy theory to become reality.

* One president took measures necessary to halt illegal immigration and begin the process of removing criminal illegal immigrants from the United States before they can harm any more Americans.

Addenda #65 (October 2024) Update Part 2 – April 2025
Re: Ch. 17, S.D.G. Enforcement by Global Organizations
SDG 10.7 – U.N. Migration Policies

When Biden's successor, President-elect Donald Trump, takes office on Jan. 20, he will be inheriting a quiet border.

npr, January 18, 2025

Interesting choice of words by the NPR, it almost sounds like they're trying to give Joe Biden credit for reducing illegal immigration. Of course, NPR is rated as having a left-center bias, so this is not all that surprising. But the border was not quiet as journalist Jasmine Garsd would like people to believe, as there were 124,552 nationwide encounters during the previous month. Yes, that may be lower than the record high of December 2023, but still almost 32,000 more encounters than the month before Joe Biden took office in 2021. The Biden administration only began to crack down on illegal immigration at the beginning 2024, because of the unrelenting pressure from Democrat 'sanctuary city' mayors crying for relief and Democrat candidates running for office in November who were seeing their chances of being elected being diminished by the immigration issue. Joe Biden was also facing reelection in November 2024, and polling in January had the race "too close to call", with 42% of Americans listing illegal immigration as an issue of importance.

While Democrat politicians in key races were shifting to the right on illegal immigration, Democrat voters weren't changing their views. A June 2024 Pew Research poll found that 85% of Biden supporters felt that undocumented [illegal] immigrants should be allowed to remain in the U.S. and 83% were against deportation. Just two weeks before the election, only 15% of Democrat voters rated illegal immigration a top three electoral issue. After Trump was reelected and authorized ICE raids and deportations of criminal illegals, there was a nationwide outcry from Democrat politicians, the liberal media and Democrat voters. (Ref: Addenda #72 – January 2025)

The Alien Criminal Apprehension Program (ACAP) was established in 1986 by the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, with its primary purpose being the identification and removal of criminal aliens. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, formed after the 9-11 terror attacks, took control over the responsibility for securing U.S. borders and enforcing immigration law and ACAP was renamed the Criminal Alien Program (CAP). President Obama actually holds the record for most deportations and is known as the "Deporter in Chief." During his eight years in office, ICE removed 3.1 million illegal immigrants. Donald Trump removed 1.2 million during his four years in office.

Joe Biden removed just 682,000 during his four years, most of those coming during his final year in office. Biden was following the wishes of his voters and those who controlled White House policy under his administration, working hard to fulfill the "blueprint for change" or *the Great Replacement*. (Ref: Addenda #46 Update – April 2025)

The work of continuing deportation of criminal illegal immigrants began during Donald Trump's first term, was immediately taken up with his return to office in January 2025. Through March 13, 2025, Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) has made 32,809 enforcement arrests, including 24,091 who had been convicted of crimes or had been arrested for criminal offenses which have yet to be decided through the judicial system. Included in the numbers arrested by ICE were 1,155 suspected gang members.

More Foreign Gang Terrorists Deported Out of America

Press Statement; Marco Rubio, Secretary of State, March 31, 2025

Last night, in a successful counter-terrorism operation with our allies in El Salvador, the United States military transferred a group of 17 violent criminals from the Tren de Aragua and MS-13 organizations, including murderers and rapists.

Task force nabs more than 40 people with alleged ties to Tren de Aragua in Hays County

Austin-American-Statesman, April 2, 2025

A task force of federal, state and local authorities has arrested more than 40 people in Hays County who are accused of being members of the notorious Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua... Known by the acronym TdA, the gang has been implicated in crimes such as human smuggling, human trafficking of immigrant women and girls, extortion and drug trafficking.

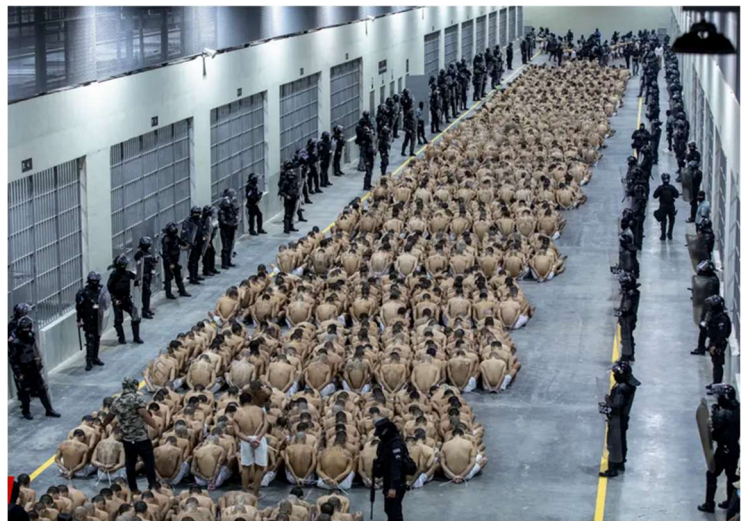
"We ended catch [and] release, and we have returned ICE to its core mission, which is arresting people who violate our immigration law," said acting ICE Director Todd Lyons. "Secretary Noem and I are changing the culture of ICE to one of action and accountability."

First 250+ migrant gang members from US arrive in El Salvador — where they'll be held in a notorious mega-prison

Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT), El Salvador.

250 suspected Tren de Aragua and MS-13 gang members, including two ringleaders, were shipped from the US to CECOT by President Trump earlier this month.

The MS-13 motto is "kill, rape, control"



Since Donald Trump returned to office, ICE and CBP have made 113,000 arrests and have deported more than 100,000 illegal immigrants according to the Department of Homeland Security. While liberals stage demonstrations across the nation to protest Trump's "racist attacks on immigrants", the numbers provided by Homeland Security tell the true story of who is being "targeted" in these raids: people who have broken the law and entered the U.S. illegally, including illegals with criminal records.

Amid Trump crackdown, illegal border crossings plunge to levels not seen in decades
CBS News; March 3, 2025

The number of migrants crossing the U.S. southern border illegally in President Trump's first full month in office plunged to a level not seen in at least 25 years, according to preliminary government data obtained by CBS News.

Last month, Border Patrol recorded about 8,450 apprehensions of migrants who crossed into the country unlawfully between official entry points along the U.S.-Mexico border, the statistics show. On some days during a record spike in illegal crossings under the Biden administration, Border Patrol recorded more than 8,000 apprehensions in a single day.

But the liberal news media immediately took issue with the numbers reported by ICE.

New Immigration and Customs Enforcement data shows administration isn't just arresting criminals

NBC News, February 19, 2025

ICE is making more arrests, but critics say some claims don't add up
npr; March 1, 2025

While news outlets reported on “criminal arrests” made, they emphasized the numbers of “collateral arrests”, nonviolent offenders or people who have not committed any criminal offense other than crossing the border illegally. U.S. Immigration law states illegal entry into the U.S. is a “civil penalty” as opposed to a “criminal entry.” Because the Trump administration said they were going to focus on removing criminal illegals first, the liberal media accused them of “targeting” law-abiding migrants and those with permits to stay in the United States. We’re really “splitting hairs” here, because if these illegal immigrants are “law abiding”, they wouldn’t have broken our immigration laws and snuck across the border in the first place.

Democrats in Congress are more interested in protecting the rights of non-citizens, including those with criminal records who entered the U.S. illegally, than they are in protecting the rights and safety of legal U.S. citizens. Democrat cities have passed ordinances to protect illegal immigrants from “mass deportations”, giving rights to and prioritizing illegal immigrants over their taxpaying constituents. The liberal press cries how mass deportation will “tear families apart” and make communities “less safe.”

Progressive left-wing Democrat Congresswoman and “Squad” member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez hosted a webinar in February 2025 explaining the tactics Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities have been using in New York to arrest illegal immigrants. Her office, and by default, Ocasio-Cortez herself, called ICE raids “political tactics intended to create fear” and gave tips on how to evade arrest. Fellow Squad member Ayanna Pressley called ICE raids “scare tactics, fear, and division, causing harm and terrorizing elders, children, and families in our community.” When Congress voted on the Laken Riley Act in January, fellow Squad member Pramila Jayapal claimed, “In reality, all this bill does is

promote racial profiling and take away due process from those who have been falsely accused or arrested for minor crimes like theft.” New York governor Kathy Hochul stated she has no intentions to “allow” Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to “just take people off the streets.”

Note: 8 U.S.C. § 1324 explicitly prohibits the transportation and harboring of undocumented immigrants. “Harboring” refers to providing shelter or assistance, thereby aiming to deter activities that undermine the integrity of U.S. immigration policy. This statute of the U.S. Code criminalizes actions taken knowingly to assist illegal entry or provide shelter to individuals lacking legal status. Violators face severe penalties, including significant fines and possible imprisonment, depending on the nature of the offense.

Migrant encounters, drug seizures decline along US-Mexico border, CBP data shows
El Paso Times; March 3, 2025

The encounter levels are at near historic lows as migrants have been blocked from seeking asylum in the U.S. by President Donald Trump... “We have never seen numbers this low,” Adam Isacson, a national security expert at the Washington Office on Latin America, said. “The last time it was close to this low was the first few months of Trump’s first term.”

“There is a 22% less fentanyl seizures in the first four months of this fiscal year when compared to the first four months of fiscal year 2024,” Isacson said. “And overdoses are declining.”

In 2022, 112,582 Americans died as a result of drug overdoses. That number dropped to 110,037 in 2023 and 87,000 for the 12 months ending September 2024. Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are responsible for approximately 70% of lives lost. Methamphetamine and other synthetic stimulants are responsible for approximately 30% of deaths. The majority of illegal drugs causing these overdoses cross the southern border from Mexico into the United States.

Despite the good news that fewer Americans are dying from overdoses of drugs crossing the southern border due to U.S. and Mexican joint crackdowns on immigration, criminal illegals and drug trafficking, Hollywood progressives joined the fake outrage act. Mia Farrow took to social media to protest the president’s deportation flight of gang members to El Salvador saying, “We have no idea who was sent to that nightmare prison in El Salvador. They were denied a hearing... Lock *him* up.” Other “useful idiots” in Southern California blocked all lanes of U.S. 101 in protest of deportations, causing traffic to back up on the freeway and on downtown surface streets. Other demonstrations were held in cities across the U.S., and businesses closed their doors for “A Day Without Immigrants,” to protest the president’s mass deportation plans and “other attacks on migrants.”

Border Safe Houses See Fewer Trafficking Victims amid Trump Immigration Crackdown
National Review, March 30, 2025

At her safe houses in northwest Mexico, Alma Tucker has seen first-hand the horrors of human trafficking — the teen girls forced to have sex with their smugglers, the victimized boys who suffer in silence, the young migrants made to serve as drug mules.

Tucker's nonprofit, the San Diego-based International Network of Hearts, provides shelter and care for young victims of human trafficking, particularly in Mexico's Baja California region. There was no shortage of victims amid the Biden administration's border chaos.

But things have slowed drastically in recent months, particularly after President Donald Trump resumed office in January... Amid Trump's border crackdown, illegal crossings have plummeted — U.S. Border Patrol agents reported just over 8,300 apprehensions of unlawful border crossers in February, fewer than 300 per day, the lowest number in decades. By comparison, Border Patrol agents stopped at least 130,000 illegal border crossers every February in 2022, 2023, and 2024, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data.

During the Biden administration, the 22 beds at Tucker's three safe houses were typically filled with young victims, including kids that traffickers used as props to get adults across the border. In addition to food and shelter, the children they serve receive health care, mental-health therapy, and religious instruction, if they want it, Tucker said.

Under Trump, she said, about half of their shelter beds are empty on a typical night... "Definitely it is better to contain the borders, mainly because organized crime is using these people," Tucker told National Review. "That's my concern, that organized crime is using the need, the desperation of the people trying come for a better life to this country."

Andi Buerger, a sex-trafficking survivor and founder of Voices Against Trafficking, an anti-trafficking information hub, agreed that the slowdown at the border is a positive step.

Progressive Democrats are supposed to be the champions of women and children. Yet in May 2024, Senate Democrats blocked an attempt to pass the *End Child Trafficking Now* bill, sponsored by Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn. The legislation would require DNA testing to determine the relationship between illegal immigrants coming across the border and any accompanying children. Joe Biden ended the Trump administration's policy of "familial DNA testing" in May 2023. During the period this testing was in force, as many as 30% of children tested were found *not* to be related to the illegal immigrants posing as family members. "The Biden administration's decision to halt all DNA familial testing is a grave misstep that not only puts the safety of Americans at risk but also increases the number of migrant children being trafficked" said Senator Blackburn.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/223716/dna-tests-reveal-30-of-suspected-fraudulent-migrant-families-were-unrelated/>

On January 3, 2025, Republicans introduced House Resolution #22 (H.R. 22) for consideration. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act would require proof of American citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office. The SAVE Act passed the House of Representatives on a partisan vote on April 10th, with 216 Republicans voting Yea and 208 Democrats voting Nay. Only four Democrats voted with the Republicans while 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat declined to vote altogether. This follows a similar vote on the Laken Riley Act in January 2025, in which 159 Democrats voted against the bill which required the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to detain illegal immigrants who have admitted to, been charged with, or convicted of theft-related crimes, assault on a law enforcement officer, or any crime resulting in death or serious bodily injury. (Ref: Addenda #65 Update – January 2025)

But of course, Democrats never really cared about the rights or the safety of the legal American citizens anyway and they especially don't want people to have to show proof of citizenship for *any* elections in this country. That was proven by how hard New York City Democrats fought for legislation they passed in 2021, allowing non-citizen but "legal city residents" to vote in municipal elections. (Ref: Addenda #46 Update – March 2025)

Feds charge Mass. judge with obstruction for aiding undocumented immigrant's escape from ICE

USA Today, April 26, 2019

Federal prosecutors charged a Massachusetts judge with obstruction of justice Thursday, saying she prevented immigration agents from arresting an undocumented immigrant after a state court hearing by allowing him to leave the courthouse through a back door.

District Judge Shelley Richmond Joseph and a court officer, Wesley MacGregor, were charged with allowing the immigrant to leave the courthouse, out of a federal agent's sight, and lying about it later. Jose Medina-Perez, a Dominican national, previously deported from the U.S. in 2003 and 2007, was in court on drug and outstanding warrant charges, when District Judge Joseph allowed Medina-Perez to leave her courtroom through a back door out of the building with MacGregor using his access card to release him out the back door.

Democrat Judge RESIGNS After Federal Agents Arrest Illegal Gang Member With Gun At His Home

Right Edition, April 20, 2025

A longtime Democrat Magistrate Judge in New Mexico suddenly resigned after federal agents arrested a suspected illegal gang member at his home. Joel Cano, who served as judge in Doña Ana County since 2011, turned in his resignation letter just days after federal law enforcement raided his residence and arrested 23-year-old Cristhian Ortega-Lopez.

Cristhian Ortega-Lopez, a Venezuelan national was apprehended by U.S. CBP agents in December 2023 and released due to overcrowding in detention facilities. Cano and his wife allowed Ortega-Lopez to live in a small structure behind their home. An anonymous tip led agents to the home to arrest the reported Tren de Aragua gang member who was found in possession of multiple firearms. Photos from Ortega-Lopez's social media account show him socializing with the couple and passing a long rifle to both Judge Cano and his wife.

Feds bust Wisconsin judge for allegedly helping illegal migrant accused of punching victim 30 times evade ICE agents

New York Post, April 25, 2025

A veteran Wisconsin judge was arrested Friday on charges of helping a Mexican illegal migrant evade Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in her courtroom.

Judge Hannah Dugan, who has been on the Milwaukee County bench for nearly a decade, is accused of obstruction of justice and concealing Eduardo Flores-Ruiz from arrest following a pre-trial hearing last week.

Flores-Ruiz, a Mexican national who was in the U.S. illegally, was in court facing battery charges stemming from a fight the previous month in which he was accused of punching another person 30 times after being accused of playing music too loudly.

When ICE agents showed up to take Flores-Ruiz into custody, Judge Dugan left the bench to angrily confront the agents in the hallway outside her courtroom after hearing they had a warrant for his arrest. After demanding the agents leave the building, Dugan returned to the courtroom and escorted Flores-Ruiz out a back door exit from the building. Flores-Ruiz was apprehended by agents after a brief chase on foot.

Three Democrat judges who took an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States, obstructed justice in favor of harboring or aiding the escape of illegal immigrants. Predictably, numerous Democrat politicians came to their defense, accusing the law enforcement of “attacking the judicial system”, “threatening the rule of law” and “weaponizing federal law enforcement.”

Oscar Eduardo Ortega-Anguiano was a Mexican national twice deported from the U.S., with multiple felony charges on his record as well as several convictions for driving without a license, before being involved in an accident in November 2021. Ortega-Anguiano was driving drunk, high, and speeding at nearly 100mph on the 405 freeway in Orange County when he crashed into a car being driven by a young couple, 19-year-olds Anya Varfolomeev and Nicholay Osokin, killing them both as they burned alive. In spring 2022, he was convicted of two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, and he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. On Easter Sunday 2025, a California parole board notified the parents that they had granted early release to Ortega-Anguiano after serving just three years of his ten-year sentence. ICE immediately issued a detainer with the California Department of Corrections upon his release, but the state’s sanctuary laws often result in noncompliance with ICE detainers.

Then, there is the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a citizen of El Salvador who immigrated legally to the U.S. in 2011 to escape “gang threats.” An immigration judge granted “withholding of removal” status to Garcia in 2019, allowing him to live and work legally in the U.S. At that hearing, Abrego Garcia was accused of being an MS-13 gang member by Prince George’s County Police. In 2021, Garcia’s wife filed an order of protection against him alleging that he had physically attacked her on multiple occasions. Then in 2022, Garcia was stopped by the Tennessee Highway Patrol for speeding and veering out of his lane. The vehicle contained eight other individuals, none of which had any luggage, but all told the officer they were travelling from Texas to Garcias home in Maryland leading the patrolman to suspect this was a human trafficking incident. When asked what relationship he had with the registered owner of the vehicle, Abrego Garcia replied that the owner of the vehicle is his boss, and that he worked in construction. Abrego Garcia was given a citation for driving with an expired license and allowed to go.

In April 2025, Abrego Garcia was deported to El Salvador due to an administrative error. A lawsuit filed by Garcias wife resulted in a judge issuing an order to bring Garcia back to the U.S. The Supreme Court subsequently ruled that the district court order was unlawful and the Trump administration cannot be ordered to bring him back to the U.S. However, the Court did rule that the Trump administration violated the 2019 withholding of removal order and directed the administration to “facilitate” Garcias return to the U.S. It did not order the administration to do so, and the El Salvador government has said they have no intention of sending Garcia back. The Department of Homeland Security has repeatedly maintained that Abrego Garcia is an MS-13 gang member, sharing records to back up their claim.

Five Democrat members of Congress have traveled to El Salvador in the past several weeks, demanding the return of Abrego Garcia to the U.S. Lawmakers sent a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio "demanding daily proof of life" for Abrego Garcia, that he has access to counsel and that he is returned back to the U.S.

Democrats showed no interest, however, in the rights of Aiden Clark, Elmer Nahum Miranda-Martinez, Melissa Powell, Riordan Powell, Jeremy Poou Caceres, Denisse Oleas-Arancibia, Ruby Garcia, Jocelyn Nungaray, Patricia Portillo, Brayan Alexis Godoy, Fraime Ubaldo, Marangely Moreno-Santiago, Evangeline Ubaldo-Moreno, Sebastian Ubaldo-Moreno, Rachel Morin, Laken Riley and hundreds of others who have been murdered or killed by illegal immigrants over the past decade.

ICE arrests Guatemalan alien charged with girlfriend's murder; uncle, an illegal alien, charged with accessory

April 22, 2025 - Keycy Robinson Alexis Barrera-Rosa, a 23-year-old Guatemalan national in the U.S. illegally, was arrested for the murder of his girlfriend.

Illegal migrants with long rap sheets arrested in LA murder of family man who tried to stop catalytic converter theft

February 25, 2025 – Two illegal immigrants killed a “good Samaritan” who was trying to stop them from stealing his neighbor’s catalytic converter. Wilber Alberto Rabanales, a Guatemalan national, has been arrested at least 15 times in the last few years in the county, predominantly on gun charges, grand theft, burglary and drug charges. Jose Christian Saravia Sanchez has been arrested at least a dozen times, mostly for grand theft, gun charges, drugs, burglary, kidnapping, possession of meth and possession of burglary tools. Inglewood resident Juan Miguel Sanchez, 48, left behind a wife and two sons.

Alleged illegal migrant dad accused of beating baby to death: 'He did not respect or want that baby'

March 13, 2025 - Marlon Rabanales-Pretzantzin, a 20 year old Guatemalan national who crossed the border illegally in 2022, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder in the death of his infant daughter. Police said the child had abrasions and broken bones, including a fractured vertebrae in the neck.

Addenda #63 (September 2024) Update – April 2025

Re: Ch. 8, 050 Net-Zero Emissions; Impossible!

SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

In Addenda 63, September 2024, I wrote about the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) permitting process for granting siting permits for the large-scale renewable energy projects that would be required to satisfy the renewable energy mandates in the *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act* (CLCPA) of 2019. I noted that New Yorks progress on renewable energy was not on track to meet the CLCPA goals for emissions or renewable energy generation sources and as a result, Governor Hochul changed the rules of the game to speed up the review and permitting process.

The 2025 state budget included a proposal called the *Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment Act* (RAPID), which transferred authority for granting permits for large-scale renewable projects from local towns to state agencies which are aligned with the governor’s climate policies. The state has committed to an emission-free electric grid by 2040 and 70% renewable sourced electricity generation by 2030.

RAPID ACT: Bill streamlining transmission line buildout leaves rural NY uneasy
CBS 6 Albany NY, April 18, 2024

New York lawmakers have begun passing parts of the state’s late budget, but one bill included in the final deal is leaving some rural communities on edge.

The RAPID Act... will streamline the approval process for transmission lines to connect renewable energy sources to the grid.

But many in rural communities, where renewable energy projects are mostly being built, want state lawmakers to pump the brakes on the RAPID Act.

They fear the measure gives the state the power to override local laws.

Local governments were right to fear the results of the RAPID Act.

Onondaga County’s first wind farm stirs controversy: Who has power over giant turbines?
syracuse.com; May 4, 2025

Tully, NY – An out-of-state company wants to build Onondaga County’s first wind farm, putting about two dozen turbines taller than the Washington Monument across the hills of Tully, Lafayette and Otisco.

Palmer Capital, a Boston based renewable energy developer, submitted plans for the project to the Department of Public Service for a siting permit at the beginning of April, and is actively working to secure leases with landowners for use of their properties for the turbines and transmission lines. The project is all but assured to sail through the state’s new “expedited review process” and be granted approval by the Democrat led Public Service Commission. Since taking over siting approvals in 2024, the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) has approved two wind applications and denied none statewide.

The wind farm, dubbed *Maple Harvest*, will generate about 150 megawatts when operational, enough to power “about 58,000 homes” according to the developer. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) published a resource document for developers of wind projects titled, *New York Wind Energy Guide for Local Decision Makers: Wind Energy Basics*. In this publication, NYSERDA notes the following fact: “Because wind is a variable resource with changing speeds, power production levels can vary... Capacity factors of wind plants may vary from 20% to 50% depending on the turbine type, location, and wind regime.”

Wind turbines have a nameplate, or rated capacity, the amount of electricity the turbine could produce if it ran 100% of the time at optimal wind speeds. If the 25 turbines at the *Maple Harvest* wind farm operate at the best possible capacity factor of 50%, they will provide only 75 MW of electricity generation, enough to power about 29,000 homes. Not quite what the developer is promoting. In addition to over inflated power generation, this wind farm installation has other factors to consider.

Another factor is the size and weight of the wind turbine base. The GE Vernova 6 MW wind turbine has three 264 foot long carbon fiber reinforced blades, with a rotor diameter of 538 feet and a “hub height” of 545 feet from the ground to the middle of the rotor. A wind turbine of this height and blade size would require large concrete foundations up to 60 feet thick, 250 feet or more in diameter, containing as much as 900 cubic yards of concrete.

Landowners complain that the 600-foot high wind turbines will be located literally in their back yards, towering over their homes. The reasons being cited for the protest are mudslides and water. Tully Valley was the site of a large mudslide in 1993, which destroyed several homes and covered a 1,500 foot section of Tully Farms Road with mud up to 15 feet deep. Three homes were destroyed and three people had to be rescued by helicopter, but fortunately there were no serious injuries or fatalities. It took several months to clear and repair the road.

That year’s record snowfall, subsequent snow melt and rainy spring weather plus the unique geological conditions led to the event, according to William Kappel, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, who examined the scene. A layer of clay sits below soil and gravel on the mountain's slope, and when the soil became saturated with water, the extra weight caused the clay to squirt out and flow down the mountain in a matter of seconds. A forty-foot deep crater was left in the side of the mountain at the top of the mudslide. Homeowners are concerned that four giant wind turbines which will be built on top of the same mountain, a known landslide zone, and other mountains in the surrounding areas. “... add rain and snow-packed runoff and vibration and that aggravates and increases the probability of landslides,” one neighbor said.

A 900 cubic yard reinforced concrete base would weigh more than 40 tons, constructed on top of a known landslide zone.

The last factor to consider ironically, is the canceling effect of zero emission “green energy” produced by the Maple Harvest wind farm against the concrete used in the bases of the 25 wind turbines. Cement in concrete continues to “cure” over its lifetime, generating a lot of CO₂, exactly what renewable energy sources are promoted as preventing! In fact, cement is the source of about 8% of the world’s CO₂ emissions according to a 2018 study.

Even as the developer is signing leases with landowners for use of their properties for the turbines and transmission lines, other residents and town leaders are mobilizing to fight the project. But they are fighting a battle they can never win thanks to Governor Hochul’s RAPID Act. As Marguerite Wells, the executive director of the Alliance for Clean Energy noted, “There has to be a reason other than ‘we don’t like it’ and ‘can’t you put it somewhere else.’” Governor Hochul’s executive actions have severely impacted the rights of landowners and communities in favor of pursuing unachievable climate goals. Twenty-three contracts were awarded in December 2024 alone, for large-scale renewable energy projects across New York state, including four in Central New York (Cayuga and Oswego counties) and five in the Finger Lakes region.

The final question asked is: What will happen at the end of the project’s lifespan? This is addressed on the Maple Harvest Wind Farm fact page of the developers website.

What will happen at the end of the project’s lifespan?

Typically, wind turbines have a lifespan of 25-30 years before they must be repowered or decommissioned; both of which are processes that the project owner is responsible for completing.

Repowering the turbines means replacing major turbine equipment to prolong the facility's operations. The scope of these replacements could be as minor as individual blades or gearboxes, or as extensive as replacing the entire turbine and foundation. Decommissioning the project includes dismantling and removal of facility components to 3-4' below grade and restoring the surrounding land. A decommissioning plan will be included in the project's permit application. For more information on this process, the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy has a helpful [Wind Energy End of Service Guide](#).

The project will provide financial assurance to cover the cost, plus contingency, of decommissioning the project. The value of the assurance will be reviewed regularly throughout the project’s operations to ensure it’s sufficient as market conditions change.

It is not clear at this time which approach the developer will take 25 or 30 years from now; repowering or decommissioning. If the former, that 75 MW generation capacity will be reduced as turbines are refurbished. If the latter, New York states electrical grid will lose a source of renewable energy just as electrification of New York has theoretically been completed, adding to the potential instability of the electric grid.