



ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: Crisis on the Border

July 2010

Key Question: Should the World's # 2 Kidnapping Capital be in the United States?

JUST THE FACTS: THE DEATH TOLL. 2006-2010.

- As of early June 2010, 5,829 citizens have perished in 2010, as a result of the Mexican drug wars.¹ **That's approx. 1,000 deaths a month. When Will It Spill Over?**
- In the last week of June 2010 **alone**, over 500 people were murdered along the Mexico side of the border at the hands of the violent drug cartels.² **When Will It Spill Over?**
- More than **23,000** people have been killed in Mexico's drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon launched an all-out offensive against drug gangs in 2006.³
- In 2009, the Mexican drug wars claimed **7,724** Mexican citizens, the highest death total since the war officially began in 2006.⁴ **When Will It Spill Over?**
- In recent months, leading U.S. news agencies have reported the **number of deaths** along the U.S.-Mexico border **has increased three-fold** since 2008.⁵ **When Will It Spill Over?**



Source: Stop the North American Union

MEXICAN DEATHS: AT THE HANDS OF AMERICANS.

- Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said its records indicate the number of Mexicans killed or wounded by U.S. immigration authorities rose from five in 2008 to 12 in 2009, to seventeen thus far, in 2010.⁶

¹ *The Los Angeles Times*, "Mexico Under Siege: The Drug War at our Footsteps," *The Los Angeles Times*.06-30-2010, [Full Story Here](#)

² Associated Press. "Drug Gang Enforcer Admits Ordering U.S. Consulate Worker's Killing, Mexico Says." Fox News. 07-02-2010. [Full Story Here](#).

³ Associated Press. "Drug Gang Enforcer Admits Ordering U.S. Consulate Worker's Killing, Mexico Says." Fox News. 07-02-2010. [Full Story Here](#).

⁴ Esther Sanchez, "Aumenta nivel de violencia narco," *El Universal*. 01-01-2010. [Full Story Here](#).

⁵ The Associated Press, "U.S. Mexico Tensions Heightened after US Border Patrol Agent Kills Mexican Teen near El Paso," *Fox News*. 06-08-2010. [Full Story Here](#).

AMASSING TROOPS ON THE BORDER: THE MEXICAN EFFORT. 2006—PRESENT

- During his campaign for President in 2006, Felipe Calderon promised to deploy thousands of federal troops in an effort to crackdown on drug violence. Stephanie Hanson, a Policy Analyst at the *Council on Foreign Relations*, has noted that as of November 20, 2008, President Calderon has deployed **36,000** troops within Mexico to combat drug and people smuggling; the number of drug related deaths has continued to increase.⁷ **Would you rather build a fence or permanently deploy 40,000 U.S. troops?**
- Since 2008, another 8,000 troops have been deployed within Mexico bringing the total to 45,000.⁸

EXAMINATION OF U.S. TROOP LEVELS: PAST AND PRESENT.

- At the inception of the U.S. Border Patrol in 1975, there were 1,746 border agents. As President George W. Bush left office in 2009, U.S. Border Patrol exceeded 18,000 full-time employees and U.S. border security was at an all-time high.⁹
- President George W. Bush took an aggressive stance on border security by deploying 6,000 National Guard troops to the nation's southernmost boundaries.¹⁰
- President George W. Bush attempted to pass the Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2007. Alan Greenblatt, a staff writer for *CQ Weekly*, has noted the Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2007 would have deployed 18,000 new border patrol agents and created extensive new physical barriers—including 200 miles of vehicle barriers, 370 miles of fencing and 70 ground-based camera and radar towers.¹¹ The Act did not pass.
- Upon assuming the presidency in January 2009, President Barack Obama drastically reduced the number of National Guard troops on the southern border from 6,000, to 1,200.¹²

⁶ The Associated Press, "U.S. Mexico Tensions Heightened after US Border Patrol Agent Kills Mexican Teen near El Paso," *Fox News*. 06-08-2010. [Full Story Here](#)

⁷ Stephanie Hanson. "Mexico's Drug War," *The Council on Foreign Relations*, 11-20-2008. [Full Story Here](#).

⁸ The Associated Press, "U.S. Mexico Tensions Heightened after US Border Patrol Agent Kills Mexican Teen near El Paso," *Fox News*. 06-08-2010. [Full Story Here](#)

⁹ Traditional Records Access Clearinghouse. "Border Patrol Expands But Growth Rate After 9/11 is Much Less Than Before Division Between North/South Border Little Changed," *Syracuse University*, 02-01-2009. [Full Story Here](#).

¹⁰ Elaine Quijano. "Bush takes tough talk on Immigration to Texas," *Cable News Network (CNN)*, November 29, 2005, [Full Story Here](#). See also: Juliana Goldman and James Rowley, "Obama to Deploy National Guard, Boost Border Security Funding," *Business Week*, 05-26-2010. [Full Story Here](#).

¹¹ Alan Greenblatt, "Immigration Debate," *Issues for Debate In American Public Policy* 9th ed. (Washington D.C: Congressional Quarterly, 2008), 337.

¹² Juliana Goldman and James Rowley, "Obama to Deploy National Guard, Boost Border Security Funding," *Business Week* 05-26- 2010. [Full Story Here](#).

- In March 2010, President Obama then announced that he intended to work with Congress to pass legislation that would double the number of border security agents on the Mexico-U.S. border and provide the Mexican government with \$700 million for bolstering their law enforcement and crime prevention efforts.¹³ However, action was never taken on this issue, as President Obama abandoned the initiative to focus on a universal healthcare bill.

THE BORDER FENCE: INITIATIVES FOR SECURITY AND PROTECTION

- As of August 28, 2008, DHS had constructed 190 miles of pedestrian border fence and 154.3 miles of vehicle border fence, comprising a total of 334.35 miles of fence.¹⁴
- By January 2009, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that it had completed construction on an additional 580 miles of border fence, totaling 914 miles.¹⁵
- On September 13, 2006, Rep. Peter King (R-NY), introduced the Secure Fence Act of 2006. The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the measure 283-138. Shortly thereafter, the Senate passed the measure in resounding fashion, 80-19. The legislation, however, **did not outline** the specifics for creating a border fence. Rather, it stated that Congress would assist in “possibly” constructing a 700 mile long fence along the Southern Border. On October 26, 2006, President Bush signed in into law, and construction of the border fence was initiated. In 2007, after the Democratic Party assumed control of both houses of Congress and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) declared that Congress would reconsider the fence construction plan in an attempt to satisfy those displeased with the initial proposal.
- In 2006, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) initiated SBInet, a program of the Secure Border Initiative designed to create a new integrated system of personnel, infrastructure, technology, and rapid response to secure America’s southern and northern borders. SBInet fulfills three primary objectives: 1) To provide surveillance and detection tools and to provide border agents with the information they need to make deployment and interdiction decisions in their area of responsibility; 2) To provide command, control, and intelligence tools to assist CBP personnel manage the large volume of tasks through a common operating picture; and 3) To facilitate tactical decision making, and coordinate law enforcement responses.

¹³ Elise Labot, “Obama to beef up Mexico border policy,” *Cable News Network, (CNN)*, 03-25-2009. [Full Story Here.](#)

¹⁴ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, “Secure Border Initiative,” 03-27-2009. [Full Story Here.](#)

¹⁵ Randal Archibold, U.S. Plans Border ‘Surge’ Against Any Drug Wars,” *The New York Times*, 01-27-2009. [Full Story.](#)

ARIZONA LAW: S.B. 1070. THE RECENTLY APPROVED IMMIGRATION LAW.

On April 23, 2010, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, in an effort to rebuke the federal government's inaction on developing comprehensive and viable immigration reform, signed onto law S.B. 1070, the "Support our Law-Enforcement and Safe Neighbors Act." This law is comprised of a myriad of important measures intended to drastically diminish illegal immigration, including:

- State and local law enforcement officials are prohibited from restricting the enforcement of federal immigration laws;
- While making an arrest, requires law enforcement to make a reasonable attempt to determine the person's immigration status;
- Creates a new misdemeanor offense for the willful failure to complete or carry immigrant registration document under certain circumstances;
- Allows employers to raise an affirmative defense of entrapment to a charge of willfully employing unauthorized immigrants; and
- Employers are required to keep employee eligibility records for the duration of employment.

UNITED STATES V. ARIZONA

- President Obama's outspoken disapproval for the Arizona Immigration law was the driving force behind Attorney General Holders decision to file a suit against Arizona for "obstructing the federal government's authority over immigration policy." In addition, both President Obama and Attorney General Holder contend that the Arizona immigration legislation is supportive of racial profiling. With the nation mired in an economic recession, the largest budget deficit in world history and fighting wars in the Middle East, some analysts question whether this potential legal melee should be a focus of thinly spread federal government.