



Kino Border Initiative
Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera

2025



CONGRESSIONAL YEAR END

REPORT



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01 Introduction

Kino Border Initiative (KBI) is a binational, Catholic organization, locally rooted in Ambos Nogales on the Mexico - US border. Our mission is to promote humane, just, and workable migration through: i) direct humanitarian assistance and holistic accompaniment of migrants; ii) education and encounter to awaken solidarity with migrants; and iii) policy advocacy in Mexico and the US. In 2025, an average of approximately 61 people per month arrived at KBI's migrant aid center in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, totaling 727 people.

KBI serves all people in the context of migration, including asylum seekers arriving to the US- Mexico border and people who have been deported or returned to Mexico. KBI listens to each individual or family arriving in Nogales during the encuesta, or intake survey. Based on this encuesta, migrant people are referred for further services at KBI. The encuesta also forms the basis of our biweekly Congressional updates collected here. Starting in April 2025, KBI also implemented monitoring 5 times a week at the shelter run by the Mexican government for those deported from the US to Nogales, which contributed additional observations and testimonies to Congressional Updates.

The following is a compilation of the biweekly updates that KBI provided to Congressional offices, government agencies and other organizations in 2025. Each update provides statistics, trends and personal testimonies that help illustrate the impacts of border policies and the lived experiences of migrant people in the Arizona-Sonora corridor and beyond.



01 Introduction



The beginning of 2025 saw the continuation of the Biden-era Final Rule that summarily deported asylum seekers who cross between ports of entry. For the first three weeks of January, the CBP One app was the only pathway for asylum seekers who arrived at the border to enter the US and continue their asylum process. Migrants heading north for their CBPOne appointments during this time faced systematic kidnappings at the hands of criminal organizations throughout Mexico.

On January 20, 2025, President Trump was inaugurated and the situation at the border changed immediately. Minutes after taking office, President Trump terminated the CBPOne program, which threw families that had been waiting up to a year for appointments at the port of entry into confusion and uncertainty. CBP held those who had been processed at the border crossing for asylum that morning in detention, and canceled over 2,000 appointments that had already been scheduled for asylum processing in Nogales the following weeks. More than 30,000 appointments were cancelled across the border. More than 200,000 people throughout Mexico who were waiting for appointments were stranded with no path forward for asylum in the US.



01 Introduction

The cancellation of appointments exacerbated the risks to asylum seekers, closing all legal pathways to asylum processing at the US-Mexico border. Mexican nationals seeking protection were stranded indefinitely in the very country where they had been persecuted, in direct violation of international and domestic non-refoulement policies. Those who could not afford to relocate or were unsafe doing so remained vulnerable to exploitation by criminal groups, police, and migration authorities. KBI published [this report](#) in February 2025 summarizing our observations and what we heard from migrants in the first two weeks of the new administration.

Since January 20th, there has been no formal process for people to seek asylum at the southern US border, neither at ports of entry nor for those who enter between ports of entry. By publication of this report, the US government has gone nearly a full year with no formal process through which to fulfill its legal and treaty obligations to protect asylum seekers. This has resulted in family separation, extortion, and exploitation. With the US shutting down pathways to protection, thousands now have nowhere safe to flee from violence plaguing their communities. This includes approximately 3 out of every 5 migrants arriving at KBI in 2025, who reported migrating to flee violence or persecution.

As is often the case when the US closes down or limits legal pathways for migration, the US Government's closure of asylum access at the border resulted in some to risk crossing into the US irregularly. Those who crossed irregularly and requested asylum continued to be summarily deported, though they now make up a smaller percentage of those deported, compared to those deported while living inside of the US. In April, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would go on to [revoke the migratory status of the 900,000 asylum seekers who had been paroled into the US through CBPOne](#), leaving them more vulnerable to deportation.



01 Introduction

At the same time that the Federal Government shuttered access to asylum, DHS also began a campaign to deport one million people. The Mexican Government prepared for this, and in January, opened a series of shelters across the northern Mexican border where Mexican immigration authorities would immediately transfer people DHS had deported. Non-Mexican nationals deported through Nogales are typically bused to Hermosillo and then flown south. This resulted in a change of demographics of those who came through KBI since these individuals would not have an opportunity to interact with civil society organizations at the border before being transferred further south. As such, very few testimonies of non-Mexicans deported through Nogales are included in this reporting.

In addition, the new administration's deportation campaign has also enlisted increased collaboration with local law enforcement to ramp up the detention of community members in the US previously not seen as a threat to public security, particularly those with no criminal record. DHS also ended the guidance to avoid immigration enforcement in sensitive locations including churches, schools, and hospitals.

This expanded focus on detaining and deporting long-term US community members led to a shift in the population of migrants arriving in Nogales and at Kino. While in 2025 KBI served mostly asylum seekers, many of those who received services at our migrant outreach center in 2025 were deported from the interior of the United States after having lived there for years. Fifty-seven percent of those who arrived at Kino after being deported in 2025 reported that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detained them while living in the interior of the US. In 2025, this number was only 5%. From May to December 2025, based on more than 500 interviews with people deported to Nogales, 50% were detained while living in the US for more than 10 years.



01 Introduction

Many of those deported to Nogales had some form of permission to be in the US, through humanitarian relief like asylum, recently expired DACA status, or an ongoing visa process like U-visa or a family reunification visa. Some even reported that they had permanent residency when ICE detained them. From May to December 2025, 43% of deportations to Nogales from the US interior started with local law enforcement interactions, illustrating how this massive federal deportation campaign is not possible without local law enforcement collaboration. A simple headlight out or license plate askew has devastating effects, especially with law enforcement prone to profiling people of color, a practice the Supreme Court upheld for immigration agents in a ruling in September. As demonstrated in a report KBI published in fall of 2025, these deportations are having heartbreaking effects: families are broken apart, businesses are shuttered, and families struggle with the loss of income and subsequent loss of housing.

Many of those detained during this immigration crackdown have experienced gross violations of their human rights. Often unidentified and masked officers will abuse them during arrest (see “Abuse while being detained”). Additionally ICE is holding people in detention centers rampant with overcrowding, unsafe water and moldy food, and where freezing conditions, extreme psychological abuse and denial of access to medical care and communication with family and lawyers are common. People regularly report being forced to sleep on the floor without any blankets or that there isn’t enough space for all those detained to actually lay down on the floor to rest. In the final months of 2025, testimonies suggest a systematic theft of people’s cellphones, often stranding them without communication in an unfamiliar place after deportation to Mexico.



01 Introduction

To escape these inhumane conditions, many people agree to their own deportation, forgoing appeal opportunities, becoming ineligible for future forms of relief, and often unknowingly subject to bars on reentry. Many others were lured to sign their voluntary removal with the promise of receiving US \$1,000 to \$3,000 once they returned to their home country. After signing the document and being deported, many then realize this promise was not true.

ICE has also expanded its definition of who is ineligible for a bond hearing, increasing the number of people trapped in these inhumane detention conditions. Additionally, in 2025 CBP brought criminal charges against a higher proportion of first-time border crossers in Arizona, resulting in longer detentions for those who previously would have been deported quickly.

In March, DHS announced the closure of three key oversight offices: the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman (OIDO) and the Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman. KBI staff observed the impacts of these cuts in real time as we continued filing complaints. For months, KBI did not receive any responses or replies to complaints we filed, even automated replies to confirm receipt of complaints.

In April, litigation resulted in the reopening of these offices, but staffing was cut from 550 to 9 employees. It was not until September, over 6 months later, that complaints filed months previously even received a confirmation of receipt. KBI has filed 17 complaints with these oversight offices since staffing was slashed in March. However, we continue to receive only formal responses confirming receipt from these offices without any details about investigations resulting from complaints we have filed. This lack of oversight, combined with the aforementioned uptick in abuses in detention and ICE's increasingly aggressive detention tactics, create dangerous conditions for egregious abuses to go unchecked.



01 Introduction

In response to these immigration crackdowns, there has been a heartening response from communities of faith. In June, dozens of Catholic sisters and activists protested at the Eloy Detention Center as part of the national Sisters Speak Out Prayer & Public Witness for Immigrants and a Just Economy campaign. In October, KBI joined with numerous Bishops and hundreds of others to walk across the US-Mexico border during a Binational Encuentro in solidarity with migrants. Thousands of Catholics across the US gathered to pray in public witness at ICE offices and immigration courts on October 22 and November 13, during the Catholic Days of Action. In November, U.S. Bishops issued a rare “Special Message” condemning mass deportations and calling for human dignity to be upheld.

This review begins with a demographic overview of migrants arriving at KBI in 2025. It then presents 5 key topics KBI reported on during the year, each accompanied by relevant testimonies and examples gathered through encuestas and humanitarian monitoring, shared in our monthly Congressional Updates. Testimonies relevant to multiple categories are repeated in each applicable section. The review concludes with a summary of the recommendations KBI provided to Congressional offices in 2025.



02 Demographic Overview



PLACES OF ORIGIN

The population of Kino remains primarily of Mexican origin. This year, however, only 66% of those who arrived at Kino for the first time were from Mexico, down from 84% last year.

In 2025, 37% of those arriving at Kino had been deported from the US. Sixty percent of those who arrived at Kino after being deported had been living in the US, versus 40% who were just crossing the border. In 2025, this number was only 5.43%. From May to December 2025, based on more than 500 interviews with those deported, 50% of those detained while residing in the US had lived in the country for more than 10 years, and 33% had lived there for more than 20 years.

Within the Mexican population, KBI continues to see a disproportionate number of people displaced from the southern states. Of new arrivals from Mexico, 16% were from Guerrero in 2025, which is the state with the highest number of arrivals. There were 99 arrivals from Guerrero throughout the year, compared to 43 and 41 individuals from the two states with the 2nd and 3rd largest representation, Oaxaca and Sinaloa, respectively.

Places of Origin

Reasons for Migrating

Abuses on Migration Journey



02 Demographic Overview



PLACES OF ORIGIN

KBI is concerned that in 2025 the states of origin for the highest number of deportees arriving to Nogales correspond with the Mexican states from which KBI has received the most people displaced by violence or persecution in recent years, and which are also the three poorest states in Mexico: Oaxaca, Guerrero and Chiapas. Lack of access to basic services in these states combined with the frequency with which criminal groups target deportees upon return to their hometowns make safe return to home states unlikely or untenable for many.

The second most common country of origin for arrivals to KBI in 2025 was Venezuela, representing 15%, up from 5% of new arrivals in 2025 and 11% in 2023. Following Venezuela, top countries of origin were Honduras (6.1%), Haiti (4%), Guatemala (2%) and Ecuador (2%).

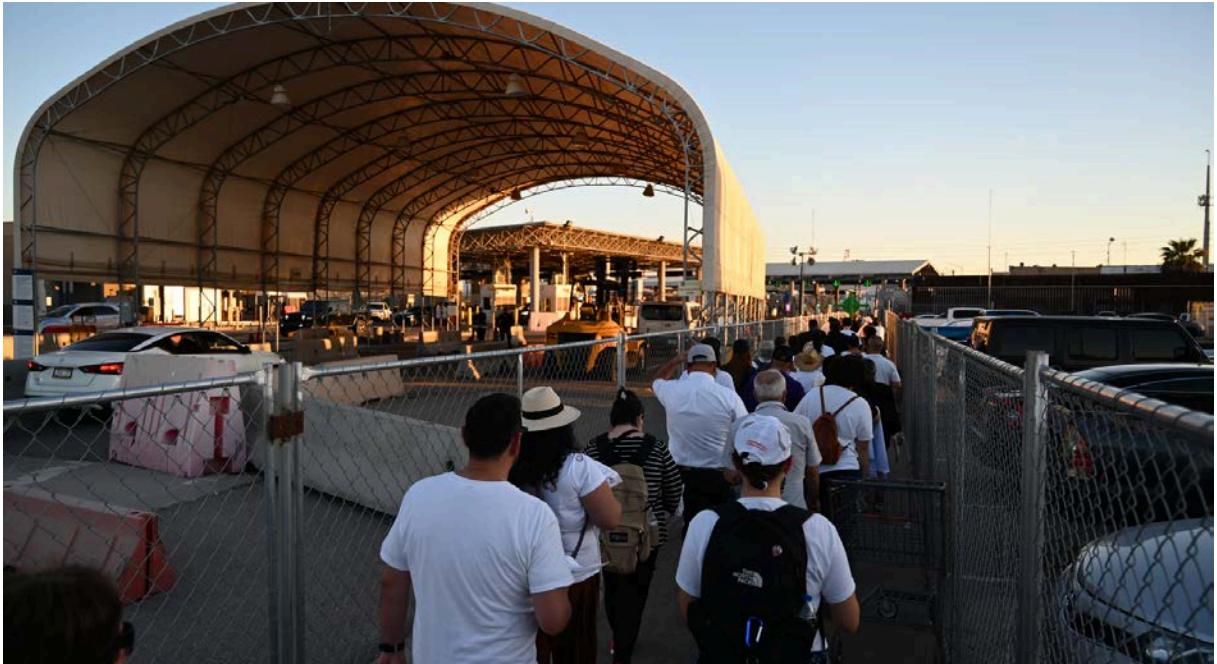
Places of Origin

Reasons for Migrating

Abuses on Migration Journey



02 Demographic Overview



REASONS FOR MIGRATING

In 2025, the most common reasons that people arriving at KBI reported for migrating were for economic (45%) and safety (43%) reasons. Thus, most people were migrating to seek work or support family members or to flee violence or persecution. For the latter (fleeing violence), this is a smaller proportion compared to responses from those arriving in 2025 (78%), 2023 (83%), and 2022 (75%).

The shift can likely be attributed to a larger proportion of those served by Kino in 2025 being long-term U.S. residents who were deported from the U.S. interior. For instance, in 2025, among those who provided a reason for migrating, 12% reported that they were attempting to reunify with family in the United States, compared to only 5% in 2025. This reflects the impact of immigration crackdowns under the Trump administration.

Countries/Regions
of Origin

Reasons for
Migrating

Abuses on
Migration Journey



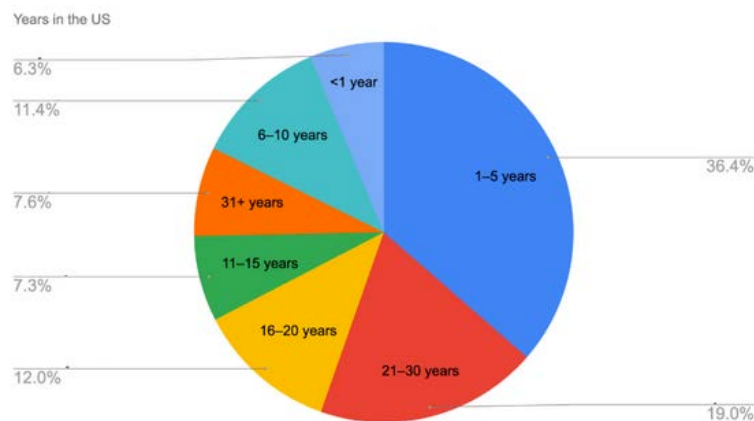
02 Demographic Overview



REASONS FOR MIGRATING

Many of those arriving at Kino in 2025 were people whom ICE deported to Nogales after having lived in the United States for many years. As a result, the reasons they originally migrated often reflect conditions in their countries of origin 20, 30, or even 40 years ago, rather than current circumstances there.

Data from Monitorreo (May to Dec 5)



Countries/Regions
of Origin

Reasons for
Migrating

Abuses on
Migration Journey



02 Demographic Overview



ABUSES ON MIGRATION JOURNEY

In 2025, 51% of arriving individuals reported experiencing some form of abuse while migrating, compared with 28% in 2022, 24% in 2023, and 60% in 2025.

Among those who identified the perpetrator in their interview at KBI, 46% reported that U.S. authorities were responsible, followed by criminal groups (16%) and Mexican authorities (15%). In 2025, 41% of reported abuses were attributed to U.S. authorities. This shift may reflect the larger percentage of people staying at Kino who were deported after living in the interior of the United States and thus were less likely to have interacted with Mexican migration authorities or Mexican criminal organizations. For many, Kino was their second stop in Mexico after the government shelter. Of the abuses committed by U.S. authorities, 34% were reported to have been perpetrated by ICE agents and 26% by Border Patrol. In 2025, Border Patrol was responsible for 85% of abuses attributed to U.S. authorities. This change illustrates how the demographics of those at Kino have shifted, with more people arriving from the U.S. interior, where ICE operates, and fewer individuals interacting with Border Patrol when crossing between ports of entry to seek asylum, a pathway that is no longer available.

Countries/Regions
of Origin

Reasons for
Migrating

Abuses on
Migration Journey



02 Demographic Overview



ABUSES ON MIGRATION JOURNEY

Additionally, people at Kino and in the Mexican government shelter for deported individuals frequently reported inhumane conditions in detention. Of the abuses committed by U.S. authorities, 21% were attributed to U.S. prison guards, who often operate with impunity inside private detention facilities, especially in light of the cuts in oversight implemented in March 2025.

Countries/Regions
of Origin

Reasons for
Migrating

Abuses on
Migration Journey



03 Reasons for Migrating

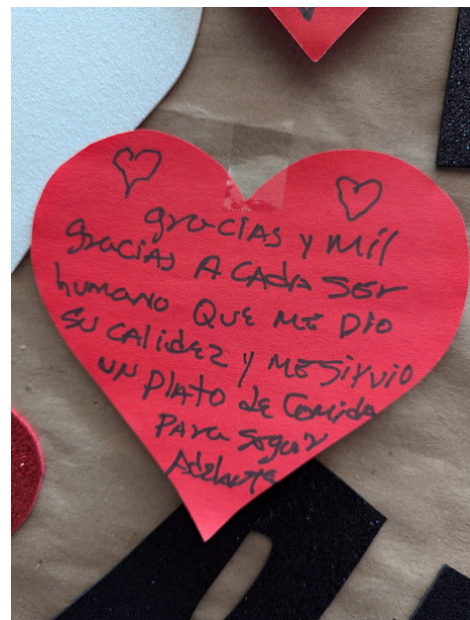
Family Reunification

February 27, 2025: Irene*, a Honduran woman, lived in the United States from 2005 to 2022. She left the country hoping to adjust her immigration status at the U.S. Consulate in Honduras, but at her appointment she was informed that she would face a five-year ban on returning to the United States. She attempted to cross the border again to reunite with her family and care for her seriously ill U.S. citizen child, but she was arrested by Border Patrol, detained for one month in Florence, AZ, and then deported.

"They treated us very poorly in detention. The food was rotten, they mocked us, yelled at us, and shined their flashlights to our faces. There were many of us in the cells. When they saw that the food they gave us had maggots, they laughed and shined the light on the food to scare us even more, emphasizing the maggots. The mockery and shouting were so overwhelming that a girl who was there with me had a panic attack, and no one helped her. Some others fainted from the shock."

March 13, 2025: Edgar*, a 33-year-old Honduran man, was deported after living in the U.S. for seven years. He suffers from a knee injury that hinders his ability to work in Nogales, where factory jobs require standing for long hours. With no family or support network in Mexico, he shared with KBI that the only option he sees is to consider risking his life and crossing the border irregularly again to reunite with his family: "I have no family here, nothing. I'm thinking about trying to cross again."

April 24, 2025: Ricardo* entered the United States in 2022 with his wife and 13-year-old son after fleeing organized crime in Mexico. The family was in the process of seeking asylum and had begun to establish themselves in Phoenix. Ricardo was stopped by a police officer in Phoenix, taken into ICE custody, and subsequently deported. Despite being fully aware of the risks involved and having no viable alternative to reunite with his family, Ricardo is now considering re-entering the United States through irregular means.



03 Reasons for Migrating



Political Persecution

January 15, 2025: Yaritzi,* a Venezuelan woman traveling with her husband and four children, shared that in her country, there are no viable options for food, work or study. “If we are not allied with the Government, they kill us,” she said. She traveled with her family through Hidalgo, where an organized crime group kidnapped them and held them for ransom. They paid and were released. After several months, they were able to secure an appointment through the CBP One app. However, as they traveled by taxi to get to their appointment, they were stopped and harassed by Mexican police officers who told them their paperwork was fake. Organized crime kidnapped them once again in Sonora, where they had to pay \$10,000 pesos (\$500USD) to be released. In total, between police and organized crime threats, Yaritzi’s family was forced to pay \$43,000 pesos (\$2,150USD) in extortion. The harassment and kidnapping caused them to miss their CBP One appointment, and when they arrived in Nogales and explained these abuses, CBP officers refused to listen and said they would have to get another appointment.

January 15, 2025: Marco Antonio* left Venezuela with his wife after he became aware of corruption in the government office where he worked and received threats as a result. They traveled through Colombia, Panama, and several other countries to reach the U.S.-Mexico border. When they crossed from Guatemala into Chiapas, Mexico, a criminal group kidnapped them and held them captive for 16 days, until they were able to pay a ransom of 2,800 pesos (US \$160). Later, in Hidalgo, members of an organized criminal group robbed them.



03 Reasons for Migrating

January 15, 2025: Ana Catarina,* a young Venezuelan woman, explained that she left her country because, in addition to the economic situation that prevents her from providing for her family, she is unable to express herself freely there. Organized criminal groups kidnapped Ana Catarina and her family multiple times on their way through Mexico in order to extort them. The first time, they were held captive outside Tapachula. The second time, they were held for several days in the mountains, which caused them to miss their CBP One appointment. After this incident, they continued trying to secure another appointment for many months without success.

January 30, 2025: Mohammadi is a 40-year-old Afghan man fleeing persecution by the Taliban. He speaks and understands very little English and no Spanish. He had a CBP One appointment scheduled for January 23, three days after the Trump Administration announced that the pathway for asylum processing through the CBP One app was closed.

January 30, 2025: Yuli* is a Venezuelan woman traveling with her husband and three children - two boys ages 9 and 15 and a 6-year-old girl. Her family left Venezuela due to political persecution after participating in a march where she was shot in the legs. They left their home in September 2025 and crossed the Darién Gap, where Yuli suffered sexual violence. When they reached Tapachula, Mexico, the family was also robbed and kidnapped by organized crime. They had finally obtained a CBP One appointment for January 21, but now they are stranded in Nogales.

January 30, 2025: Vivienne* is a 29-year-old woman from Haiti who is traveling with her 3-month-old baby. She left her country with her sister, nephews, father, and brothers because of the extreme violence and political persecution they experienced there. Vivienne shared with KBI, “We had a CBP One appointment for January 21 and it was canceled. Now we have to see how to organize our lives—we are afraid because we don’t know anyone here.”



03 Reasons for Migrating



January 30, 2025: Ana is a 29-year-old woman from Venezuela. She left her country because of the lack of freedom of expression and in search of better opportunities. On her journey, she was kidnapped by organized crime outside Tapachula and then again in San Pedro. The second time, she was held on a mountain overnight and then released along with the rest of the group she was traveling with. She reports having been kidnapped several times during her stay in Mexico. She had a CBP One appointment on June 5 but missed it because of a kidnapping. She has tried to make another appointment but has not been successful.

March 13, 2025: Anahí*, a 56-year-old Mexican woman from Michoacán and survivor of sexual violence, fled political violence and gender-based persecution. She arrived at KBI in November and was admitted to the United States three days before the Trump Administration took office. Despite having evidence of the violence she faced—including threats and violent attacks from a local councilman, a federal deputy, and organized crime—she was not allowed to appear before an immigration judge, nor did any U.S. official review her evidence. Immigration authorities kept Anahí in detention for 40 days, during which she reported poor treatment. Border Patrol then removed Anahí to Mexico.



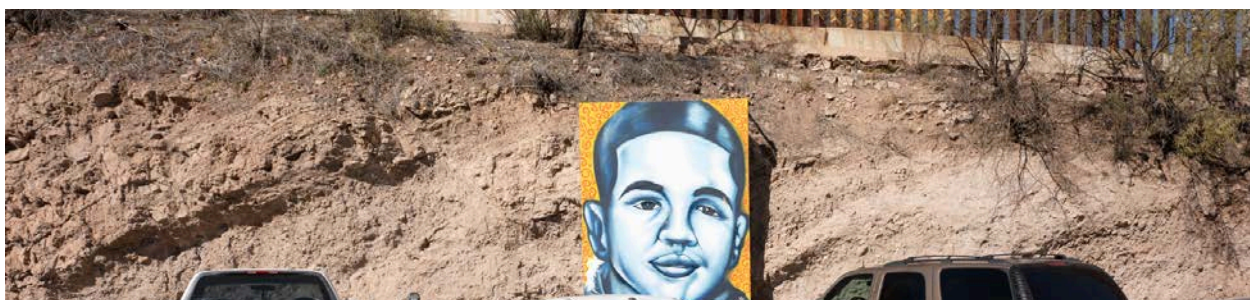
03 Reasons for Migrating

Organized Crime

January 15, 2025: Silvano,* an 18-year-old from Honduras, shared with KBI upon his arrival last month that gangs were trying to recruit him and his mother wanted him to leave their town as soon as possible. He decided to travel to the U.S.-Mexico border but suffered greatly along the way. In Chiapas, organized crime kidnapped him and took him to a place they called “the hen house,” where they held him captive while they called his family to demand extortion money. As he passed through a neighboring state, Silvano was robbed, and later in Mexico City he was assaulted and threatened with a knife. Silvano was able to escape, but his aggressors continued looking for him, so he decided to continue north and wait for his CBP One appointment.

January 30, 2025: Vivienne* is a 29-year-old woman from Haiti who is traveling with her 3-month-old baby. She left her country with her sister, nephews, father, and brothers because of the extreme violence and political persecution they experienced there. Vivienne shared with KBI, “We had a CBP One appointment for January 21 and it was canceled. Now we have to see how to organize our lives—we are afraid because we don’t know anyone here.”

January 30, 2025: Inés* is a 20-year-old woman from Chiapas, traveling with her husband and one-year-old baby. She left her hometown because of violence linked to organized crime. “Several cartels entered Metepec; they started fighting among the Nueva Generación, the ‘4 letras,’ and others. They threw grenades and set cars on fire.” Her family rented a house, and criminals told them to leave or they would kill them. “At 6 in the evening you cannot go out because they will get you, and the next day you will appear dead.” For this reason, they decided to leave. They no longer have family in Mexico, but they do have a relative in the United States. Their aim was to seek asylum, but when they crossed the wall they were detained and deported.



03 Reasons for Migrating

February 13, 2025: Francisco*, a 31-year-old man from Chiapas, was forced to leave his hometown of Chicomuselo due to threats from organized crime. "Because of the criminals, due to my work as a local farmer, we had to pay extortion fees. We were threatened that if we did not pay, we would be killed or our land would be taken from us."

February 13, 2025: Priscila*, a 54-year-old woman, was forced to leave her hometown in Colombia due to violence, including extortion and kidnappings by organized crime. She was a victim of an express kidnapping, where her captors demanded a ransom of 10 million Colombian pesos (US \$3,500). She had been waiting for her CBP One appointment in central Mexico for eight months and finally secured one for January 24. However, during her journey to the border, she was kidnapped by organized crime in Mexico near Hidalgo. Unfortunately, despite reaching the border in time for her appointment, she was denied entry due to the executive order issued by President Trump. The rest of her family is already in the United States, undergoing the asylum process, and she hopes to find a way to reunite with them and reach a safe place.

March 13, 2025: Tamara*, a woman from Michoacán, Mexico, fled cartel violence and domestic abuse at the hands of her former partner, who was linked to organized crime. She describes: "Our town was constantly besieged by armed groups. They threatened to kill us if we didn't inform them of rival groups entering the area. My ex-partner was involved with them too." In December, after attending an ICE check-in in Wenatchee, WA, she was detained and later transferred to Tacoma, where she experienced physical mistreatment by ICE officers. "During the transfer, they handcuffed me and treated me like a criminal. The handcuffs were too tight, and my arm was hurting a lot. When I told the officer, he completely ignored me." Border Patrol removed Tamara to Mexico, where she could now be vulnerable to her partner's criminal group tracking her down.

March 13, 2025: Areli*, a Mexican mother of three, is a survivor of gender-based violence at the hands of her husband and mother-in-law. She continues to suffer active persecution from her mother-in-law: "I'm afraid she will beat me again and take my daughters away from me."



03 Reasons for Migrating

Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence

January 15, 2025: Over the past month, numerous internally displaced Mexican women have shared experiences of gender-based violence, either as a reason for their migration or as violence they experienced during their journey.

- Rosalba,* a young Mexican mother who arrived at KBI last month with her 9-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter, shared that she fled her town in southern Mexico because her ex-partner abused her. He beat and threatened Rosalba and then began threatening her children. He worked with an organized crime group and had access to a gun, which he would point at Rosalba and the children. At one point, he even threatened to dismember her and dispose of her body in a plastic bag.
-
- Paula,* a middle-aged Mexican mother, shared with KBI that she traveled north with her daughter to escape the criminal violence in her central Mexican town. Paula said that the authorities do nothing to protect residents from organized crime, and that her own son beat her and threatened to kill her.
- Esmeralda* shared with KBI, when she arrived in December, that her partner had beaten her, and that she fled so quickly to save herself that she did not bring any clothing or documents.
- Alejandra's* son was killed in the spring of 2025 in their southern Mexican town. Her husband had long mistreated and threatened her, warning that he would harm her if she left him. After her son's death, she decided to flee and travel north to Nogales with her three youngest children.

March 13, 2025: Areli*, a Mexican mother of three, is a survivor of gender-based violence at the hands of her husband and mother-in-law. She continues to suffer active persecution from her mother-in-law: "I'm afraid she will beat me again and take my daughters away from me."



03 Reasons for Migrating

March 13, 2025: Anahí*, a 56-year-old Mexican woman from Michoacán and survivor of sexual violence, fled political violence and gender-based persecution. She arrived at KBI in November and was admitted to the United States three days before the Trump Administration took office. Despite having evidence of the violence she faced—including threats and violent attacks from a local councilman, a federal deputy, and organized crime—she was not allowed to appear before an immigration judge, nor did any U.S. official review her evidence. Immigration authorities kept Anahí in detention for 40 days, during which she reported poor treatment. Border Patrol then removed Anahí to Mexico.

March 13, 2025: Tamara*, a woman from Michoacán, Mexico, fled cartel violence and domestic abuse at the hands of her former partner, who was linked to organized crime. She describes: “Our town was constantly besieged by armed groups. They threatened to kill us if we didn’t inform them of rival groups entering the area. My ex-partner was involved with them too.” In December, after attending an ICE check-in in Wenatchee, WA, she was detained and later transferred to Tacoma, where she experienced physical mistreatment by ICE officers. “During the transfer, they handcuffed me and treated me like a criminal. The handcuffs were too tight, and my arm was hurting a lot. When I told the officer, he completely ignored me.” Border Patrol removed Tamara to Mexico, where she could now be vulnerable to her partner’s criminal group tracking her down.

Demographic Changes at KBI

January 30, 2025: Mexican officials have stopped releasing most deported migrants into Nogales, Sonora, and are instead exerting tighter control over their movement, limiting access to local humanitarian services. Authorities are channeling deported migrants exclusively to a small number of designated shelters or sending them by bus farther south, including to Hermosillo and to areas near Mexico’s southern border with Guatemala.



03 Reasons for Migrating



Since January 20 up to January 30, KBI has received only 11 individuals deported to Nogales, compared with 63 individuals during the first three weeks of January and 218 in the month of December. However, conversations between KBI staff and Mexican officials indicate that U.S. Border Patrol continues to deport large groups of migrants to Nogales. Mexican immigration authorities and the Mexican National Guard are escorting deported individuals directly to two specific shelters, at times “against their will,” as many migrants report that they would prefer to travel independently to the bus station.

February 27, 2025: Since all Mexican nationals deported through Nogales are transported to the center operated by the Mexican government at a local sports park, while non-Mexican deportees are transported to Hermosillo and then to the southern border of Mexico, this has meant a decrease in the number of people arriving at our center. Even so, our February data reveals that 70% of deported individuals receiving our services reported abuse at the hands of US officials.

March 13, 2025: Nearly two months into the current administration, KBI continues to observe the evolving impact of the Trump Administration’s executive orders. In February, the majority of individuals served at KBI were asylum seekers stranded at the border. Since the beginning of March, however, we have seen an increase in deported individuals seeking assistance; they now comprise 67% of our total new arrivals, up from 33% in February.

Among those deported in March who arrived at KBI, 80% had been living in the United States for years prior to their removal, with an average length of stay of 11 years.



04 Abuses by US Authorities



Summary:

Of the people arriving at Kino in 2025, 51% reported being abused on their journey. Forty-six percent reported that U.S. authorities abused them. Among the abuses attributed to U.S. authorities, ICE agents were reported to have perpetrated 34%, Border Patrol 26%, and detention guards within the United States another 21%. (See introduction for additional interpretation of these trends.)

Abuse in immigrant detention is widespread. People report being denied basic necessities such as food, water, and medical care. Temperatures are often kept freezing cold while guards deny people blankets and force them to sleep on the floor amid rampant overcrowding. Additionally, people in detention are often denied contact with the outside world, including with lawyers and loved ones, exacerbating the trauma of family separation and denying migrants their legal rights.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

Non-return of essential property has remained a serious challenge in 2025. In August 2025, following years of advocacy by KBI and other organizations, Customs and Border Protection issued [Directive 5240-010](#) requiring that essentials such as legal documents, IDs, cell phones, money, and medical records be securely stored and returned.

Throughout 2025, we have seen this directive systematically ignored. Border Patrol has been confiscating the cell phones of those detained crossing the border and then not returning them when people are deported, with some recently deported individuals reporting that their phones were taken as “evidence.” Cell phones are a lifeline; for many people, phones are the only place where family members’ contact information is stored. Their loss cuts migrants off from support networks and places already vulnerable individuals at even greater risk upon arrival in Mexico.

These abusive conditions are compounded by people spending more time in immigrant detention. In Kino’s September report, ["They Didn't Let Me Say Goodbye": Revealing the Human Toll of Deportations Today](#), we noted that very few respondents spent fewer than 10 days in detention, and prosecutions of those crossing the border for the first time were up 25% in July. Among those detained while crossing into the United States whom Kino interviewed, the average time in detention before ICE or CBP deported them was more than a month (38 days).



04 Abuses by US Authorities



In addition to abuse in detention, many people report experiencing abuse during apprehension and transfer, both at the border and in the U.S. interior. In the interior, people describe masked, hooded men without badges stopping them, forcing them into unmarked trucks, and delivering them to ICE at public locations such as Walmart parking lots. Victims also report being stopped without cause while driving to work or moving through downtown areas. Additionally, deported individuals have indicated that they were detained by a group of armed men with no uniform who then delivered them to ICE agents, akin to bounty hunters. Although it has been identified that ICE agents also work without uniform for such operations, this has added to confusion surrounding detention and - if there are cases where these groups are actually bounty hunters - aggravating violations of due process. ICE regularly engages in human rights violations and due process violations, including racial profiling, using racial slurs, denying access to a lawyer, refusing to present warrants, and disregarding people's documentation. ICE has also deported individuals without a court date despite their having legal representation, or coerced them into abandoning asylum claims to avoid being sent to a third country.



04 Abuses by US Authorities



ICE, Border Patrol, and detention guards have continued to operate with impunity as avenues for accountability have narrowed significantly due to recent changes by DHS. The only recourse for migrants who experience abuse during detention is to file an administrative complaint with a DHS accountability office. DHS attempted to dismantle its oversight offices, including the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman, which oversees detention conditions, and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. After lawsuits, DHS kept these offices open but significantly downsized them. Nevertheless, KBI has filed 17 complaints with these oversight offices since staffing was slashed in March and has received only limited form responses, without any details about investigations resulting from our complaints. Repeated violations of directives stemming from prior oversight investigations (including those regarding the handling of personal belongings and hospital discharge procedures for migrants who require off-site medical care while in CBP custody) raise additional concerns that DHS oversight cuts are enabling abuse with impunity.



04 Abuses by US Authorities



Abuses in Immigration Detention

Denial of food and water

June 26, 2025: Two women who ICE had detained in Eloy shared with us that they were victims of abuse and inhumane conditions at the detention center. “They threw the food to the floor and yelled at us, “Now eat, dogs!”. On other occasions, they were given rotten beans. At times, they were so desperate due to the lack of water that they drank water from the toilet. They also mentioned that a fire happened inside this center and someone died.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

August 14, 2025: Luis* had lived about a year and a half in Florida, but did not have legal status. He was working to save up money to send his daughters to school. One day while Luis was shopping at Walmart, ICE agents rushed in and detained everyone shopping at the store without asking any questions, including US citizens and legal permanent residents, who were only released after about five days. ICE transferred Luis to three different detention centers within a week. When they transferred him from El Paso, Texas to Denver, Colorado, they kept him and the others on the bus chained for a total of 25 hours during the transfer process. For 19 of those hours, ICE gave them no food or water. Luis complained to an officer that his hands and feet were swelling because the chains were too tight, but the officer refused to loosen them. Many of those on the bus felt sick after the trip and requested medical attention upon arrival in Denver, but officers refused. Illness within the group grew so concerning that 70 of them in the same cell block decided to refuse to return to their cells until authorities sent a doctor or nurse to attend to the dozen or so from the group who were suffering from various medical conditions, including diabetics who needed insulin. Instead of sending medical attention, ICE sent for tear gas to force everyone back into their cells.

October 23, 2025: Alfredo,* who crossed into the US between border crossings before Border Patrol detained him, said that during the 13 days they detained him in Eloy, the food was terrible, the officials ignored them, and he experienced psychological abuse.

November 20, 2025: Alfredo,* who crossed into the US between border crossings before Border Patrol detained him, said that during the 13 days they detained him in Eloy, the food was terrible, the officials ignored them, and he experienced psychological abuse.

December 11, 2025: Jorge* lived in South Dakota for six years and worked in construction. A county sheriff stopped him without giving any reason and turned him over to ICE. He was held in a facility in Washington state, where he reported that the food was often frozen or spoiled, but his concerns were ignored.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

Denial of communication with loved ones, legal counsel

February 27, 2025: Irene*, a Honduran woman, lived in the United States from 2005 to 2022. She left the country hoping to adjust her immigration status at the U.S. Consulate in Honduras, but at her appointment she was informed that she would face a five-year ban on returning to the United States. She attempted to cross the border again to reunite with her family and care for her seriously ill U.S. citizen child, but she was arrested by Border Patrol, detained for one month in Florence, AZ, and then deported. "They treated us very poorly in detention. The food was rotten, they mocked us, yelled at us, and shined their flashlights to our faces. There were many of us in the cells. When they saw that the food they gave us had maggots, they laughed and shined the light on the food to scare us even more, emphasizing the maggots. The mockery and shouting were so overwhelming that a girl who was there with me had a panic attack, and no one helped her. Some others fainted from the shock."

February 27, 2025: Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald's to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting "Stop." Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. "ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid," he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. "In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don't have access to medical attention."

June 26, 2025: Around 70 people gathered for the "Sisters Speak Out" prayer vigil on Tuesday. Eloy authorities sent a drone to scope out the peaceful gathering, and the Eloy Detention Center decided to deny access to lawyers as a result of the gathering, despite its location far from the building and the peaceful nature of the public prayer. Eloy authorities approached the group and told them they could be breaking the law by trespassing on CoreCivic property. However, it was later revealed that the land where they stood belonged to an individual who, when advised about the event and asked whether he would have asked the group to leave, responded, "Why would I prevent someone who is praying?"



04 Abuses by US Authorities

August 14, 2025: Roger* was attempting to enter the US to reunite with his family when Border Patrol detained him. Border Patrol transferred him to the Florence Detention Center, where they held him for 75 days, during which authorities never allowed him to make a phone call to his family to let them know he was okay. He decided to request deportation because he felt his mental health was at risk due to the terrible conditions in the detention center

August 14, 2025: Elvira,* a mother of 4 from Puebla, Mexico, tried to climb the wall to cross into the US. While she was crossing, she got caught on the barbed wire and fell, fracturing her leg. Border Patrol took her to the hospital and although she could not walk, kept her chained the whole time she was being treated for a broken leg. Border Patrol did not allow her to call her family to let them know she had been injured and was in the hospital.

November 20, 2025: Daniel* was driving to work when agents pulled him from his car and took him to detention. The cold made him sick, staff refused his requests for a blanket for two days, and they issued used underwear while initially refusing clean clothing. Staff also delayed phone access despite his repeated requests.

Denial of medical care

February 13, 2025: Ricardo, a 25-year-old man from Hidalgo, Mexico, was detained for 30 days after crossing the border. Border Patrol confiscated his epilepsy medication, and ICE agents denied him medical care while in Florence. "The agent who was going through my belongings asked me what the medicine was for. I told him it was for my seizures because I suffer from epilepsy. As soon as I told him that, the agent threw the medicine into the trash." As a result, he suffered multiple seizures while in ICE detention. He was also forced to urinate and defecate into bags since he was not given access to a bathroom. "When they took me out, when they were taking me to the border for deportation, I asked for my belongings, and a Border Patrol agent punched me in the ribs as I was getting off the bus."



04 Abuses by US Authorities

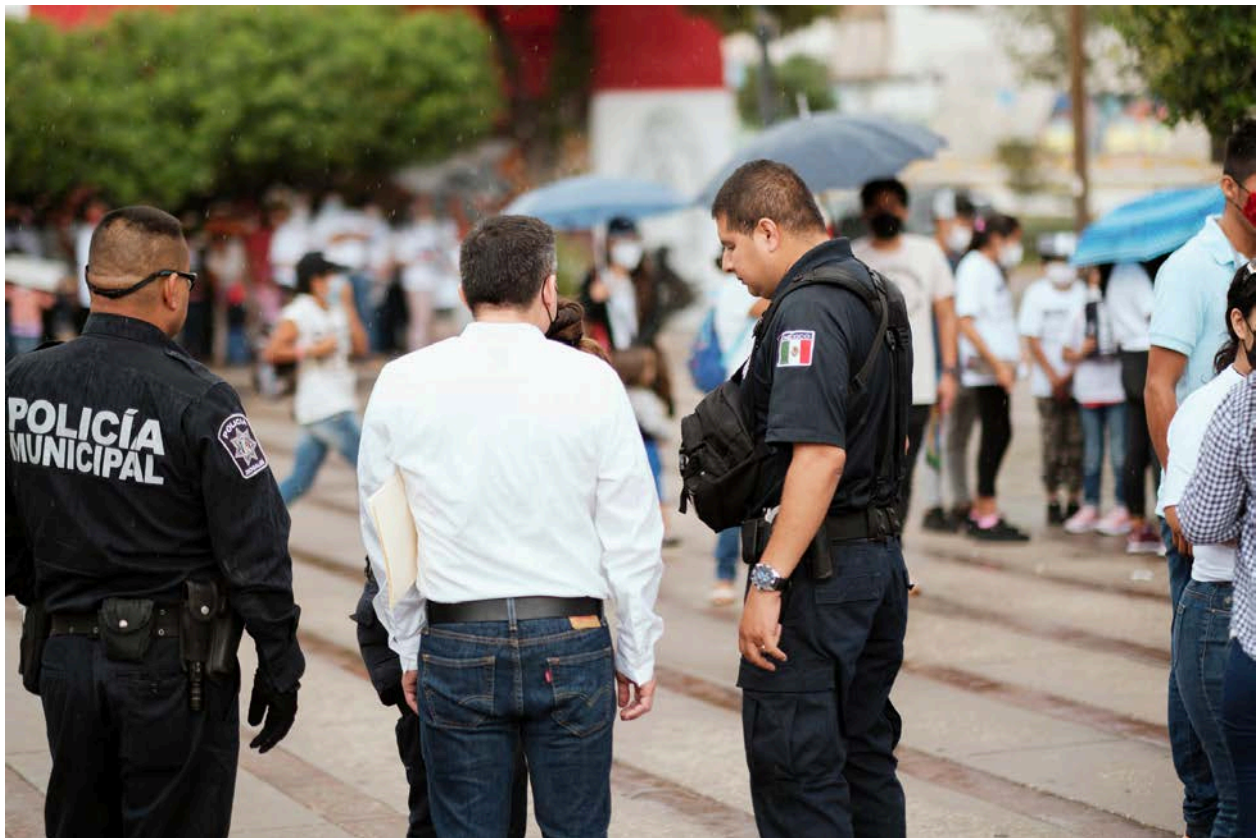
February 27, 2025: Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald's to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting "Stop." Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. "ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid," he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. "In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don't have access to medical attention."

April 24, 2025: Alfredo, who crossed the border with a group, shared that on the fifth day of walking through the desert, they were spotted by Border Patrol. In an effort to avoid apprehension, they fled and hid, leaving their supplies behind. When they returned, they found their food and water had been destroyed by agents, which forced them to continue without sustenance. Alfredo eventually reached a freeway, severely exhausted from days of walking without food or water. While attempting to flag down passing vehicles for help, he was apprehended by Border Patrol. Despite the fact that Alfredo showed signs of severe dehydration, Border Patrol initially denied him medical assistance. Only after he repeatedly insisted was a nurse called, who confirmed he was suffering from acute dehydration. Alfredo was brought before a district court and sentenced to 30 days in prison for unauthorized entry. Due to an administrative error, he remained detained for an additional six days after his sentence had concluded. Border Patrol then deported Alfredo without his personal belongings—including his cellphone, wallet, debit card, and driver's license.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

May 29, 2025: Julia*, a young Mexican woman, shared with KBI that she fell off a cliff while running from Border Patrol. Julia was in excruciating pain, and the Border Patrol agent who detained her claimed she was pretending. Border Patrol took her to the hospital in Tucson, where medical staff sedated her without explaining her diagnosis or what was happening. In Julia’s words, “They never told me that my foot was fractured. Even though they took an X-ray and I asked for a prescription or to show me the X-ray, nobody paid attention to me or gave me any paperwork.” When Border Patrol deported Julia to Nogales, they handed over to the Mexican authorities without telling her that her foot was fractured or giving her any discharge paperwork, including x-rays or diagnosis. These actions are in direct violation of protocols outlined in the office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Hospital Discharge Memo last year, which resulted from an investigation of similar complaints.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

May 29, 2025: Maribel, a mother and ex-police officer from Jalisco, asked for asylum in December of 2025 at a border crossing in Arizona. She was fleeing threats from organized crime against her and her son in their hometown, due to her work. She entered with her tourist visa and, upon arrival at the port, explained her fear of return to a CBP officer. After processing Maribel, ICE sent her to Eloy, AZ, where they detained her for five months. During her detention, Maribel was exposed twice to toxic smoke from microwave fires in the detention unit. “On one occasion, the microwave in our unit caught fire during the night, while we were locked in our rooms. Smoke and chemical fumes filled all the rooms. We all pressed the emergency button because we were suffocating, but no one came to open the doors. I had to wet a shirt and use it to cover my nose and mouth to avoid inhaling the chemicals. The next morning, I woke up with dizziness, nausea, vomiting, a sore throat, and irritation in my throat and eyes. I attempted to file a report, but the staff ignored me...More recently, another microwave caught fire in the adjacent unit. The situation became chaotic. The officers didn’t know how to evacuate us properly. Instead of using the emergency exit in our unit, they led us through the unit filled with smoke, further exposing us to toxic inhalation. The officers panicked and began verbally assaulting us and threatening us with pepper spray. During the evacuation, one woman collapsed in the yard. I witnessed how staff performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, CPR, and used oxygen. Her pulse did not return until they used defibrillator paddles to administer an electric shock to her chest. That is what brought her back to life. There were more people lying on the ground, unable to breathe due to smoke inhalation. At least three people fainted, and no one was attending to them.”



04 Abuses by US Authorities

July 17, 2025: Last week, KBI staff spoke with Alma Rosa,* a woman who attempted to cross into the US by climbing over the border wall near Agua Prieta, AZ. The guide crossing her had her climb across using a rope, but on her way down on the US side, it gave way and she fell, fracturing her ankle. Border Patrol took her to the hospital on the US side and told her that it was fractured, but they just put some bandages and a splint on her leg and gave her ibuprofen for the pain. Border Patrol then took her to a detention center where it was very cold, they only gave her an aluminum “blanket” and Alma Rosa’s pain worsened. She did not receive any additional medical attention in the US, and Border Patrol deported her to Mexico with a fractured ankle.

July 17, 2025: Elba,* a 36-year-old woman, had a broken ankle when Border Patrol detained her. They took her to the hospital in Tucson where she had an operation to repair her fibula. Border Patrol deported her to Nogales three days later. When doctors in Nogales did further tests, they found she had a more serious fracture of the tibia that had been ignored and had to perform an additional surgery, which included removing the screws that had been put in her leg.

August 14, 2025: Luis* had lived about a year and a half in Florida, but did not have legal status. He was working to save up money to send his daughters to school. One day while Luis was shopping at Walmart, ICE agents rushed in and detained everyone shopping at the store without asking any questions, including US citizens and legal permanent residents, who were only released after about five days. ICE transferred Luis to three different detention centers within a week. When they transferred him from El Paso, Texas to Denver, Colorado, they kept him and the others on the bus chained for a total of 25 hours during the transfer process. For 19 of those hours, ICE gave them no food or water. Luis complained to an officer that his hands and feet were swelling because the chains were too tight, but the officer refused to loosen them. Many of those on the bus felt sick after the trip and requested medical attention upon arrival in Denver, but officers refused. Illness within the group grew so concerning that 70 of them in the same cell block decided to refuse to return to their cells until authorities sent a doctor or nurse to attend to the dozen or so from the group who were suffering from various medical conditions, including diabetics who needed insulin. Instead of sending medical attention, ICE sent for tear gas to force everyone back into their cells.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

August 14, 2025: Elvira,* a mother of four from Puebla, Mexico, tried to climb the wall to cross into the US. While she was crossing, she got caught on the barbed wire and fell, fracturing her leg. Border Patrol took her to the hospital and although she could not walk, kept her chained the whole time she was being treated for a broken leg. Border Patrol did not allow her to call her family to let them know she had been injured and was in the hospital.

October 23, 2025: Emilio* was injured as he attempted to cross into the US. Border Patrol detained him and took him to a hospital, where he had surgery on his leg. Three days later, Border Patrol took him out of the hospital and to their office near Nogales, where they arrived around 2PM. Instead of turning him over to Mexican authorities that day, which is customary for people with medical vulnerabilities, Border Patrol kept him in the office overnight, where they made him sleep on the floor and only gave him half of his pain medication dosage.

November 20, 2025: Daniel* was driving to work when agents pulled him from his car and took him to detention. The cold made him sick, staff refused his requests for a blanket for two days, and they issued used underwear while initially refusing clean clothing. Staff also delayed phone access despite his repeated requests.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

Non-return of Belongings

February 13, 2025: Ricardo, a 25-year-old man from Hidalgo, Mexico, was detained for 30 days after crossing the border. Border Patrol confiscated his epilepsy medication, and ICE agents denied him medical care while in Florence. “The agent who was going through my belongings asked me what the medicine was for. I told him it was for my seizures because I suffer from epilepsy. As soon as I told him that, the agent threw the medicine into the trash.” As a result, he suffered multiple seizures while in ICE detention. He was also forced to urinate and defecate into bags since he was not given access to a bathroom. “When they took me out, when they were taking me to the border for deportation, I asked for my belongings, and a Border Patrol agent punched me in the ribs as I was getting off the bus.”

February 13, 2025: Ernesto*, a Mexican father from Oaxaca, was detained for 30 days in Florence after crossing the border with his wife and daughter. “We turned ourselves in to request asylum, but they did not listen to us.” In addition to being denied the right to apply for asylum, Ernesto was stripped of his belongings, including his Mexican identification, which was not returned to him. He was also separated from his family, as his wife and daughter were allowed to stay, while he was sent back to Mexico.

February 27, 2025: Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald’s to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting “Stop.” Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. “ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid,” he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. “In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don’t have access to medical attention.”



04 Abuses by US Authorities



April 24, 2025: Gabriel* is married and the father of U.S. citizen children. He shared with KBI staff that he was approached by a police officer at a gas station “simply because they saw I was Mexican—based on my physical appearance or the way I was dressed.” The officer followed Gabriel until he was stopped, at which point the officer took his green card and tore it up in front of him. “I had gone through the entire process and spent a significant amount of money to obtain it,” he recounted. Gabriel informed the officer that he had been residing in the United States for 25 years and possessed legal authorization to remain. The police officer responded, “Not anymore,” stating that the rules had changed under the new administration. Shortly thereafter, ICE agents arrived in unmarked vehicles, wearing no uniforms. Gabriel worked as a plumber and, on the day of his arrest, was carrying approximately \$15,000 worth of materials in his work truck for a job he was scheduled to complete. He has received no information about the whereabouts of his vehicle or whether he will be able to recover the tools and materials he purchased for that project.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

April 24, 2025: Alfredo, who crossed the border with a group, shared that on the fifth day of walking through the desert, they were spotted by Border Patrol. In an effort to avoid apprehension, they fled and hid, leaving their supplies behind. When they returned, they found their food and water had been destroyed by agents, which forced them to continue without sustenance. Alfredo eventually reached a freeway, severely exhausted from days of walking without food or water. While attempting to flag down passing vehicles for help, he was apprehended by Border Patrol. Despite the fact that Alfredo showed signs of severe dehydration, Border Patrol initially denied him medical assistance. Only after he repeatedly insisted was a nurse called, who confirmed he was suffering from acute dehydration. Alfredo was brought before a district court and sentenced to 30 days in prison for unauthorized entry. Due to an administrative error, he remained detained for an additional six days after his sentence had concluded. Border Patrol then deported Alfredo without his personal belongings—including his cellphone, wallet, debit card, and driver's license.

October 23, 2025:

- Last week, a group of 8 individuals arrived at Kino after being deported to Nogales. All of them reported that Border Patrol had taken their phones and not returned them.
- Kino staff spoke with a group of 16 individuals at the Mexican government run shelter last week who said that Border Patrol did not return their cell phones when they deported them. One explained that at first Border Patrol said their phones would later be returned, but then another Border Patrol agent told them their phones would be destroyed.
- María Elena,* a young woman from southern Mexico, came with her younger brother to try to cross into the US to work and support her family late September. Border Patrol detained her and deported her to Nogales last week without her phone. Since she does not have any family members' phone numbers memorized, she has not been able to communicate with her loved ones in over a month to let them know that she is okay. Her first language is Mexteco, which makes her communication challenges even more difficult.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

November 20, 2025: Juan*, a guitarist who earns his living playing at parties, was arrested by an undercover officer in Mesa in the morning after a late-night gig. Officers took his guitar, between \$300 and \$500 in earnings, his phone, and other belongings. After 27 days in custody—20 without family contact—he was released with \$1.25 and documents, but not his phone, guitar, or earnings. He still reports paralysis in his left hand and bruising from the arrest.

Verbal and physical abuse

February 13, 2025: Ricardo, a 25-year-old man from Hidalgo, Mexico, was detained for 30 days after crossing the border. Border Patrol confiscated his epilepsy medication, and ICE agents denied him medical care while in Florence. "The agent who was going through my belongings asked me what the medicine was for. I told him it was for my seizures because I suffer from epilepsy. As soon as I told him that, the agent threw the medicine into the trash." As a result, he suffered multiple seizures while in ICE detention. He was also forced to urinate and defecate into bags since he was not given access to a bathroom. "When they took me out, when they were taking me to the border for deportation, I asked for my belongings, and a Border Patrol agent punched me in the ribs as I was getting off the bus."

February 27, 2025: Irene*, a Honduran woman, lived in the United States from 2005 to 2022. She left the country hoping to adjust her immigration status at the U.S. Consulate in Honduras, but at her appointment she was informed that she would face a five-year ban on returning to the United States. She attempted to cross the border again to reunite with her family and care for her seriously ill U.S. citizen child, but she was arrested by Border Patrol, detained for one month in Florence, AZ, and then deported. "They treated us very poorly in detention. The food was rotten, they mocked us, yelled at us, and shined their flashlights to our faces. There were many of us in the cells. When they saw that the food they gave us had maggots, they laughed and shined the light on the food to scare us even more, emphasizing the maggots. The mockery and shouting were so overwhelming that a girl who was there with me had a panic attack, and no one helped her. Some others fainted from the shock."



04 Abuses by US Authorities

February 27, 2025: José,* a Mexican father of two children, had been living in Tucson for 15 years. When he arrived at Kino, he shared that throughout the deportation process, he would always be transported in chains. "They treated us like criminals. The Southern Border Monitoring Collective confirms what José described in their reporting about the arrival of deported individuals in Tapachula, chained by their hands, feet, and waists.

March 13, 2025: Anahí*, a 56-year-old Mexican woman from Michoacán and survivor of sexual violence, fled political violence and gender-based persecution. She arrived at KBI in November and was admitted into the U.S. three days before the Trump Administration took office. Despite having evidence of the violence she faced—including threats and violent attacks from a local councilman, a federal deputy, and organized crime—she was not allowed to appear before an immigration judge, nor did any US official review her evidence. Immigration authorities kept Anahí in detention for 40 days, during which she reported poor treatment. Border Patrol then removed Anahí to Mexico.

March 13, 2025: Tamara*, a woman from Michoacán, Mexico, fled cartel violence and domestic abuse at the hands of her former partner, who was linked to organized crime. She describes: "Our town was constantly besieged by armed groups. They threatened to kill us if we didn't inform them of rival groups entering the area. My ex-partner was involved with them too." In December, after attending an ICE check-in in Wenatchee, WA, she was detained and later transferred to Tacoma, where she experienced physical mistreatment by ICE officers. "During the transfer, they handcuffed me and treated me like a criminal. The handcuffs were too tight, and my arm was hurting a lot. When I told the officer, he completely ignored me." Border Patrol removed Tamara to Mexico, where she could now be vulnerable to her partner's criminal group tracking her down.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

April 24, 2025:

- After nearly three months of persistent efforts, the KBI team finally secured access to the temporary shelter operated under the “México te Abraza” program in Nogales, commonly known as the Unidad Deportiva (sports complex). During our visits, in addition to providing information about our services, we have documented the conditions under which repatriated Mexican nationals experience detention and deportation. Deported individuals repeatedly described their treatment as inhumane. Many reported being shackled at both hands and feet, and observed that children, including entire families, were frequently placed together on removal flights. One individual, who had never flown before, described the experience as terrifying, not only due to fear of the aircraft itself but because he was restrained throughout the flight, adding to his anxiety and confusion.
- During our first visit, we encountered a group of approximately 70 adult men who had been transferred from a migrant detention center in Tacoma, Washington. They were flown to Arizona and subsequently held overnight at Florence Service Processing Center. During their stay, they were not provided access to beds or blankets, making it impossible for them to sleep. They were also denied the opportunity to bathe. Although showers were available, officers informed them that no towels had been allocated for their use.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

April 24, 2025: ICE detained Angélica, a Mexican mother who has lived in the United States for the past 30 years and is a survivor of domestic violence, in Eloy Detention Center December of 2022. During her years in detention in Eloy, officers discriminated against Angelica and verbally abused her. “When I arrived, they threw my food on the floor and called me a ‘stupid f***ing wetback,’” she recounted. Angélica also reported multiple instances of medical neglect, including being given the wrong medications for her epilepsy, gastritis, diabetes, and thyroid condition. “They gave us rotten food and just laughed at us,” she added. On April 5, 2025, at approximately 3 a.m., officers entered her cell and informed her she would be transferred to another location. Despite her physical limitations and difficulty walking, they pressured her to carry heavy bags and walk unaided. She was then placed in a room she described as extremely cold and very small, where she remained for approximately eight hours. During this time, she repeatedly requested to speak with her attorney or an officer to understand what was happening, but officers only mocked her in response. Eventually, she was transported in a van while shackled at the ankles, wrists, and waist. As Angelica walked with these constraints, she tripped and struck her head. Officers subsequently refused to provide her medical report to her attorney. Later that day, ICE deported Angélica to Nogales in error, despite her ongoing case and pending court appearances. Although she was represented by legal counsel, her right to due process was obstructed by what ICE later described to her attorney as a “mistake.” “What worries me most,” Angélica shared, “is that I have seven U.S. citizen children, and I am now separated from them. I am afraid of losing them.”

June 26, 2025: Two women who ICE had detained in Eloy shared with us that they were victims of abuse and inhumane conditions at the detention center. “They threw the food to the floor and yelled at us, ‘Now eat, dogs!’”. On other occasions, they were given rotten beans. At times, they were so desperate due to the lack of water that they drank water from the toilet. They also mentioned that a fire happened inside this center and someone died.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

September 25, 2025: Alán* lived in Wyoming for 16 years. He and his wife were recently undergoing fertility treatments to try to have children. On his drive to one of their treatments, Alán says a police officer pulled him over without cause. He suspects it was racial profiling. While the officer called ICE, Alán tried to explain that he had done nothing wrong, that he was only going for a medical treatment so he and his wife could have a family. The officer told him that wasn't his problem. ICE detained him first in San Diego, then transferred him to Las Vegas and then to Florence Detention Center and finally Eloy in Arizona. Each time ICE transferred Alán to another detention center, they chained him at the wrists, waist and ankles for 24 hours. In the Arizona detention centers, Alán said they sometimes only ate every other day. US officials never allowed him to make a phone call from detention, so he couldn't communicate with his wife at all about what had happened until ICE deported him to Nogales.

October 23, 2025:

- Joel* is 18 years old and had been living in the US since he was two. ICE pulled him over while driving, but did not give a reason for the stop. Although Joel was driving safely and did not have a criminal record, ICE immediately asked for his documents and then detained him. Joel said that during the six months he was jailed in the Florence Detention Center, he was forced to sleep sitting on the floor. Joel explained, "They use a type of psychological torture on you so that you ask for your deportation."
- Alfredo,* who crossed into the US between border crossings before Border Patrol detained him, said that during his 13 days they detained him in Eloy, the food was terrible, the officials ignored them, and he experienced psychological abuse.
- Emilio* was injured as he attempted to cross into the US. Border Patrol detained him and took him to a hospital, where he had surgery on his leg. Three days later, Border Patrol took him out of the hospital and to their office near Nogales, where they arrived around 2PM. Instead of turning him over to Mexican authorities that day, which is customary for people with medical vulnerabilities, Border Patrol kept him in the office overnight, where they made him sleep on the floor and only gave him half of his pain medication dosage.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

November 20, 2025: Daniel* was driving to work when agents pulled him from his car and took him to detention. The cold made him sick, staff refused his requests for a blanket for two days, and they issued used underwear while initially refusing clean clothing. Staff also delayed phone access despite his repeated requests.

December 11, 2025: Ana* walked for two days through the desert before Border Patrol agents detained her using a helicopter. They held her for three days in Tucson and then transferred her to the Florence Detention Center. There, officials packed her and many others into small rooms with the air conditioning running at full force and prohibited them from speaking with one another. Staff took all of her clothing and searched her, leaving her feeling humiliated and exposed.

Unsafe Conditions: Fires in Detention

May 29, 2025: Maribel, a mother and ex-police officer from Jalisco, asked for asylum in December of 2025 at a border crossing in Arizona. She was fleeing threats from organized crime against her and her son in their hometown, due to her work. She entered with her tourist visa and, upon arrival at the port, explained her fear of return to a CBP officer. After processing Maribel, ICE sent her to Eloy, AZ, where they detained her for five months. During her detention, Maribel was exposed twice to toxic smoke from microwave fires in the detention unit. “On one occasion, the microwave in our unit caught fire during the night, while we were locked in our rooms. Smoke and chemical fumes filled all the rooms. We all pressed the emergency button because we were suffocating, but no one came to open the doors. I had to wet a shirt and use it to cover my nose and mouth to avoid inhaling the chemicals. The next morning, I woke up with dizziness, nausea, vomiting, a sore throat, and irritation in my throat and eyes. I attempted to file a report, but the staff ignored me...More recently, another microwave caught fire in the adjacent unit. The situation became chaotic. The officers didn’t know how to evacuate us properly. Instead of using the emergency exit in our unit, they led us through the unit filled with smoke, further exposing us to toxic inhalation. The officers panicked and began verbally assaulting us and threatening us with pepper spray. During the evacuation, one woman collapsed in the yard. I witnessed how staff performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, CPR, and used oxygen. Her pulse did not return until they used defibrillator paddles to administer an electric shock to her chest. That is what brought her back to life. There were more people lying on the ground, unable to breathe due to smoke inhalation. At least three people fainted, and no one was attending to them.”



04 Abuses by US Authorities

June 26, 2025: Two women who ICE had detained in Eloy shared with us that they were victims of abuse and inhumane conditions at the detention center. “They threw the food to the floor and yelled at us, “Now eat, dogs!”. On other occasions, they were given rotten beans. At times, they were so desperate due to the lack of water that they drank water from the toilet. They also mentioned that a fire happened inside this center and someone died.

Nonresponse from DHS Oversight Bodies

May 29, 2025: Human rights groups recently sued the Trump Administration for gutting congressionally mandated immigration oversight offices. Although the litigation process resulted in DHS announcing they would reopen these offices, KBI has still observed concerning shifts in complaint responses. For example the last two complaints KBI filed did not even receive the typical automatic response acknowledging the complaint had been received for review by the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties office.

July 17, 2025: Since March 21, when the Trump Administration slashed three key DHS oversight agencies, KBI continues to file complaints on behalf of migrants, but with limited or no response. This while DHS continues to ramp up deportations, people in detention report overcrowding and inhumane conditions, and the passing of HR 1 paves the way for unprecedented spending to expand detention efforts.

- Since oversight offices CRCL, OIDO and Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman were cut in March, KBI has filed 5 complaints on behalf of migrants, which included abuses like medical neglect, dangerous detention conditions and verbal abuse.
- The last four complaints KBI has filed on behalf of migrants in May and June with the office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, three of which were copied to the Detention Ombudsman (OIDO) because they related abuses experienced in immigration detention, have received no response, not even the typical automatic acknowledgement of receipt KBI would receive in the past.
- Although KBI has filed 7 complaints with the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties on behalf of migrants over the last 6 months and 15 over the past year, the last time KBI received a substantive update on a complaint from an oversight office was February 11, 2025. Eight of the fifteen complaints KBI filed in the last twelve months still have not received a response about any follow up or steps taken to investigate the complaint.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

Abuses while being detained

February 13, 2025: Manuel, a 61-year-old Mexican father, had lived in the United States for 36 years. "I left my hometown due to economic conditions. I decided to go to the United States for work to provide my family with a future. I crossed in 1989 and worked there until now. ICE agents conducted a raid at my workplace, a bakery in Tucson, and that's where they arrested me. From the moment they detained me, they handcuffed my wrists and ankles as if I were a criminal." Manuel shared how deeply discriminated and criminalized he felt during the detention and deportation process.

February 27, 2025: Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald's to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting "Stop." Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. "ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid," he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. "In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don't have access to medical attention."

May 29, 2025: Rogelio*, a 57-year-old Mexican father, had lived in Tempe, Arizona for 38 years. Initially, due to the immigration amnesty in place at the time, he was able to travel freely in and out of the country. On May 11th, while he was cleaning his truck in the parking lot of his residence, ICE agents arrived and arrested him without warning. He was never shown any documentation confirming a deportation order. During the arrest, agents used excessive force, slamming him to the ground, which caused serious injuries to his forehead, eye, and knee. While Rogelio was deported to Mexico, his entire family, including his son and siblings, remains in the U.S.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

June 26, 2025: Ernesto* lived in Washington for 5 years. On May 30, 2025, he went to air up his tires at the gas station. Suddenly three unmarked vehicles arrived, and eight people in civilian dress with green vests descended upon him and started asking for his license, which he provided upon request. One of the group told him to get out of the car because he had an arrest warrant. When Ernesto asked him to provide the warrant, he said he would show it to him when they arrived at the place they would be going, but did not explain where they would be taking him. Ernesto asked again why he was being detained, and they said he had an arrest warrant, but none of the men could produce any proof. They took him away and denied him any phone calls during the first 24 hours he was detained, even though Ernesto pleaded to speak to his family or a lawyer. When they finally allowed him access to his phone, they tried to force him to unlock it in front of them, and when he refused, they hit him and threw him to the ground. ICE detained Ernesto in multiple locations for more than two weeks and then deported him to Nogales, Mexico.

July 17, 2025: A Sheriff's Deputy stopped Ricardo* while he was driving in Mesa, AZ. One deputy threw him violently to the ground while three others handcuffed him.

Unidentified Agents

November 20, 2025:

- Roy*, originally from Hidalgo, had lived in Phoenix for three years. Masked men with no badges stopped him, forced him into an unmarked truck, and took him behind a Walmart where ICE picked him up. At the detention center, he read his rights, requested a lawyer, and refused to sign a “20-year punishment,” but ICE never gave him access to counsel.
- Samuel*, who spent 17 years building a life in Las Vegas, was on his morning drive to work with relatives when an unmarked car with flashing lights pulled them over. Agents emptied their wallets on the hood and detained those who had only consular IDs.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

Due Process Violations

February 27, 2025: Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald's to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting "Stop." Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. "ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid," he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. "In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don't have access to medical attention."

April 24, 2025: Those ICE deported to Nogales in recent weeks include Mexican families who had been seeking protection through the asylum process and have now been returned to the country they were fleeing, in direct violation of non-refoulement protections.

- Ricardo* entered the United States in 2022 with his wife and 13-year-old son after fleeing organized crime in Mexico. The family was in the process of seeking asylum and had begun to establish themselves in Phoenix. Ricardo was stopped by a police officer in Phoenix, taken into ICE custody, and subsequently deported. Despite being fully aware of the risks involved and having no viable alternative to reunite with his family, Ricardo is now considering re-entering the United States through irregular means.
- Elizabeth* is a young mother originally from the state of Guerrero, Mexico, who has been living in Utah for two years. The first time she crossed into the United States, she voluntarily turned herself in to Border Patrol, which allowed her to continue her asylum process and remain in the country. After two years, she was detained while en route to pay a fine. She has two children, ages four and one, and both, along with her husband, remain in the United States. Elizabeth shared that during her detention in Arizona, officials asked if she wanted her children to be deported with her. She refused, fearing they might be separated or placed in unknown conditions, as she had received no information or proper orientation about the process. Elizabeth does not speak English, and all the documents she was forced to sign were in English. She was never provided with an interpreter and was pressured to sign a statement falsely claiming that both of her children were born in Mexico, even though her youngest was born in the United States. Eventually, she discovered that the documents contained numerous rights that had never been explained to her by the officers. Elizabeth is currently seeking legal information to determine how her children might return to Mexico legally and stay with her.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

April 24, 2025:

- ICE detained Angélica, a Mexican mother who has lived in the United States for the past 30 years and is a survivor of domestic violence, in Eloy Detention Center December of 2022. During her years in detention in Eloy, officers discriminated against Angelica and verbally abused her. “When I arrived, they threw my food on the floor and called me a ‘stupid f***ing wetback,’” she recounted. Angélica also reported multiple instances of medical neglect, including being given the wrong medications for her epilepsy, gastritis, diabetes, and thyroid condition. “They gave us rotten food and just laughed at us,” she added. On April 5, 2025, at approximately 3 a.m., officers entered her cell and informed her she would be transferred to another location. Despite her physical limitations and difficulty walking, they pressured her to carry heavy bags and walk unaided. She was then placed in a room she described as extremely cold and very small, where she remained for approximately eight hours. During this time, she repeatedly requested to speak with her attorney or an officer to understand what was happening, but officers only mocked her in response. Eventually, she was transported in a van while shackled at the ankles, wrists, and waist. As Angelica walked with these constraints, she tripped and struck her head. Officers subsequently refused to provide her medical report to her attorney. Later that day, ICE deported Angélica to Nogales in error, despite her ongoing case and pending court appearances. Although she was represented by legal counsel, her right to due process was obstructed by what ICE later described to her attorney as a “mistake.” “What worries me most,” Angélica shared, “is that I have seven U.S. citizen children, and I am now separated from them. I am afraid of losing them.”
- Bernardo*, who had lived in the United States for 25 years—first in Colorado and later in California—shared that he had been actively fighting his case from within detention when he was coerced into signing a document he did not understand. He stated that he was never given a clear explanation of what he was signing and was not allowed to complete his legal proceedings. Even his attorney expressed confusion, unable to understand why Bernardo had been deported before his court process had concluded. Bernardo also reported that during the removal process, detainees suffered from pain and hunger as ICE held them shackled on airplanes for extended periods—up to 12 hours—with only a single sandwich.
- Julio*, who had been living in Mesa, Arizona, with his brother, shared that his brother had a prior DUI conviction. Aware of this, his brother had left the country and no longer resided in Arizona. Julio recounted that one day, while leaving his home, just about 500 meters from his front door, ICE agents apprehended him and stated, “We were looking for your brother, but we got you instead.” They told him that he had been under surveillance for a week, yet no warrant bearing his name was ever presented to him.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

- Gabriel* is married and the father of U.S. citizen children. He shared with KBI staff that he was approached by a police officer at a gas station “simply because they saw I was Mexican—based on my physical appearance or the way I was dressed.” The officer followed Gabriel until he was stopped, at which point the officer took his green card and tore it up in front of him. “I had gone through the entire process and spent a significant amount of money to obtain it,” he recounted. Gabriel informed the officer that he had been residing in the United States for 25 years and possessed legal authorization to remain. The police officer responded, “Not anymore,” stating that the rules had changed under the new administration. Shortly thereafter, ICE agents arrived in unmarked vehicles, wearing no uniforms. Gabriel worked as a plumber and, on the day of his arrest, was carrying approximately \$15,000 worth of materials in his work truck for a job he was scheduled to complete. He has received no information about the whereabouts of his vehicle or whether he will be able to recover the tools and materials he purchased for that project.

November 20, 2025:

- Delia*, a woman who arrived at the KBI shelter earlier this month, shared with KBI that while detained in Eloy, ICE agents told her and other Mexican migrants that if they decided to continue with their asylum claims, ICE would send them to Honduras. Delia and at least one other woman from the group opted to give up their fear claims and sign their deportation to Mexico so that they would not be sent to Honduras.
- Roberto* lived in Arizona for two years and was detained leaving his factory job. He retained a lawyer and was waiting for a court date, but he was deported without ever seeing a judge, and his belongings were not returned from the Florence Detention Center.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

December 10, 2025: Hugo* is a father of five and husband of a US citizen veteran. He had lived in the US since he was 16, and worked for years as a co-lead on a construction team where he supervised 30 people in projects like building arenas and museums in Colorado. Hugo says a typical day he got up at 5, went to work, picked up his daughter from school on his way home and made dinner in time for his wife to eat when she got off work. One of his final court hearings for permanent residency, ICE detained Hugo along with 150 others at the courthouse. He tried multiple times to explain to officials that he was in a legal process and had permission to be in the US, but they ignored him and instead said he would have to continue his case from Mexico. Hugo witnessed ICE cutting up others' green cards in front of them. Since ICE deported him to Mexico, Hugo has been in touch with his lawyer, who says ICE admitted they made a mistake. Hugo hopes to be able to reunite with his family in Colorado, saying "My wife and my kids are my world."

Racial Profiling

April 24, 2025: Gabriel* is married and the father of U.S. citizen children. He shared with KBI staff that he was approached by a police officer at a gas station "simply because they saw I was Mexican—based on my physical appearance or the way I was dressed." The officer followed Gabriel until he was stopped, at which point the officer took his green card and tore it up in front of him. "I had gone through the entire process and spent a significant amount of money to obtain it," he recounted. Gabriel informed the officer that he had been residing in the United States for 25 years and possessed legal authorization to remain. The police officer responded, "Not anymore," stating that the rules had changed under the new administration. Shortly thereafter, ICE agents arrived in unmarked vehicles, wearing no uniforms. Gabriel worked as a plumber and, on the day of his arrest, was carrying approximately \$15,000 worth of materials in his work truck for a job he was scheduled to complete. He has received no information about the whereabouts of his vehicle or whether he will be able to recover the tools and materials he purchased for that project.



04 Abuses by US Authorities

September 25, 2025:

- Alán* lived in Wyoming for 16 years. He and his wife were recently undergoing fertility treatments to try to have children. On his drive to one of their treatments, Alán says a police officer pulled him over without cause. He suspects it was racial profiling. While the officer called ICE, Alán tried to explain that he had done nothing wrong, that he was only going for a medical treatment so he and his wife could have a family. The officer told him that wasn't his problem. ICE detained him first in San Diego, then transferred him to Las Vegas and then to Florence Detention Center and finally Eloy in Arizona. Each time ICE transferred Alán to another detention center, they chained him at the wrists, waist and ankles for 24 hours. In the Arizona detention centers, Alán said they sometimes only ate every other day. US officials never allowed him to make a phone call from detention, so he couldn't communicate with his wife at all about what had happened until ICE deported him to Nogales.
- Juan Ángel* shared with KBI staff that when law enforcement detained him, it seemed to come out of nowhere. He was driving down the freeway and some officials in a white and black truck pulled him over. They claimed they were going to take him in because they suspected he was involved in an accident that happened nearby, although Juan Ángel knew nothing about the incident. When they brought him to court, the judge explained that Juan Ángel had a clean record and that the investigation showed he had nothing to do with the accident. However, when Juan Ángel left the court, ICE was waiting to detain him.

December 11, 2025: Miguel* lived in Arizona and was on his way to work in a car with several coworkers when a sheriff's deputy pulled them over without providing any reason. The group believed they were targeted because several Latino men were riding together. The deputy refused to explain the stop and instead demanded identification from everyone in the car. Shortly afterward, an unmarked van arrived with men who had no visible identification but claimed to be ICE. They took Miguel and his coworkers into custody.



05 Deportations



Summary:

Of the people who had been deported and arrived at KBI in 2025, 60% had been deported after living in the United States. Of those whom we interviewed at the Mexican government–run shelter, 61.3% had been living in the United States. The remaining 40% were detained while crossing the border. These community members who have been deported include people with recently expired DACA, green card holders, numerous family members and spouses of U.S. citizens, those with work permits, and those who have reason to fear returning to their countries of origin.

Family separation is reported by 55.1% of those detained while living in the United States whom KBI interviewed at the Mexican government–run shelter. Thirty-four percent report being separated from their children.



05 Deportations



The federal government has targeted those in the asylum process for deportation, including those who entered through the CBP One program. In April, the Trump Administration began issuing notices of termination to individuals who entered the United States through the CBP One app and were subsequently granted parole. These notices, which abruptly rescind previously granted legal status, are delivered with threatening language. This aggressive rhetoric has generated deep fear and instability among migrants who followed lawful processes to seek safety. Asylum seekers' lives are at risk in their countries of origin, and these deportations have life-threatening consequences. The U.S. government has also continued to deport non-Mexicans to Mexico and other supposed "safe third countries" that often involve similar risks to the countries they fled.

In September, Kino published ["They Didn't Let Me Say Goodbye": Revealing the Human Toll of Deportations Today](#), which found that ICE is primarily deporting long-term U.S. community members to Nogales, that a plurality are separated from family members, that many people experience unsafe detention conditions, and that local law enforcement collaborations are driving these detentions and subsequent deportations.



05 Deportations



Local law enforcement collaboration was a noticeable driver in deportations in 2025, with most of these arrests happening in public spaces like highways. From May to December 2025, 43% of deportations to Nogales from the U.S. interior started with local law enforcement interactions. Some of these stops can be attributed to profiling. In Pinal County, Arizona, people reported that sheriff's deputies patrolled Interstate 10 looking for minor traffic violations as a pretext for broader questioning and immigration referrals. This practice aligns with public [comments by Pinal County Sheriff Ross Teeple](#), who has stated that his deputies use traffic enforcement to justify further stops for the purpose of immigration enforcement. People reported police interactions as minor as a noise complaint or traffic violations that the judge ultimately threw out, yet still led to deportation.

FOR MORE:

- See more of the stories of those whose lives have been upended by collaboration between police and immigration enforcement in the section "[Local Law Collaboration](#)."
- Learn more about the abuses people experience during these detentions and deportations in the section "[Abuse by U.S. Authorities](#)."



05 Deportations



Navigating Rapidly Changing Immigration Policies

February 13, 2025: Fernando*, a 19-year-old young man from Jalisco, had lived in Philadelphia for the past three years. He entered the United States as an unaccompanied minor and had a Special Immigrant Juvenile visa; however, he was denied a work permit. "They denied me the work visa, and now it is becoming difficult to live without papers." He requested voluntary departure with the support of the Mexican consulate. "I was afraid that, given the current situation, if they caught me, I would be punished for many years and would not be able to apply for another process."

February 27, 2025: Since all Mexican nationals deported through Nogales are transported to the center operated by the Mexican government at a local sports park, while non-Mexican deportees are transported to Hermosillo and then to the southern border of Mexico, this has meant a decrease in the number of people arriving at our center. Even so, our February data reveals that 70% of deported individuals receiving our services reported abuse at the hands of US officials.



05 Deportations

April 10, 2025: Mirna* is a young Mexican mother from Guerrero who arrived in Nogales, Sonora, in June of 2025 seeking protection. She and her daughters fled their hometown due to the ongoing violence perpetrated by organized crime in Guerrero. When Mirna arrived at our center, she was pregnant and facing a high-risk pregnancy due to severe anemia. She struggled to access adequate prenatal care to manage her condition. Her young daughter also suffered from malnutrition, which led to multiple illnesses over the previous months. After 6 months of waiting, Mirna finally secured a CBP One appointment and entered the United States in January of this year, shortly before the new administration took office. However, this week, Mirna and her family received an email ordering them to leave the country immediately. The high cost of legal assistance and the pressing medical needs of her family had made it impossible for her to initiate an asylum process, although she remains within the legal timeframe to do so. Now, despite having just given birth and having been in the country for less than three months, she is being required to abandon the safety she only recently attained. When we spoke with Mirna, she was not even aware of what the notice meant: “I don’t even know what it says; it’s in English,” she shared. Her experience underscores the profound vulnerability faced by many individuals who, despite following lawful processes, are now at risk of being forced back into danger without adequate information or support.



05 Deportations

Local Law Enforcement Collaboration

May 29, 2025:

- May 20 and 21, plainclothes ICE officers wearing masks waited in the hallway outside immigration court in downtown Phoenix and immediately detained dozens of individuals, including families with children, as they walked out the door from their court hearings. Accompanying family members and lawyers were left in shock, and ICE officers refused to answer any questions about why they were detaining these people. Although these tactics seemed to subside after public attention and protests, human rights groups reported earlier this week that ICE had begun following cars leaving the Phoenix courthouse to stop and detain people after their court hearings instead. Similar incidents have been reported outside courthouses in New York City, Los Angeles and Seattle.
- Rogelio*, a 57-year-old Mexican father, had lived in Tempe, Arizona for 38 years. Initially, due to the immigration amnesty in place at the time, he was able to travel freely in and out of the country. On May 11th, while he was cleaning his truck in the parking lot of his residence, ICE agents arrived and arrested him without warning. He was never shown any documentation confirming a deportation order. During the arrest, agents used excessive force, slamming him to the ground, which caused serious injuries to his forehead, eye, and knee. While Rogelio was deported to Mexico, his entire family, including his son and siblings, remains in the U.S.
- Rafael*, a 37-year-old man from Guerrero, was recently deported to Mexico's southern border in Tapachula after police detained him in Phoenix and turned him over to ICE. He was arrested while purchasing bread and tortillas outside his favorite local store. "I was buying tortillas for burritos and bread for tortas when they grabbed me," he shared. The Phoenix police officers who detained him refused to explain the reason for his arrest and ignored his questions. "The officer spoke Spanish, but he refused to answer me. I felt it was racism—they arrested me just because I looked dirty coming from work and because I look like a migrant." Rafael came north again through Mexico in hopes of reuniting with his wife, a US citizen living in Phoenix. He fears returning to his hometown due to the extreme violence currently happening there.



05 Deportations

June 26, 2025:

- Miguel lived in the US for eight years. He was apprehended at a QT store in Phoenix. Police officers approached him and asked for his driver's license. Since he did not have one, the police officers took him to jail. When they released him, ICE arrived. ICE detained Miguel for 3 months before deporting him to Mexico. Miguel said, “I have a wife and a 4-year-old daughter, both American citizens, and I’m no longer with them. In detention, I saw people who were following their asylum process, and when they went to sign at courts, they got detained”.
- Ricardo* is a 43-year-old man, originally traveled to the US to be a financial support for his parents. “I had a dentist appointment, and when I went out, ICE was outside waiting for me. They told me not to run or move, then handcuffed me and put me in their car. I know I had the right to a lawyer or to see a judge, but when I asked, they told me I did not and tried to force me to sign some documents. They insisted and said it was better if I didn’t resist, otherwise they would beat me. I didn’t sign anything, and they deported me. I was in the process of renewing my work visa, which I’ve had since 2022. My lawyer told me that I should be fine until a judge's order arrived saying that I should leave the country, and that order never came, but anyway, I got deported”.
- Two women and a man who arrived in Nogales were detained after going to court to pay a traffic ticket. ICE had been waiting for them outside. ICE heavily tied up and handcuffed the man. One of the women was a mother who went to court with her son and got arrested and mistreated in front of her child.



05 Deportations

July 17, 2025: Kino staff who visit the Mexican government run shelter in Nogales for humanitarian monitoring have asked individuals arriving after ICE or Border Patrol deported them whether they would respond to a voluntary survey about their apprehension, detention and deportation. Survey responses from the last three weeks demonstrate increased collaboration among law enforcement agencies to detain people in their communities.

- Twenty-four survey respondents deported to Nogales, Mexico in the last three weeks reported that they were detained in the interior of the US. Eleven people were detained while driving, seven people were detained at their homes, and five were walking in a public place.
- Of the 24 survey respondents detained while living in the US, only seven were detained by ICE and one by Border Patrol. Two out of three of those detained while living in the interior of the US were apprehended by another law enforcement agency that then turned them over to ICE. Other arresting agencies included municipal police, US Marshalls, sheriff deputies and highway patrol.
- Highway patrol stopped Alfredo,* a man who had lived for three years in Las Cruces, NM, while he was driving to work. He was driving some co-workers as well, who were all Mexicans. Immigration detained him and his co-workers and accused him of human trafficking because he was transporting them to work. ICE held him in detention for six months before deporting him to Nogales.
- A Sheriff's Deputy stopped Ricardo* while he was driving in Mesa, AZ. One deputy threw him violently to the ground while three others handcuffed him.
- Eduardo,* a Mexican father who had lived in Phoenix for twelve years, was on his way home from work when the police stopped his vehicle because they alleged that his license plate registration had lapsed by four days. Eduardo told the police that he was still within the window to renew the registration. He called his wife to come help him verify the registration renewal date, but when she arrived the police ran her off and turned him over to ICE. Eduardo said the treatment at the Florence Detention Center was bad and hostile.



05 Deportations

August 14, 2025: Juan Lucas* had lived for 12 years in Tucson, Arizona. He left Mexico because many of his friends were being killed and he did not feel safe. His partner of five years is a US citizen, but they never married. He left his work painting houses for the day, and as he was biking home, a Pima County Sheriff Deputy stopped him. The deputy took him to the jail where they ran his name and discovered he had no criminal history, but they had already called ICE to pick him up. He eventually signed his voluntary removal because he did not want to be detained indefinitely to fight his immigration case.

August 14, 2025: Santiago's* family brought him from Mexico to the US when he was 9 years old. Over the last 29 years, he lived for a time in California and then moved to Washington state, and successfully applied and was approved for DACA. One day this spring as he was driving down the freeway to work, highway patrol stopped him, citing that he was driving too close to the car in front of him, although Santiago thought the car was fairly far from his. The patroller said he would let Santiago off with a warning, but then called ICE. Santiago showed him the social security number he had gotten with his DACA status, but it had expired. ICE detained Santiago for several months while he tried to apply for other forms of relief, but he was denied and deported to Nogales.



05 Deportations

September 25, 2025: Local law enforcement is using increasingly arbitrary and even dishonest tactics to detain people for ICE in the interior of the US. This is particularly concerning given that, as KBI's recent report found, 40.2% of those deported to Nogales are first stopped by local or state police. This month, numerous people ICE deported to Nogales said the impetus for their detention was racial profiling, which the Supreme Court is now allowing to proceed with impunity.

- Alán* lived in Wyoming for 16 years. He and his wife were recently undergoing fertility treatments to try to have children. On his drive to one of their treatments, Alán says a police officer pulled him over without cause. He suspects it was racial profiling. While the officer called ICE, Alán tried to explain that he had done nothing wrong, that he was only going for a medical treatment so he and his wife could have a family. The officer told him that wasn't his problem. ICE detained him first in San Diego, then transferred him to Las Vegas and then to Florence Detention Center and finally Eloy in Arizona. Each time ICE transferred Alán to another detention center, they chained him at the wrists, waist and ankles for 24 hours. In the Arizona detention centers, Alán said they sometimes only ate every other day. US officials never allowed him to make a phone call from detention, so he couldn't communicate with his wife at all about what had happened until ICE deported him to Nogales.
- Juan Ángel* shared with KBI staff that when law enforcement detained him, it seemed to come out of nowhere. He was driving down the freeway and some officials in a white and black truck pulled him over. They claimed they were going to take him in because they suspected he was involved in an accident that happened nearby, although Juan Ángel knew nothing about the incident. When they brought him to court, the judge explained that Juan Ángel had a clean record and that the investigation showed he had nothing to do with the accident. However, when Juan Ángel left the court, ICE was waiting to detain him.



05 Deportations

October 23, 2025:

- Hernando* was living in Las Vegas and had a pending asylum case as well as his work permit. He was in the car with his wife when Highway Patrol pulled him over and called ICE, who then detained and deported him.
- Juan Lorenzo* had been living in Colorado for four years. He worked as a carpenter in the summer, and in the winter, he shoveled snow and worked at a restaurant. One day while he was getting gas, a group of people Juan Lorenzo identified as “bounty hunters” who help immigration, showed up and called ICE. ICE then came to arrest him. Juan Lorenzo’s wife and son are still in the US.
- Patricia* arrived in the US when she was 13 years old. She was deported even though she had a valid work permit, and she is worried about her two young children who are still in the United States.

December 11, 2025:

- Miguel* lived in Arizona and was on his way to work in a car with several coworkers when a sheriff’s deputy pulled them over without providing any reason. The group believed they were targeted because several Latino men were riding together. The deputy refused to explain the stop and instead demanded identification from everyone in the car. Shortly afterward, an unmarked van arrived with men who had no visible identification but claimed to be ICE. They took Miguel and his coworkers into custody.
- Raúl*, who had lived in Texas for 18 years, was pulled over by local police for a broken car light. Instead of issuing a citation and allowing him to continue, the officers handed him over to ICE, leading to more than a year in immigration detention and eventual deportation away from his family.



05 Deportations

Arrest of long-term US community members

February 13, 2025:

- Manuel, a 61-year-old Mexican father, had lived in the United States for 36 years. "I left my hometown due to economic conditions. I decided to go to the United States for work to provide my family with a future. I crossed in 1989 and worked there until now. ICE agents conducted a raid at my workplace, a bakery in Tucson, and that's where they arrested me. From the moment they detained me, they handcuffed my wrists and ankles as if I were a criminal." Manuel shared how deeply discriminated and criminalized he felt during the detention and deportation process.

February 27, 2025:

- Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald's to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting "Stop." Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. "ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid," he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. "In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don't have access to medical attention."
- José,* a Mexican father of two children, had been living in Tucson for 15 years. When he arrived at Kino, he shared that throughout the deportation process, he would always be transported in chains. "They treated us like criminals. The Southern Border Monitoring Collective confirms what José described in their reporting about the arrival of deported individuals in Tapachula, chained by their hands, feet, and waists.



05 Deportations

February 27, 2025: Irene*, a Honduran woman, lived in the United States from 2005 to 2022. She left the country hoping to adjust her immigration status at the U.S. Consulate in Honduras, but at her appointment she was informed that she would face a five-year ban on returning to the United States. She attempted to cross the border again to reunite with her family and care for her seriously ill U.S. citizen child, but she was arrested by Border Patrol, detained for one month in Florence, AZ, and then deported. "They treated us very poorly in detention. The food was rotten, they mocked us, yelled at us, and shined their flashlights to our faces. There were many of us in the cells. When they saw that the food they gave us had maggots, they laughed and shined the light on the food to scare us even more, emphasizing the maggots. The mockery and shouting were so overwhelming that a girl who was there with me had a panic attack, and no one helped her. Some others fainted from the shock."

March 13, 2025: Nearly two months into the current administration, we at KBI continue to observe the evolving impact of the Trump Administration's executive orders. In February, the majority of individuals at KBI were asylum seekers stranded at the border. However, since the beginning of March, we have seen an increase in deported individuals seeking assistance, now comprising 67% of our total new arrivals, compared to 33% last month.

- Of those deported in March who arrived at KBI, 80% had been living in the U.S. for years before their removal. This group had lived for 11 years in the US before being deported on average.
- Edgar*, a 33-year-old Honduran man, was deported after living in the U.S. for seven years. He suffers from a knee injury that hinders his ability to work in Nogales, where factory jobs require standing for long hours. With no family or support network in Mexico, he shared with KBI that the only option he sees is to consider risking his life and crossing the border irregularly again to reunite with his family: "I have no family here, nothing. I'm thinking about trying to cross again."
- Jorge*, a Mexican father, was deported for the first time in 2003 after spending 28 years in the U.S. His attempt to reestablish himself in Guerrero, Mexico failed due to violence and extortion from organized crime. Last year, Jorge attempted to reenter the U.S. in Arizona but Border Patrol detained him and transferred him to detention in Florence. There they held Jorge for a year before deporting him to Tijuana on February 14. Jorge later traveled to Nogales, as it allows him occasional contact with his children in Phoenix: "It's the only way I won't feel so far away from them."



05 Deportations

May 29, 2025: The majority of people US officials are deporting to Nogales, Sonora, have been long-term Arizona residents, and many were apprehended in public spaces, including cases where the detention occurred just a few steps from their homes.

- May 20 and 21, plainclothes ICE officers wearing masks waited in the hallway outside immigration court in downtown Phoenix and immediately detained dozens of individuals, including families with children, as they walked out the door from their court hearings. Accompanying family members and lawyers were left in shock, and ICE officers refused to answer any questions about why they were detaining these people. Although these tactics seemed to subside after public attention and protests, human rights groups reported earlier this week that ICE had begun following cars leaving the Phoenix courthouse to stop and detain people after their court hearings instead. Similar incidents have been reported outside courthouses in New York City, Los Angeles and Seattle.
- Rogelio*, a 57-year-old Mexican father, had lived in Tempe, Arizona for 38 years. Initially, due to the immigration amnesty in place at the time, he was able to travel freely in and out of the country. On May 11th, while he was cleaning his truck in the parking lot of his residence, ICE agents arrived and arrested him without warning. He was never shown any documentation confirming a deportation order. During the arrest, agents used excessive force, slamming him to the ground, which caused serious injuries to his forehead, eye, and knee. While Rogelio was deported to Mexico, his entire family, including his son and siblings, remains in the U.S.
- Rafael*, a 37-year-old man from Guerrero, was recently deported to Mexico's southern border in Tapachula after police detained him in Phoenix and turned him over to ICE. He was arrested while purchasing bread and tortillas outside his favorite local store. "I was buying tortillas for burritos and bread for tortas when they grabbed me," he shared. The Phoenix police officers who detained him refused to explain the reason for his arrest and ignored his questions. "The officer spoke Spanish, but he refused to answer me. I felt it was racism—they arrested me just because I looked dirty coming from work and because I look like a migrant." Rafael came north again through Mexico in hopes of reuniting with his wife, a US citizen living in Phoenix. He fears returning to his hometown due to the extreme violence currently happening there.



05 Deportations

June 26, 2025: ICE continues to deport long-term US residents to Mexico, where many no longer have support networks, face family separation or the impossibility of returning to their place of origin due to safety concerns.

- Jaime* lived for 11 years in Sedona, Arizona. he was walking on the street close to his home when the officers approached him and told him that, as he was undocumented, they would deport him. He was immediately arrested. “They didn’t even give me a chance to say bye to my mom. She found out later that I was detained in Florence. She was really worried about me”. Jaime spent 5 months in detention. “I explained to them my mom relied only on me and I needed to take care of her, but they did not care, and deported me. Now I’m thinking of staying here [at the border] because when I left [my hometown] 11 years ago, it was because of the violence in my city, so there’s no way I can go back”.
- Tania* is a 64-year-old woman from Michoacan. She was taken to the US by her father when she was 16. She lived in Salt Lake City for 48 years. She says she can’t return to her small town in Michoacán due to the presence of organized crime there. She plans to resettle in Nogales, despite having no roots or network in Mexico.

July 17, 2025: Eduardo,* a Mexican father who had lived in Phoenix for twelve years, was on his way home from work when the police stopped his vehicle because they alleged that his license plate registration had lapsed by four days. Eduardo told the police that he was still within the window to renew the registration. He called his wife to come help him verify the registration renewal date, but when she arrived the police ran her off and turned him over to ICE. Eduardo said the treatment at the Florence Detention Center was bad and hostile.

August 14, 2025: Santiago’s* family brought him from Mexico to the US when he was 9 years old. Over the last 29 years, he lived for a time in California and then moved to Washington state, and successfully applied and was approved for DACA. One day this spring as he was driving down the freeway to work, highway patrol stopped him, citing that he was driving too close to the car in front of him, although Santiago thought the car was fairly far from his. The patroller said he would let Santiago off with a warning, but then called ICE. Santiago showed him the social security number he had gotten with his DACA status, but it had expired. ICE detained Santiago for several months while he tried to apply for other forms of relief, but he was denied and deported to Nogales.



05 Deportations

August 14, 2025: Juan Lucas* had lived for 12 years in Tucson, Arizona. He left Mexico because many of his friends were being killed and he did not feel safe. His partner of five years is a US citizen, but they never married. He left his work painting houses for the day, and as he was biking home, a Pima County Sheriff Deputy stopped him. The deputy took him to the jail where they ran his name and discovered he had no criminal history, but they had already called ICE to pick him up. He eventually signed his voluntary removal because he did not want to be detained indefinitely to fight his immigration case.

September 25, 2025: As KBI published in our recent report, 44% of those ICE deported to Nogales, MX during May, June and July were brought to the US by family as children and had resided in the US for ten years or more. This month KBI saw this trend continue as we spoke with numerous long-term US residents ICE deported to Nogales who have no ties in Mexico.

- Daniel's* parents brought him from Mexico to Utah when he was 11 years old. His whole family lives in Utah, including his US citizen children, a 19-year-old daughter and 21-year-old son. When Daniel arrived in Nogales, he shared with KBI that during transport, ICE chained them for 14 hours, and then held them in a storage area with no air conditioning for hours. A number of people in the group fainted from the heat and lack of cold water. Upon arrival in Nogales, Daniel said he didn't know what to do because Mexico is foreign to him.
- Alejandro's* family brought him to the US when he was 3 years old. His whole family is in the US, including his two children. After a previous deportation, Alejandro tried to cross back into the US to reunite with his family, and Border Patrol detained him. Alejandro said that during his four months in detention, sometimes they would only feed them one meal a day. He observed how officials denied many other detainees access to medical assistance when they needed it, and some were so sick they couldn't get up. In Alejandro's words, "(los oficiales) las dejan a su suerte." "They leave them to their fate."



05 Deportations

September 25, 2025: Alán* lived in Wyoming for 16 years. He and his wife were recently undergoing fertility treatments to try to have children. On his drive to one of their treatments, Alán says a police officer pulled him over without cause. He suspects it was racial profiling. While the officer called ICE, Alán tried to explain that he had done nothing wrong, that he was only going for a medical treatment so he and his wife could have a family. The officer told him that wasn't his problem. ICE detained him first in San Diego, then transferred him to Las Vegas and then to Florence Detention Center and finally Eloy in Arizona. Each time ICE transferred Alán to another detention center, they chained him at the wrists, waist and ankles for 24 hours. In the Arizona detention centers, Alán said they sometimes only ate every other day. US officials never allowed him to make a phone call from detention, so he couldn't communicate with his wife at all about what had happened until ICE deported him to Nogales.

October 23, 2025: ICE continues detaining and deporting individuals to Nogales, Mexico who are simply going about their daily routines, including those who have valid work permits and close family ties in the US.

- Hernando* was living in Las Vegas and had a pending asylum case as well as his work permit. He was in the car with his wife when Highway Patrol pulled him over and called ICE, who then detained and deported him.
- Juan Lorenzo* had been living in Colorado for four years. He worked as a carpenter in the summer, and in the winter, he shoveled snow and worked at a restaurant. One day while he was getting gas, a group of people Juan Lorenzo identified as "bounty hunters" who help immigration, showed up and called ICE. ICE then came to arrest him. Juan Lorenzo's wife and son are still in the US.
- Patricia* arrived in the US when she was 13 years old. She was deported even though she had a valid work permit, and she is worried about her two young children who are still in the United States.



05 Deportations

December 10, 2025:

- Raúl*, who had lived in Texas for 18 years, was pulled over by local police for a broken car light. Instead of issuing a citation and allowing him to continue, the officers handed him over to ICE, leading to more than a year in immigration detention and eventual deportation away from his family.
- Hugo* is a father of five and husband of a US citizen veteran. He had lived in the US since he was 16, and worked for years as a co-lead on a construction team where he supervised 30 people in projects like building arenas and museums in Colorado. Hugo says a typical day he got up at 5, went to work, picked up his daughter from school on his way home and made dinner in time for his wife to eat when she got off work. One of his final court hearings for permanent residency, ICE detained Hugo along with 150 others at the courthouse. He tried multiple times to explain to officials that he was in a legal process and had permission to be in the US, but they ignored him and instead said he would have to continue his case from Mexico. Hugo witnessed ICE cutting up others' green cards in front of them. Since ICE deported him to Mexico, Hugo has been in touch with his lawyer, who says ICE admitted they made a mistake. Hugo hopes to be able to reunite with his family in Colorado, saying "My wife and my kids are my world."

Targeting of DACA recipients

August 14, 2025: The Trump Administration is ramping up pressure on DACA recipients to directly and indirectly force their departure from the country.

- Santiago's* family brought him from Mexico to the US when he was 9 years old. Over the last 29 years, he lived for a time in California and then moved to Washington state, and successfully applied and was approved for DACA. One day this spring as he was driving down the freeway to work, highway patrol stopped him, citing that he was driving too close to the car in front of him, although Santiago thought the car was fairly far from his. The patroller said he would let Santiago off with a warning, but then called ICE. Santiago showed him the social security number he had gotten with his DACA status, but it had expired. ICE detained Santiago for several months while he tried to apply for other forms of relief, but he was denied and deported to Nogales.



05 Deportations

ICE Targeting Asylum Seekers

April 24, 2025: Those ICE deported to Nogales in recent weeks include Mexican families who had been seeking protection through the asylum process and have now been returned to the country they were fleeing, in direct violation of non-refoulement protections.

- Ricardo* entered the United States in 2022 with his wife and 13-year-old son after fleeing organized crime in Mexico. The family was in the process of seeking asylum and had begun to establish themselves in Phoenix. Ricardo was stopped by a police officer in Phoenix, taken into ICE custody, and subsequently deported. Despite being fully aware of the risks involved and having no viable alternative to reunite with his family, Ricardo is now considering re-entering the United States through irregular means.
- Elizabeth* is a young mother originally from the state of Guerrero, Mexico, who has been living in Utah for two years. The first time she crossed into the United States, she voluntarily turned herself in to Border Patrol, which allowed her to continue her asylum process and remain in the country. After two years, she was detained while en route to pay a fine. She has two children, ages four and one, and both, along with her husband, remain in the United States. Elizabeth shared that during her detention in Arizona, officials asked if she wanted her children to be deported with her. She refused, fearing they might be separated or placed in unknown conditions, as she had received no information or proper orientation about the process. Elizabeth does not speak English, and all the documents she was forced to sign were in English. She was never provided with an interpreter and was pressured to sign a statement falsely claiming that both of her children were born in Mexico, even though her youngest was born in the United States. Eventually, she discovered that the documents contained numerous rights that had never been explained to her by the officers. Elizabeth is currently seeking legal information to determine how her children might return to Mexico legally and stay with her.



05 Deportations

September 25, 2025: Not only does the US Government continue to deny access to asylum at the US-Mexico border despite court orders mandating access to protection, but also ICE is targeting asylum seekers in the interior of the US and deporting people back to danger.

- **Juán Alberto*** entered the US to seek protection and pursue an asylum case. He had been in the US for three and a half years, attending all his ICE check-in appointments. When he appeared for his most recent ICE check-in, ICE detained him, transferred him to detention in Tacoma, WA and then deported him to Nogales.
- ICE deported **Valeria*** to Nogales earlier this month. When she arrived in Nogales, she asked KBI staff how she could reunite with her one-year-old son, who was left in her cousin's care in the US since ICE detained Valeria. She expressed concern for her safety in Mexico as her ex-partner, who abused her, was also recently deported to Mexico and had been looking for her.
- **Rigoberto*** had come to the US to work, and found employment working in warehouses and agriculture in the northwest. One day he was walking out of a store, and ICE detained him without cause because, in Rigoberto's words, they racially profiled him. ICE took him to a detention center in Tacoma and then deported him to Nogales. Rigoberto fears returning to his hometown in Guerrero, where there is documented rampant crime and violence. Given that people repatriated from the US are perceived to have access to wealth, they would be particular targets for the cartels, who extort people with income streams.



05 Deportations

Deportations to third countries

February 27, 2025: The approximately 1,000 Mexicans deported through Nogales, Sonora, throughout the month of February represent 75% of the total repatriated population during that period. The remaining 25% consists primarily of individuals from Guatemala, Honduras, and Venezuela, as well as some from El Salvador, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Despite the lack of information about available services in the community, numerous deported individuals have arrived at our center seeking support.

- Yesenia is a young Venezuelan mother who was detained on February 11 in Tucson after a woman insulted her and called the police simply because Yesenia was selling homemade empanadas. "They handcuffed me in front of my children," she said. "I never thought the police would call immigration on me." Yesenia described how Border Patrol interrogated her and her children: "They asked me if I was part of the Tren de Aragua gang. They interrogated my six-year-old daughter, shouting and frightening her, asking if my husband or I were criminals. My nine-year-old son was extremely nervous and distressed. He wanted to protect me; he was crying a lot. The officer kept yelling at him to be quiet." Yesenia's deportation separated her from her husband and her two other children, who were with him at the time. She was also sent back to a country where she does not feel safe. "I told them when they were about to deport me that I was afraid to return to Mexico because I had been kidnapped by organized crime when I passed through here before. But the officers responded that it was not their problem." Neither her husband and two other children nor anyone else in Yesenia's community knew what had happened to her or her whereabouts. She was deported through Nogales and immediately sent to the southern border of Mexico. Finally, she was able to contact her family on the evening of Friday, February 14—three days after her apprehension—from Villahermosa, Tabasco.
- Mauricio*, Yesenia's husband, arrived at KBI with their two other children five days after he was finally able to communicate with her. That day, they voluntarily left the U.S. and came seeking support to reunite with her in central Mexico. He left Venezuela due to political persecution, violence, and threats that endangered his life and that of his family. He had already applied for asylum and was following the legal process. However, after his wife's deportation and the abuses she endured, he made the difficult decision to come to Mexico to reunite his family and support her. "All I have ever done is work. It hurts me that they did this to her and that they treated my children this way." Ultimately, fearful of the risks he and the children faced, Mauricio decided to move to central Mexico, driven by love and his responsibility to his family.



05 Deportations

Family Separation

February 13, 2025: Ernesto*, a Mexican father from Oaxaca, was detained for 30 days in Florence after crossing the border with his wife and daughter. "We turned ourselves in to request asylum, but they did not listen to us." In addition to being denied the right to apply for asylum, Ernesto was stripped of his belongings, including his Mexican identification, which was not returned to him. He was also separated from his family, as his wife and daughter were allowed to stay, while he was sent back to Mexico.

February 13, 2025: Maribel, a 45-year-old Nicaraguan woman, was traveling with her three grandchildren. She had to flee her country due to political repression and violence, suffering threats and harassment at her home by the government. Upon crossing the border, she was separated from her grandchildren and was not allowed to speak: "They told me that, by order of President Trump, no one could cross or apply for asylum." After spending a couple of days in detention, she was deported to Mexico.

February 27, 2025:

- Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald's to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting "Stop." Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. "ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid," he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. "In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don't have access to medical attention."
- José,* a Mexican father of two children, had been living in Tucson for 15 years. When he arrived at Kino, he shared that throughout the deportation process, he would always be transported in chains. "They treated us like criminals. The Southern Border Monitoring Collective confirms what José described in their reporting about the arrival of deported individuals in Tapachula, chained by their hands, feet, and waists.



05 Deportations

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05 Deportations

March 13, 2025:

- Edgar*, a 33-year-old Honduran man, was deported after living in the U.S. for seven years. He suffers from a knee injury that hinders his ability to work in Nogales, where factory jobs require standing for long hours. With no family or support network in Mexico, he shared with KBI that the only option he sees is to consider risking his life and crossing the border irregularly again to reunite with his family: “I have no family here, nothing. I’m thinking about trying to cross again.”

April 24, 2025:

- Ricardo* entered the United States in 2022 with his wife and 13-year-old son after fleeing organized crime in Mexico. The family was in the process of seeking asylum and had begun to establish themselves in Phoenix. Ricardo was stopped by a police officer in Phoenix, taken into ICE custody, and subsequently deported. Despite being fully aware of the risks involved and having no viable alternative to reunite with his family, Ricardo is now considering re-entering the United States through irregular means.
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05 Deportations

May 29, 2025:

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- Rafael*, a 37-year-old man from Guerrero, was recently deported to Mexico's southern border in Tapachula after police detained him in Phoenix and turned him over to ICE. He was arrested while purchasing bread and tortillas outside his favorite local store. "I was buying tortillas for burritos and bread for tortas when they grabbed me," he shared. The Phoenix police officers who detained him refused to explain the reason for his arrest and ignored his questions. "The officer spoke Spanish, but he refused to answer me. I felt it was racism—they arrested me just because I looked dirty coming from work and because I look like a migrant." Rafael came north again through Mexico in hopes of reuniting with his wife, a US citizen living in Phoenix. He fears returning to his hometown due to the extreme violence currently happening there.

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05 Deportations

August 14, 2025: Juan Lucas* had lived for 12 years in Tucson, Arizona. He left Mexico because many of his friends were being killed and he did not feel safe. His partner of five years is a US citizen, but they never married. He left his work painting houses for the day, and as he was biking home, a Pima County Sheriff Deputy stopped him. The deputy took him to the jail where they ran his name and discovered he had no criminal history, but they had already called ICE to pick him up. He eventually signed his voluntary removal because he did not want to be detained indefinitely to fight his immigration case.

September 25, 2025: ICE deported Valeria* to Nogales earlier this month. When she arrived in Nogales, she asked KBI staff how she could reunite with her one-year-old son, who was left in her cousin's care in the US since ICE detained Valeria. She expressed concern for her safety in Mexico as her ex-partner, who abused her, was also recently deported to Mexico and had been looking for her.

September 25, 2025:

- Daniel's* parents brought him from Mexico to Utah when he was 11 years old. His whole family lives in Utah, including his US citizen children, a 19-year-old daughter and 21-year-old son. When Daniel arrived in Nogales, he shared with KBI that during transport, ICE chained them for 14 hours, and then held them in a storage area with no air conditioning for hours. A number of people in the group fainted from the heat and lack of cold water. Upon arrival in Nogales, Daniel said he didn't know what to do because Mexico is foreign to him.
- Alejandro's* family brought him to the US when he was 3 years old. His whole family is in the US, including his two children. After a previous deportation, Alejandro tried to cross back into the US to reunite with his family, and Border Patrol detained him. Alejandro said that during his four months in detention, sometimes they would only feed them one meal a day. He observed how officials denied many other detainees access to medical assistance when they needed it, and some were so sick they couldn't get up. In Alejandro's words, "(los oficiales) las dejan a su suerte." "They leave them to their fate."



05 Deportations

September 25, 2025: Alán* lived in Wyoming for 16 years. He and his wife were recently undergoing fertility treatments to try to have children. On his drive to one of their treatments, Alán says a police officer pulled him over without cause. He suspects it was racial profiling. While the officer called ICE, Alán tried to explain that he had done nothing wrong, that he was only going for a medical treatment so he and his wife could have a family. The officer told him that wasn't his problem. ICE detained him first in San Diego, then transferred him to Las Vegas and then to Florence Detention Center and finally Eloy in Arizona. Each time ICE transferred Alán to another detention center, they chained him at the wrists, waist and ankles for 24 hours. In the Arizona detention centers, Alán said they sometimes only ate every other day. US officials never allowed him to make a phone call from detention, so he couldn't communicate with his wife at all about what had happened until ICE deported him to Nogales.

October 23, 2025:

- Juan Lorenzo* had been living in Colorado for four years. He worked as a carpenter in the summer, and in the winter, he shoveled snow and worked at a restaurant. One day while he was getting gas, a group of people Juan Lorenzo identified as "bounty hunters" who help immigration, showed up and called ICE. ICE then came to arrest him. Juan Lorenzo's wife and son are still in the US.
- Patricia* arrived in the US when she was 13 years old. She was deported even though she had a valid work permit, and she is worried about her two young children who are still in the United States.



05 Deportations

December 10, 2025:

- Raúl*, who had lived in Texas for 18 years, was pulled over by local police for a broken car light. Instead of issuing a citation and allowing him to continue, the officers handed him over to ICE, leading to more than a year in immigration detention and eventual deportation away from his family.
- Hugo* is a father of five and husband of a US citizen veteran. He had lived in the US since he was 16, and worked for years as a co-lead on a construction team where he supervised 30 people in projects like building arenas and museums in Colorado. Hugo says a typical day he got up at 5, went to work, picked up his daughter from school on his way home and made dinner in time for his wife to eat when she got off work. One of his final court hearings for permanent residency, ICE detained Hugo along with 150 others at the courthouse. He tried multiple times to explain to officials that he was in a legal process and had permission to be in the US, but they ignored him and instead said he would have to continue his case from Mexico. Hugo witnessed ICE cutting up others' green cards in front of them. Since ICE deported him to Mexico, Hugo has been in touch with his lawyer, who says ICE admitted they made a mistake. Hugo hopes to be able to reunite with his family in Colorado, saying "My wife and my kids are my world."
- Héctor* had lived in Tucson for 27 years, working in concrete construction and participating actively in his local Catholic parish. While driving to work, ICE agents stopped him, refused to explain the reason for the stop, and demanded his identification. They deported him, leaving his wife and daughter behind in Arizona. Because his daughter has DACA status, she cannot safely travel to Mexico to visit him, turning the deportation into a de facto permanent separation.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico



Summary:

In January 2025, many families traveling to Nogales to seek CBP One appointments experienced extortion at the hands of criminal groups and government officials. There were also widespread kidnappings of migrants traveling north by criminal organizations.

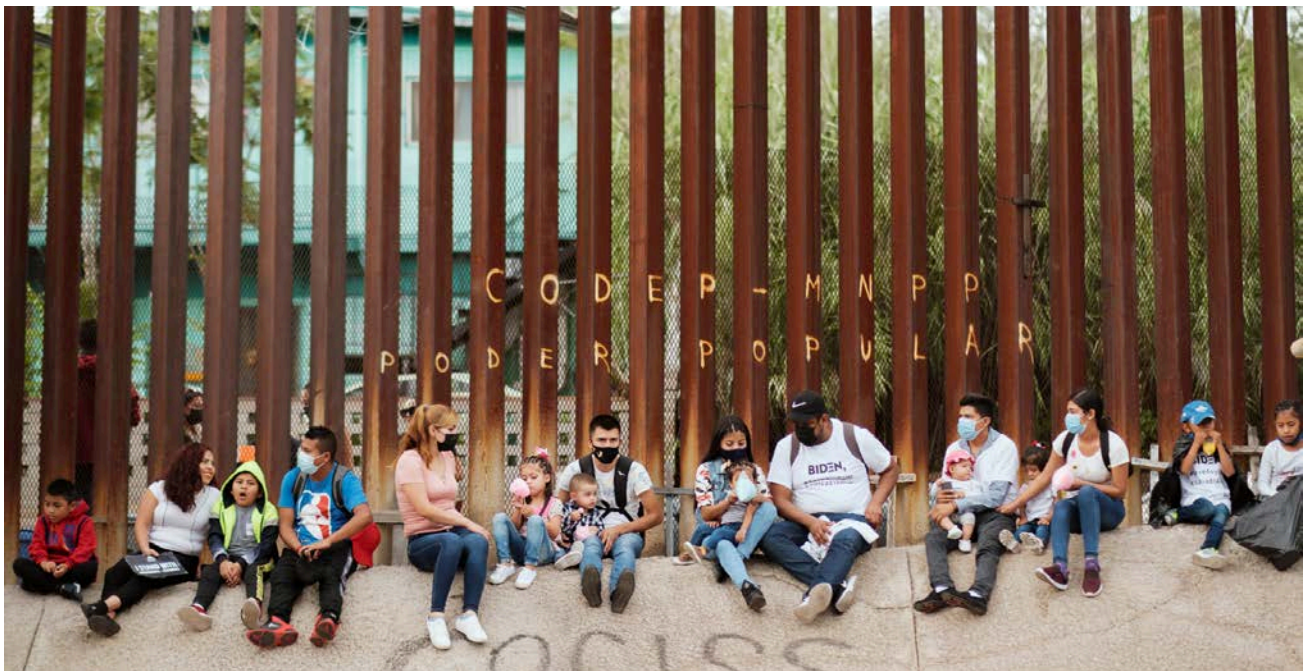
Following the inauguration of President Trump and the subsequent end of CBP One, new safety challenges emerged. “Who is going to protect us?” was one of the most compelling questions migrant families asked during a forum KBI and the Florence Project held with approximately 170 migrants in Nogales after the end of CBP One.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

This question reflects a well-founded fear, given the abuses that Mexican and U.S. officials and criminal groups commit against migrants on their journeys, and the lack of infrastructure in Mexico to provide foreigners with stable documentation and protection. Those seeking humanitarian visas in Mexico continue to face long wait times and uncertain status. Even as Mexico began programs such as “Mexico Te Abraza” (Mexico Embraces You), aimed at supporting those ICE was deporting back to Mexico from the United States, there was little collaboration with local organizations, limiting the effectiveness of this support.

Many individuals and families have expressed to KBI staff their desperation due to the lack of access to regular migration routes, not feeling safe in Mexico, and the lack of access to work to support themselves. These limitations leave them at the mercy of organized crime, which profits from their desperation.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

Lack of Collaborations with Local NGOs

January 30, 2025:

- Mexican officials have stopped releasing most deported migrants in Nogales, MX and instead are exerting additional control and cutting off channels to local humanitarian services, only channeling migrants to particular shelters or sending them on buses further south to Hermosillo or near the Mexican border with Guatemala.
- Since January 20, KBI has only received 11 individuals deported to Nogales, MX, compared to 63 individuals the first 3 weeks of January and 218 in the month of December. However, KBI staff in conversation with Mexican officials have learned that Border Patrol continues to deport large groups of migrants to Nogales. Mexican immigration officials and the Mexican National Guard are escorting deported individuals directly to 2 specific shelters, at times “against their will,” since many migrants express they prefer to travel on their own to the bus station.

February 27, 2025: Following President Trump's inauguration, the Mexican government launched the strategy “Mexico te Abraza,” which aims to receive recently deported Mexican nationals at 10 border cities. The program, operated by multiple federal agencies, in coordination with state and local governments, so far has excluded the participation of NGOs or local communities. In so doing, the Mexican government has denied individuals access to support and reintegration services from organizations like KBI that have supported migrants for decades before the government decided to step in.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

April 24, 2025:

- After nearly three months of persistent efforts, the KBI team finally secured access to the temporary shelter operated under the “México te Abraza” program in Nogales, commonly known as the Unidad Deportiva (sports complex). During our visits, in addition to providing information about our services, we have documented the conditions under which repatriated Mexican nationals experience detention and deportation. Deported individuals repeatedly described their treatment as inhumane. Many reported being shackled at both hands and feet, and observed that children, including entire families, were frequently placed together on removal flights. One individual, who had never flown before, described the experience as terrifying, not only due to fear of the aircraft itself but because he was restrained throughout the flight, adding to his anxiety and confusion.
- During our first visit, we encountered a group of approximately 70 adult men who had been transferred from a migrant detention center in Tacoma, Washington. They were flown to Arizona and subsequently held overnight at Florence Service Processing Center. During their stay, they were not provided access to beds or blankets, making it impossible for them to sleep. They were also denied the opportunity to bathe. Although showers were available, officers informed them that no towels had been allocated for their use.

Dangers for Migrants in Mexico and on the Journey North

January 30, 2025:

Individuals from Venezuela, Haiti, Bolivia, Colombia and Mexico attended the informational forum (about the ending of CBPOne). Throughout the event, people repeatedly expressed concerns about interactions with Mexican authorities, their lack of legal status in Mexico, and the reality that there is no reliable pathway to justice when they do experience abuse in Mexico.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

January 30, 2025: Many of the foreigners stuck in Mexico, either because CBP canceled their CBPOne appointment or because they had not yet secured an appointment, find themselves with irregular status in Mexico. Even if they travel south to the airport in Hermosillo, there are immigration checkpoints from north to south, including a checkpoint just three hours' drive south from Nogales where migrants have reported being detained or extorted. With the suspension of foreign aid, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) program that previously offered voluntary return to migrants has also been suspended.

March 13, 2025:

- KBI staff recently conducted a needs assessment among individuals facing prolonged displacement in Nogales. Thirty-nine percent of those who responded are unemployed, and of those who have found employment, 60% do not receive benefits. These families also shared concerns about access to education and housing, experiences of xenophobia and discrimination and the absence of support networks.
- Angy* and her son traveled north from Ecuador and joined a caravan through Mexico last year. They arrived in Nogales in January, hoping to seek asylum in the United States. Angy shared that she feels she is constantly being watched in the city. Whether going to the pharmacy or interviewing for jobs, once someone realizes she is not Mexican, they start questioning her—asking why she came, who she is with, and how much money she has. Even when she held a temporary permit to travel through Mexico, she was still extorted on her journey north. Having witnessed firsthand how Mexican police collaborated with cartels by allowing them onto buses to extort migrants, she is hesitant to engage in any legal process in Mexico that would provide authorities with additional information about her. She wants her son to attend school in Nogales but fears he will be bullied because he is not Mexican. “I left one unsafe situation only to end up stuck in another.”



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

- Alberto* and his wife arrived in Nogales last December after fleeing political persecution in southern Mexico. Alberto had run for mayor in his town and lost by a small margin. Fearing that he would challenge the results, the opposition party began threatening him. One day, as he drove through town, gunmen shot at his vehicle, prompting him and his wife to leave immediately. Despite holding a valid driver's license from his home state, Alberto was denied work as a taxi driver in Nogales because local regulations require a Sonoran-issued driver's license. The cost of obtaining a one-year Sonoran license is \$3,800 pesos (\$190 USD), an amount he cannot afford—especially compared to the \$600 pesos (\$30 USD) for a three-year license in his home state. A few weeks ago, while walking downtown in the evening, two men attempted to kidnap Alberto. He managed to escape and hid for half an hour near the port of entry. When a Mexican police officer found him hiding, Alberto explained that he had just survived an attempted kidnapping. Instead of offering assistance, the officer told him to leave.

May 29, 2025: As people continue arriving at the border seeking asylum or have been stranded for months in Mexico, they face dangerous conditions and cannot access safety.

- Gabriela* and her 9-year-old son are originally from Ecuador. They arrived in Nogales a few days before the beginning of Trump's new administration. A week ago, Gabriela experienced an attempted kidnapping right after dropping her child off at school. She noticed a man following her and then a pickup truck with heavily tinted windows pulled up. A man exited from the back seat on the passenger side, grabbed her by the arm, and attempted to force her into the vehicle. He insulted and threatened her, stating that he would kill her if she refused. He then pulled out a firearm and pressed it against her waist, demanding to know where she was from. After a brief struggle, a National Guard patrol vehicle drove down the street, the armed man quickly returned to the truck and the group drove away. All this happened in broad daylight, in close proximity to a public school, which underscored the insecurity that migrants face in border cities.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

- Enrique* an 18 year old from Chilpancingo, Guerrero, arrived in Nogales last week with his two younger sisters. The three of them fled to Nogales to join his uncle, who arrived at our shelter in January trying to seek protection in the US. He and his wife were fleeing threats from organized crime in the same town, and the violence hasn't stopped. Now Enrique and his sisters are also fleeing threats, and since asylum access at the border is closed, they are all stranded in the same country where they face threats against their lives.

Kidnapping and Extortion

January 15, 2025: Yaritzi,* a Venezuelan woman traveling with her husband and four children, shared that in her country, there are no viable options for food, work or study. "If we are not allied with the Government, they kill us," she said. She traveled with her family through Hidalgo, where an organized crime group kidnapped them and held them for ransom. They paid and were released. After several months, they were able to secure an appointment through the CBP One app. However, as they traveled by taxi to get to their appointment, they were stopped and harassed by Mexican police officers who told them their paperwork was fake. Organized crime kidnapped them once again in Sonora, where they had to pay \$10,000 pesos (\$500USD) to be released. In total, between police and organized crime threats, Yaritzi's family was forced to pay \$43,000 pesos (\$2,150USD) in extortion. The harassment and kidnapping caused them to miss their CBP One appointment, and when they arrived in Nogales and explained these abuses, CBP officers refused to listen and said they would have to get another appointment.

January 15, 2025: Silvano,* an 18-year-old from Honduras, shared with KBI upon his arrival last month that gangs were trying to recruit him and his mother wanted him to leave their town as soon as possible. He decided to travel to the U.S.-Mexico border but suffered greatly along the way. In Chiapas, organized crime kidnapped him and took him to a place they called "the hen house," where they held him captive while they called his family to demand extortion money. As he passed through a neighboring state, Silvano was robbed, and later in Mexico City he was assaulted and threatened with a knife. Silvano was able to escape, but his aggressors continued looking for him, so he decided to continue north and wait for his CBP One appointment.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

January 15, 2025: Marco Antonio* left Venezuela with his wife after he became aware of corruption in the government office where he worked and received threats as a result. They traveled through Colombia, Panama, and several other countries to reach the U.S.-Mexico border. When they crossed from Guatemala into Chiapas, Mexico, a criminal group kidnapped them and held them captive for 16 days, until they were able to pay a ransom of 2,800 pesos (US \$160). Later, in Hidalgo, members of an organized criminal group robbed them.

January 15, 2025: Ana Catarina,* a young Venezuelan woman, explained that she left her country because, in addition to the economic situation that prevents her from providing for her family, she is unable to express herself freely there. Organized criminal groups kidnapped Ana Catarina and her family multiple times on their way through Mexico in order to extort them. The first time, they were held captive outside Tapachula. The second time, they were held for several days in the mountains, which caused them to miss their CBP One appointment. After this incident, they continued trying to secure another appointment for many months without success.

January 30, 2025: Yuli* is a Venezuelan woman traveling with her husband and three children - two boys ages 9 and 15 and a 6-year-old girl. Her family left Venezuela due to political persecution after participating in a march where she was shot in the legs. They left their home in September 2025 and crossed the Darién Gap, where Yuli suffered sexual violence. When they reached Tapachula, Mexico, the family was also robbed and kidnapped by organized crime. They had finally obtained a CBP One appointment for January 21, but now they are stranded in Nogales.

January 30, 2025: Ana is a 29-year-old woman from Venezuela. She left her country because of the lack of freedom of expression and in search of better opportunities. On her journey, she was kidnapped by organized crime outside Tapachula and then again in San Pedro. The second time, she was held on a mountain overnight and then released along with the rest of the group she was traveling with. She reports having been kidnapped several times during her stay in Mexico. She had a CBP One appointment on June 5 but missed it because of a kidnapping. She has tried to make another appointment but has not been successful.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

February 13, 2025: Priscila*, a 54-year-old woman, was forced to leave her hometown in Colombia due to violence, including extortion and kidnappings by organized crime. She was a victim of an express kidnapping, where her captors demanded a ransom of 10 million Colombian pesos (US \$3,500). She had been waiting for her CBP One appointment in central Mexico for eight months and finally secured one for January 24. However, during her journey to the border, she was kidnapped by organized crime in Mexico near Hidalgo. Unfortunately, despite reaching the border in time for her appointment, she was denied entry due to the executive order issued by President Trump. The rest of her family is already in the United States, undergoing the asylum process, and she hopes to find a way to reunite with them and reach a safe place.

February 27, 2025:

- Rodrigo*, a 29 year old Venezuelan father traveling with his wife and three children, waited for months in southern Mexico before securing a CBP One appointment in October of last year. However, on their way to the US-Mexico border, Rodrigo and his family were kidnapped and taken to an abandoned location full of heavily armed individuals, where they were robbed and extorted. After several weeks, and having missed their CBP One appointment, they were finally released and transported to Hermosillo, Sonora. They then moved to Nogales, hoping to secure another appointment. However, the policy changes on January 20 left them stranded in Mexico without access to safety.
- Daniel*, a young father from Honduras, shared that his primary reason for attempting to enter the U.S. is to reunite with his six-year-old daughter, who is already there. After nearly five months in Mexico, he has experienced multiple extortion attempts. Unfortunately, there is currently no legal pathway for him to enter the U.S. to reunite with his family or ensure his safety.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

March 13, 2025:

- Angy* and her son traveled north from Ecuador and joined a caravan through Mexico last year. They arrived in Nogales in January, hoping to seek asylum in the United States. Angy shared that she feels she is constantly being watched in the city. Whether going to the pharmacy or interviewing for jobs, once someone realizes she is not Mexican, they start questioning her—asking why she came, who she is with, and how much money she has. Even when she held a temporary permit to travel through Mexico, she was still extorted on her journey north. Having witnessed firsthand how Mexican police collaborated with cartels by allowing them onto buses to extort migrants, she is hesitant to engage in any legal process in Mexico that would provide authorities with additional information about her. She wants her son to attend school in Nogales but fears he will be bullied because he is not Mexican. “I left one unsafe situation only to end up stuck in another.”
- Alberto* and his wife arrived in Nogales last December after fleeing political persecution in southern Mexico. Alberto had run for mayor in his town and lost by a small margin. Fearing that he would challenge the results, the opposition party began threatening him. One day, as he drove through town, gunmen shot at his vehicle, prompting him and his wife to leave immediately. Despite holding a valid driver’s license from his home state, Alberto was denied work as a taxi driver in Nogales because local regulations require a Sonoran-issued driver’s license. The cost of obtaining a one-year Sonoran license is \$3,800 pesos (\$190 USD), an amount he cannot afford—especially compared to the \$600 pesos (\$30 USD) for a three-year license in his home state. A few weeks ago, while walking downtown in the evening, two men attempted to kidnap Alberto. He managed to escape and hid for half an hour near the port of entry. When a Mexican police officer found him hiding, Alberto explained that he had just survived an attempted kidnapping. Instead of offering assistance, the officer told him to leave.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

March 13, 2025: Rodrigo*, a 29 year old Venezuelan father traveling with his wife and three children, waited for months in southern Mexico before securing a CBP One appointment in October of last year. However, on their way to the US-Mexico border, Rodrigo and his family were kidnapped and taken to an abandoned location full of heavily armed individuals, where they were robbed and extorted. After several weeks, and having missed their CBP One appointment, they were finally released and transported to Hermosillo, Sonora. They then moved to Nogales, hoping to secure another appointment. However, the policy changes on January 20 left them stranded in Mexico without access to safety.

Barriers to Asylum Access in Mexico

January 30, 2025: Although non-Mexicans can apply for refugee status in Mexico, they face significant obstacles. In Nogales, applications must be submitted to the INM, the same agency which also detains and deports foreigners, as there is no representation from the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) in the state of Sonora. Since mid-2025, COMAR has begun to deny many applications for Refuge in Mexico, and most of the cases KBI's Mexican attorney has accompanied have faced delays of more than a year for a response. This year the Mexican government has also slashed resources for COMAR, meaning delays for processing will likely increase.



06 Abuses and Challenges in Mexico

August 14, 2025:

- Reports from our Jesuit Refugee Service Mexico partners confirm the lack of infrastructure for processing asylum seekers in Mexico that KBI has observed. Many migrants seeking asylum in Mexico arrived with the intention to seek asylum in the US, a process the Trump Administration shut down at the US-Mexico border in January.
- Migrants attempting to access the Mexican asylum process in Chiapas, near the Mexican border with Guatemala, are met with collapsing infrastructure due to funding and staffing cuts at COMAR, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, in recent years. Historically US foreign aid through UNHCR has been crucial to COMAR's capacity.
 - Migrants in Tuxtla report limited COMAR personnel, a lack of translators, a three month wait just to begin their asylum process, and up to a year to receive approval to regularize their status.
 - Migrants in Tapachula report corruption in COMAR offices, as individuals are paying Mexican officials to speed up their asylum process or to secure a positive result.
- Limited access to immigration status in Mexico has also affected migrants' ability to access stability as they resettle. Migrants in Tuxtla report that because INM, the National Institute of Migration, is refusing to grant humanitarian visas, they are kept from accessing formal work opportunities and employers lack workers. At the same time, there is little humanitarian infrastructure to support them due to aid cuts.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border



Summary:

Shortly after taking office, the Trump administration began implementing its restrictive immigration agenda, and we saw immediate effects in Nogales. Minutes after the inauguration, the administration terminated the CBP One program for asylum seekers and canceled previously scheduled appointments. In addition, we later learned that many of the individuals who had been processed that morning (families who would previously have been released to reunite with relatives and attend local court hearings) were being held in detention in Eloy, Arizona.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

While the Trump administration continues to restrict legal pathways to protection at the U.S.-Mexico border, we are witnessing profound harm inflicted on individuals on both sides of the border. Families who are unable to access asylum in the United States face significant risks, challenges, and service gaps while stranded in Mexico, where systemic barriers often make it impossible to find true safety. Many individuals are forced to navigate an overwhelmed and inconsistent asylum system, compounded by limited access to specialized medical care, legal services, and basic protections against violence and exploitation. Mexican families fleeing violence are particularly impacted by the lack of due process and violations of non-refoulement protections, even as they are internally displaced within the same country where they face persecution.

Given the lack of legal pathways to seek protection, some are making the dangerous choice to enter the United States through the desert between ports of entry as they flee violence in their country of origin.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

January 30, 2025:

- Mohammadi is a 40-year-old Afghan man fleeing persecution by the Taliban. He speaks and understands very little English and no Spanish. He had a CBP One appointment scheduled for January 23, three days after the Trump Administration announced that the pathway for asylum processing through the CBP One app was closed.
- Lorena* is a 38-year-old Mexican mother traveling with her three children. They left Guanajuato and headed north to Tijuana because of death threats against one of her children. She is a police officer in her hometown and although she decided to report the incidents, the case never progressed. She had been working in Tijuana since May 2025 while waiting for her CBP One appointment, which had been scheduled for January 21, 2025 through Nogales port of entry, but was unfortunately canceled.
- Yuli* is a Venezuelan woman traveling with her husband and three children - two boys ages 9 and 15 and a 6-year-old girl. Her family left Venezuela due to political persecution after participating in a march where she was shot in the legs. They left their home in September 2025 and crossed the Darién Gap, where Yuli suffered sexual violence. When they reached Tapachula, Mexico, the family was also robbed and kidnapped by organized crime. They had finally obtained a CBP One appointment for January 21, but now they are stranded in Nogales.
- Vivienne* is a 29-year-old woman from Haiti who is traveling with her 3-month-old baby. She left her country with her sister, nephews, father, and brothers because of the extreme violence and political persecution they experienced there. Vivienne shared with KBI, “We had a CBP One appointment for January 21 and it was canceled. Now we have to see how to organize our lives—we are afraid because we don’t know anyone here.”



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

February 13, 2025: Priscila*, a 54-year-old woman, was forced to leave her hometown in Colombia due to violence, including extortion and kidnappings by organized crime. She was a victim of an express kidnapping, where her captors demanded a ransom of 10 million Colombian pesos (US \$3,500). She had been waiting for her CBP One appointment in central Mexico for eight months and finally secured one for January 24. However, during her journey to the border, she was kidnapped by organized crime in Mexico near Hidalgo. Unfortunately, despite reaching the border in time for her appointment, she was denied entry due to the executive order issued by President Trump. The rest of her family is already in the United States, undergoing the asylum process, and she hopes to find a way to reunite with them and reach a safe place.

February 13, 2025: Ernesto*, a Mexican father from Oaxaca, was detained for 30 days in Florence after crossing the border with his wife and daughter. "We turned ourselves in to request asylum, but they did not listen to us." In addition to being denied the right to apply for asylum, Ernesto was stripped of his belongings, including his Mexican identification, which was not returned to him. He was also separated from his family, as his wife and daughter were allowed to stay, while he was sent back to Mexico.

February 13, 2025: Maribel, a 45-year-old Nicaraguan woman, was traveling with her three grandchildren. She had to flee her country due to political repression and violence, suffering threats and harassment at her home by the government. Upon crossing the border, she was separated from her grandchildren and was not allowed to speak: "They told me that, by order of President Trump, no one could cross or apply for asylum." After spending a couple of days in detention, she was deported to Mexico.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

February 13, 2025: Ricardo, a 25-year-old man from Hidalgo, Mexico, was detained for 30 days after crossing the border. Border Patrol confiscated his epilepsy medication, and ICE agents denied him medical care while in Florence. “The agent who was going through my belongings asked me what the medicine was for. I told him it was for my seizures because I suffer from epilepsy. As soon as I told him that, the agent threw the medicine into the trash.” As a result, he suffered multiple seizures while in ICE detention. He was also forced to urinate and defecate into bags since he was not given access to a bathroom. “When they took me out, when they were taking me to the border for deportation, I asked for my belongings, and a Border Patrol agent punched me in the ribs as I was getting off the bus.”

February 27, 2025:

- Rodrigo*, a 29 year old Venezuelan father traveling with his wife and three children, waited for months in southern Mexico before securing a CBP One appointment in October of last year. However, on their way to the US-Mexico border, Rodrigo and his family were kidnapped and taken to an abandoned location full of heavily armed individuals, where they were robbed and extorted. After several weeks, and having missed their CBP One appointment, they were finally released and transported to Hermosillo, Sonora. They then moved to Nogales, hoping to secure another appointment. However, the policy changes on January 20 left them stranded in Mexico without access to safety.
- Daniel*, a young father from Honduras, shared that his primary reason for attempting to enter the U.S. is to reunite with his six-year-old daughter, who is already there. After nearly five months in Mexico, he has experienced multiple extortion attempts. Unfortunately, there is currently no legal pathway for him to enter the U.S. to reunite with his family or ensure his safety.
- Andrea*, a Honduran mother with two young daughters, arrived in Nogales after walking over 170 miles from Hermosillo. She fled Honduras due to gang extortion, violence, and extreme poverty. Along her journey through Mexico, she suffered multiple violent incidents. “I don’t feel safe here. Many things happened to me on the route, things I don’t even want to remember. I’m constantly worried about my daughters, about our safety, and we don’t know anyone here”.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

February 27, 2025: The Trump administration has not only doubled down on harsh immigration policies but has openly celebrated their cruelty. Border Patrol's Tucson Sector recent Facebook posts, echoing the federal administration, display an alarming degree of mockery and indifference toward the suffering of those being expelled. They also document the ongoing violation to asylum law by reporting the constant denial of the right to asylum; in short, these posts constitute a public statement of the current non-existent access to asylum.

March 13, 2025:

- Areli*, a Mexican mother of three, is a survivor of gender-based violence at the hands of her husband and mother-in-law. She continues to suffer active persecution from her mother-in-law: “I’m afraid she will beat me again and take my daughters away from me.”
- Anahí*, a 56-year-old Mexican woman from Michoacán and survivor of sexual violence, fled political violence and gender-based persecution. She arrived at KBI in November and was admitted to the United States three days before the Trump Administration took office. Despite having evidence of the violence she faced—including threats and violent attacks from a local councilman, a federal deputy, and organized crime—she was not allowed to appear before an immigration judge, nor did any U.S. official review her evidence. Immigration authorities kept Anahí in detention for 40 days, during which she reported poor treatment. Border Patrol then removed Anahí to Mexico.
- Tamara*, a woman from Michoacán, fled cartel violence and domestic abuse at the hands of her former partner, who was linked to organized crime. She describes: “Our town was constantly besieged by armed groups. They threatened to kill us if we didn’t inform them of rival groups entering the area. My ex-partner was involved with them too.” In December, after attending an ICE check-in in Wenatchee, WA, she was detained and later transferred to Tacoma, where she experienced physical mistreatment by ICE officers. “During the transfer, they handcuffed me and treated me like a criminal. The handcuffs were too tight, and my arm was hurting a lot. When I told the officer, he completely ignored me.” Border Patrol removed Tamara to Mexico, where she could now be vulnerable to her partner’s criminal group tracking her down.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

April 10, 2025: Mirna* is a young Mexican mother from Guerrero who arrived in Nogales, Sonora, in June of 2025 seeking protection. She and her daughters fled their hometown due to the ongoing violence perpetrated by organized crime in Guerrero. When Mirna arrived at our center, she was pregnant and facing a high-risk pregnancy due to severe anemia. She struggled to access adequate prenatal care to manage her condition. Her young daughter also suffered from malnutrition, which led to multiple illnesses over the previous months. After 6 months of waiting, Mirna finally secured a CBP One appointment and entered the United States in January of this year, shortly before the new administration took office. However, this week, Mirna and her family received an email ordering them to leave the country immediately. The high cost of legal assistance and the pressing medical needs of her family had made it impossible for her to initiate an asylum process, although she remains within the legal timeframe to do so. Now, despite having just given birth and having been in the country for less than three months, she is being required to abandon the safety she only recently attained. When we spoke with Mirna, she was not even aware of what the notice meant: “I don’t even know what it says; it’s in English,” she shared. Her experience underscores the profound vulnerability faced by many individuals who, despite following lawful processes, are now at risk of being forced back into danger without adequate information or support.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

Closure of Legal Pathways Leads to Dangerous Border Crossings

March 13, 2025: Edgar*, a 33-year-old Honduran man, was deported after living in the U.S. for seven years. He suffers from a knee injury that hinders his ability to work in Nogales, where factory jobs require standing for long hours. With no family or support network in Mexico, he shared with KBI that the only option he sees is to consider risking his life and crossing the border irregularly again to reunite with his family: “I have no family here, nothing. I’m thinking about trying to cross again.”

April 10, 2025: Ingrid*, a 37-year-old Guatemalan mother, was deported to Mexico three days after crossing the border through the desert. She had left her hometown twelve days prior to arriving at our center, seeking safety and dignified living conditions for herself and her three children. “I crossed with a big group through the desert. We climbed the wall and then entered the desert. I was very scared, but I did it thinking about my family,” she shared. Despite the severe risks of injury or death she faced, and the impact of experiencing detention, Ingrid—like many other migrants in desperate need—considers crossing the desert again as her only viable option. “I think I want to try it again. I need to do it for my family, and there is no other way right now.”



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

April 10, 2025: Sandra*, Ernesto*, and their young son Lauro*, a Venezuelan family, have been in Nogales, Sonora, for more than a year after being unable to secure entry to the U.S. through the CBP One application. After careful consideration, they decided to apply for refugee status in Mexico. Despite submitting their application on February 26, 2025, their case had not been admitted by the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) as of early April. While awaiting the processing of their case, Liam, the couple's young son, was referred by our physician at KBI to the General Hospital of Nogales due to a chronic kidney condition. After undergoing medical examinations and laboratory tests, it became clear that his health was at serious risk. Nogales lacks access to a pediatric nephrologist within the public health system, making it necessary for Lauro to be transferred to Mexico City to begin specialized treatment. On March 21, 2025, the family submitted a formal request to the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, via Mexico's immigration office (INM), to transfer their asylum case to Mexico City. According to Mexican law, the authorities have three days to issue a response to such requests, either granting or denying them. However, by April 6, 2025, the family had received no response. Left with no choice, Lauro and his family traveled to Mexico City without the necessary official safe-passage document (*salvoconducto*), exposing them to significant risks, including extortion, detention by authorities, or violence at the hands of organized crime. Fortunately, they arrived safely in Mexico City on April 7. Upon presenting themselves at COMAR's offices, and despite providing stamped copies evidencing their previous application and transfer request, officials informed them that there was no record of their prior filings and instructed them to submit a new application—effectively erasing months of waiting and jeopardizing their legal process. Despite what they had been through, they chose not to file a formal complaint for fear of retaliation.



07 End of Access to Asylum at the US-Mexico Border

July 17, 2025: Last week, KBI staff spoke with Alma Rosa,* a woman who attempted to cross into the US by climbing over the border wall near Agua Prieta, AZ. The guide crossing her had her climb across using a rope, but on her way down on the US side, it gave way and she fell, fracturing her ankle. Border Patrol took her to the hospital on the US side and told her that it was fractured, but they just put some bandages and a splint on her leg and gave her ibuprofen for the pain. Border Patrol then took her to a detention center where it was very cold, they only gave her an aluminum “blanket” and Alma Rosa’s pain worsened. She did not receive any additional medical attention in the US, and Border Patrol deported her to Mexico with a fractured ankle.

July 17, 2025: Elba,* a 36-year-old woman, had a broken ankle when Border Patrol detained her. They took her to the hospital in Tucson where she had an operation to repair her fibula. Border Patrol deported her to Nogales three days later. When doctors in Nogales did further tests, they found she had a more serious fracture of the tibia that had been ignored and had to perform an additional surgery, which included removing the screws that had been put in her leg.



08 Congressional Recommendations by Themes



Reinstate Access to Asylum

- Call on the federal administration to immediately clarify how it intends to honor U.S. law and international treaty obligations toward asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.
- Inquire with the Trump Administration how they plan to fulfill US law and treaty obligations to protect asylum seekers given the abrupt end of the CBP One app process and the lack of any formal replacement process, even for particularly vulnerable individuals.



08 Congressional Recommendations by Themes

- Ensure that funding for the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) and the Unaccompanied Children Program, which provide essential legal education and support to some of the most vulnerable individuals, is maintained in upcoming appropriations processes and that no further efforts to criminalize legal advocacy or civil rights education are permitted to advance. These programs often serve as the primary source of guidance for individuals navigating a complex legal system who lack proficiency in English, legal training, or access to representation. Terminating them not only undermines access to due process but also strips thousands of individuals of their ability to understand and participate meaningfully in their legal cases.
- Hold an oversight hearing with the DHS Secretary Kristi Noem to examine the implications of proposed LOP and Unaccompanied Children Program cuts and demand transparency on how DHS intends to meet its obligations to ensure access to legal information and representation.

Reinstate and improve accountability systems for ICE, BP, and Detention Centers

- Ensure the intended use of funds allocated for CRCL and OIDO operations in FY2025 appropriations and maintain these funding levels for DHS oversight in the FY2026 federal budget resolution (read [KBI's statement](#) condemning the dismantling of DHS' accountability mechanisms).
- Request an update from the Trump Administration about how the Department of Homeland Security plans to fulfill its congressionally mandated oversight functions after such deep staffing cuts in March.
- Call on the federal administration to ensure transparency regarding CRCL Investigative Memos which, as of last week, are no longer available on the CRCL website. KBI recommends offices insist on restoring access to these reports, as they are critical in holding authorities accountable for their actions.



08 Congressional Recommendations by Themes

Detention Center Conditions

- Visit their local detention center to exercise oversight powers by investigating conditions like overcrowding, access to legal calls and medical attention, illegal detention, access to legal calls, and coercion to abandon asylum claims by threatening to send migrants to a third country
- Demand an adequate and transparent investigation into the deaths under ICE custody in Georgia of the two Mexican citizens Jesus Molina Vega and Abelardo Avellaneda Delgado, and urge an inspection of the detention centers run by CoreCivic, given its involvement in these deaths and various mistreatment and abuse complaints.
- Urge an investigation into Border Patrol's confiscation and non-return of migrants' personal belongings like phones in short-term custody, despite CBP Directive 5240-010's clear guidance on the retention and return of essential personal property.
- Oppose the Trump Administration's efforts to reinstate family detention, and prioritize alternatives that keep families together and uphold children's rights and dignity.
- Make public your support for the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, introduced on December 3, which creates oversight and guardrails on immigration detention and protects civil and human rights, or add your name as a cosponsor if you have not done so already.

Stop Unjust Deportations

- Publicly amplify the cases of DACA recipients detained by immigration authorities through media interviews, public statements, and questions to administrative officials during hearings and other oversight opportunities



08 Congressional Recommendations by Themes

- Demand the unconditional release of Andry Hernández Romero, an asylum seeker that fled Venezuela to escape anti-LGBTQ+ and political persecution, only to be wrongfully disappeared to CECOT in El Salvador, and others like him who have been forcibly removed without due process under the Alien Enemies Act, and restoration of basic legal protections to those seeking refuge in the U.S.
- Read this joint statement from US bishops and engage with faith leaders and migrants to implement the bishops' recommendation for community building and encounter.
- Urge DHS to abandon any plans to expediteley remove parole grantees and observe the principle of non-refoulement, ensuring that no individual, regardless of immigration status, is returned to a place where their life or safety is at risk.
- Protect unaccompanied children by pushing back against efforts to deport them and by funding essential services for them and their families.
- Call for the reinstation of "sensitive area policies" that discourage immigration enforcement at places like schools, churches, and hospitals.
- Cosponsor and publicly affirm the bipartisan Dream Act of 2025 reintroduced on December 4, which creates a pathway to citizenship for individuals who came to the United States as children and who have long contributed to our communities, economy, and workforce and who face increased risk of detention and deportation under the current administration's indiscriminate enforcement actions.

Stop the ICE Crackdowns

- Sign onto the VISIBLE Act, calling for law enforcement agencies engaged in immigration enforcement to display agency name and badge numbers and prohibiting non-medical masks



08 Congressional Recommendations by Themes

- Read [this letter](#) from The Sentencing Project and vote no on [HR 3486](#), the “Stop Illegal Entry Act,” if it comes up for a vote. This bill would impose double punishments on people with irregular immigration status, thus extending family separation and cutting detained parents off from communication with US citizen children for extended periods of time under the Trump Administration’s expanded enforcement priorities.
- Vote against the so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” which hands the Trump administration more than \$100 billion to erode due process and democratic norms further. A yes vote to this bill means supercharging behaviors like masked ICE agents violently arresting people who show up for court hearings. We urge you to stand firmly against this bill’s attempt to enshrine cruelty into law and instead advocate for policies that uphold human rights and legal safeguards.
- Oppose the proposed budget moving through the reconciliation process that prioritizes mass deportations and jailing of immigrants over critical investments in families and communities. The \$350 billion proposed budget for militarized enforcement and mass deportations would tear families apart while slashing essential programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and student aid that millions of people rely on.
- Join AZ Congressional Delegation members Senators Kelly and Gallego and Representatives Stanton and Ansari in calling for answers from ICE leadership about [disappearing individuals after their immigration court hearings in Phoenix in May](#) and additional reported disappearances after ICE followed individuals leaving the Phoenix court this week and at other sites across the country.
- Engage in discussions regarding the [Stop Excessive Force in Immigration Act](#), making sure border communities and people seeking safety at the border are protected without exception.
- Oppose the “[No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities](#)” Act ([H.R. 32](#)), which threatens communities, undermines the balance of power, and puts critical services at risk.



09 Arizona Legislature Recommendations by Theme



Detention Center Conditions

- Visit Arizona detention centers (Florence, Eloy) to hear directly from detained constituents about conditions and access to legal counsel .
- Coordinate with faith leaders to bolster community-based support and accompaniment for separated families and recent deportees.
- Visit residents from your district or constituents' loved ones being held in detention in Arizona and ask about conditions and treatment they receive.
- Urge Governor Hobbs to veto any anti-immigrant bills that get to her desk, especially those expanding immigrant detention in AZ:
 - SB1294 which would lease the shuttered Marana Prison to the federal government for a single dollar to serve as an immigrant detention center, using state resources to expand the federal government's capacity to separate families and detain and deport members of the Arizona community.



09 Arizona Legislature Recommendations by Theme

Limiting Local Law Enforcement's role in immigration enforcement

- Press county sheriffs and police departments to limit voluntary cooperation with ICE (including 287g agreements and informal collaborations) and end pretextual traffic stops that funnel residents into ICE custody.
- Request a full accounting from local law enforcement for each case of individuals turned over to ICE, especially those never charged with a crime by local police.
- Oppose the portion of House Bill 2947 (general appropriations act; 2025-2026) that designates nearly \$13 million to support immigration enforcement and supporting federal immigration efforts and instead invest these dollars in needed programs like education and social services in Arizona communities.
 - Advocate for any border related funding in the state budget to go toward community programs that support education and health rather than ramping up efforts to arrest and detain suspected migrants.
- Urge Governor Hobbs to veto any anti-immigrant bills that get to her desk, especially:
 - SB1164, SB1088, and HB2099 which would force total local and state compliance with federal mass deportation, no matter how costly, burdensome, or inhumane,
 - SB1088 would require state and local officials, as well as government contractors, to comply with federal immigration enforcement. This measure would force cooperation with ICE, severely limiting local governments' ability to push back against federal actions that may be harmful or unconstitutional.
 - SB1268 which would require hospitals to document the immigration status of patients and as such make hospitals unsafe for people without regular status,
 - SB1610 which would require county jails to send ICE information on anyone simply arrested for minor criminal offenses, including theft and shoplifting, and
- Oppose HB2099, HB2606, SB1268 and SB1164, as more 287(g) agreements and other collaborations between local law enforcement and immigration authorities will result in more family separations and greater harm to our community.



09 Arizona Legislature Recommendations by Theme

Improving accountability for immigration enforcement

- Reach out to their local Catholic bishops to applaud their efforts to stand with migrants and to inquire how civil society and faith communities can work together to protect migrant families at the local and state level.
- Meet with individuals in their districts who have been impacted by increasingly forceful and hostile immigration enforcement tactics and listen to their stories.
- Join AZ Congressional Delegation members Senators Kelly and Gallego and Representatives Stanton and Ansari in calling for answers from ICE leadership about disappearing individuals after their immigration court hearings in Phoenix and additional reported disappearances after ICE followed individuals leaving the Phoenix court this week and at other sites across the country.
- Publicly condemn ICE and DHS use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Tucson and elsewhere in Arizona, and affirm that immigration enforcement must never violate residents' constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly.
- Uplift and celebrate Kino Teens' presence at Education Day at the Arizona State House this week, an event organized by Aliento AZ to humanize migrants through sharing with lawmakers.



10 Consolidated Recommendations by Date



Congressional Recommendations by Date

December 11, 2025:

- Make public your support for the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, introduced on December 3, which creates oversight and guardrails on immigration detention and protects civil and human rights, or add your name as a cosponsor if you have not done so already.
- Cosponsor and publicly affirm the bipartisan Dream Act of 2025 reintroduced on December 4, which creates a pathway to citizenship for individuals who came to the United States as children and who have long contributed to our communities, economy, and workforce and who face increased risk of detention and deportation under the current administration's indiscriminate enforcement actions.



10 Consolidated Recommendations by Date

November 20, 2025:

- Visit their local detention centers and exercise oversight powers to investigate conditions such as illegal detention, access to legal calls, and coercion to abandon asylum claims by threatening to send migrants to a third country.
- Engage in discussions regarding the Stop Excessive Force in Immigration Act, making sure border communities and people seeking safety at the border are protected without exception.

October 23, 2025:

- Read this joint statement from US bishops and engage with faith leaders and migrants to implement the bishops' recommendation for community building and encounter.
- Urge an investigation into Border Patrol's confiscation and non-return of migrants' personal belongings like phones in short-term custody, despite CBP Directive 5240-010's clear guidance on the retention and return of essential personal property.

September 25, 2025:

- Read this letter from The Sentencing Project and vote no on HR 3486, the “Stop Illegal Entry Act,” if it comes up for a vote. This bill would impose double punishments on people with irregular immigration status, thus extending family separation and cutting detained parents off from communication with US citizen children for extended periods of time under the Trump Administration’s expanded enforcement priorities.
- Catholic Members: Join in person or amplify an upcoming celebration of the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, for example the Pilgrimage and Mass in Washington, DC on Sunday, September 28.



10 Consolidated Recommendations by Date

August 14, 2025:

- Visit their local detention center to exercise oversight powers by investigating conditions like overcrowding, access to legal calls and medical attention.
- Publicly amplify the cases of DACA recipients detained by immigration authorities through media interviews, public statements, and questions to administrative officials during hearings and other oversight opportunities

July 17, 2025:

- Sign onto the VISIBLE Act, calling for law enforcement agencies engaged in immigration enforcement to display agency name and badge numbers and prohibiting non-medical masks that obscure identity in public places, especially given the rise in threatening encounters like Homeland Security Investigation agents recently holding Tucson Samaritans at gunpoint.
- Request an update from the Trump Administration about how the Department of Homeland Security plans to fulfill its congressionally mandated oversight functions after such deep staffing cuts in March.

June 26, 2025:

- Vote against the so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” which hands the Trump administration more than \$100 billion to erode due process and democratic norms further. A yes vote to this bill means supercharging behaviors like masked ICE agents violently arresting people who show up for court hearings. We urge you to stand firmly against this bill’s attempt to enshrine cruelty into law and instead advocate for policies that uphold human rights and legal safeguards.
- Demand an adequate and transparent investigation into the deaths under ICE custody in Georgia of the two Mexican citizens Jesus Molina Vega and Abelardo Avellaneda Delgado, and urge an inspection of the detention centers run by CoreCivic, given its involvement in these deaths and various mistreatment and abuse complaints.



10 Consolidated Recommendations by Date

May 29, 2025:

- Join AZ Congressional Delegation members Senators Kelly and Gallego and Representatives Stanton and Ansari in calling for answers from ICE leadership about disappearing individuals after their immigration court hearings in Phoenix last week and additional reported disappearances after ICE followed individuals leaving the Phoenix court this week and at other sites across the country.
- Vote against the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025” that would prioritize mass deportations and jailing of immigrants over critical investments in families and communities.
- Demand the unconditional release of Andry Hernández Romero, an asylum seeker that fled Venezuela to escape anti-LGBTQ+ and political persecution, only to be wrongfully disappeared to CECOT in El Salvador, and others like him who have been forcibly removed without due process under the Alien Enemies Act, and restoration of basic legal protections to those seeking refuge in the U.S.

April 24, 2025:

- Ensure that funding for the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) and the Unaccompanied Children Program, which provide essential legal education and support to some of the most vulnerable individuals, is maintained in upcoming appropriations processes and that no further efforts to criminalize legal advocacy or civil rights education are permitted to advance. These programs often serve as the primary source of guidance for individuals navigating a complex legal system who lack proficiency in English, legal training, or access to representation. Terminating them not only undermines access to due process but also strips thousands of individuals of their ability to understand and participate meaningfully in their legal cases.
- Hold an oversight hearing with the DHS Secretary Kristi Noem to examine the implications of proposed LOP and Unaccompanied Children Program cuts and demand transparency on how DHS intends to meet its obligations to ensure access to legal information and representation.



10 Consolidated Recommendations by Date



April 10, 2025:

- Urge DHS to immediately suspend the issuance of notices of termination to CBP One and CHNV parolees and implement safeguards to ensure that individuals are not stripped of lawful status without clear, accessible information and an opportunity for due process. Many affected individuals do not fully understand the notices they are receiving due to language barriers, literacy limitations, or lack of legal support, leaving them even more vulnerable to detention and deportation without proper recourse.
- Ensure the intended use of funds allocated for CRCL and OIDO operations in FY2025 appropriations and maintain these funding levels for DHS oversight in the FY2026 federal budget resolution (read KBI's statement condemning the dismantling of DHS' accountability mechanisms).

March 13, 2025:

- Urge DHS to abandon any plans to expediteley remove parole grantees and observe the principle of non-refoulement, ensuring that no individual, regardless of immigration status, is returned to a place where their life or safety is at risk.
- Oppose the Trump Administration's efforts to reinstate family detention, and prioritize alternatives that keep families together and uphold children's rights and dignity.



10 Consolidated Recommendations by Date

February 27, 2025:

- Oppose the proposed budget moving through the reconciliation process that prioritizes mass deportations and jailing of immigrants over critical investments in families and communities. The \$350 billion proposed budget for militarized enforcement and mass deportations would tear families apart while slashing essential programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and student aid that millions of people rely on.
- Protect unaccompanied children by pushing back against efforts to deport them and by funding essential services for them and their families.
- Call on the federal administration to ensure transparency regarding CRCL Investigative Memos which, as of last week, are no longer available on the CRCL website. KBI recommends offices insist on restoring access to these reports, as they are critical in holding authorities accountable for their actions.

February 13, 2025:

- Call on the federal administration to immediately clarify how it intends to honor U.S. law and international treaty obligations toward asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.
- Oppose the “No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities” Act (H.R. 32), which threatens communities, undermines the balance of power, and puts critical services at risk.

January 30, 2025:

- Urge the Department of Justice to restore the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) provided to detained individuals in AZ and across the US by the Florence Project and other NGO’s as this program educates and empowers migrants while also making the legal process more efficient.
- Inquire with the Trump Administration how they plan to fulfill US law and treaty obligations to protect asylum seekers given the abrupt end of the CBP One app process and the lack of any formal replacement process, even for particularly vulnerable individuals.



10 Consolidated Recommendations by Date

January 16, 2025:

- Echo Arizona Bishops' plea for the Trump Administration to uphold the 2011 ICE “Sensitive Locations Memo,” which protects houses of worship, schools and hospitals from unnecessary raids and enforcement actions,” during their transition to leadership.
- Inquire during DHS Secretary nominee’s Kristi Noem’s confirmation hearing January 17 regarding protections for migrants at the US-Mexico border seeking protection after suffering abuse by Mexican authorities, specifically 1) due process for Mexican nationals who express fear of return to a US official and 2) Non-Mexicans who have suffered abuse and persecution in Mexico and who have not been able to access asylum via the CBP One app and are summarily denied access to asylum at POEs.



11 Arizona Legislature Recommendations by Date



December 11, 2025:

- Publicly condemn ICE and DHS use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Tucson and elsewhere in Arizona, and affirm that immigration enforcement must never violate residents' constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly.
- Press county sheriffs and police departments to limit voluntary cooperation with ICE (including 287g agreements and informal collaborations) and end pretextual traffic stops that funnel residents into ICE custody.

November 20, 2025:

- Seek a full accounting from local law enforcement for cases of individuals turned over to ICE.
- Visit Arizona detention centers (Florence, Eloy) to hear directly from detained constituents about conditions and access to legal counsel .
- Coordinate with faith leaders to bolster community-based support and accompaniment for separated families and recent deportees



11 Arizona Legislature Recommendations by Date

October 23, 2025:

- Reach out to their local Catholic bishops to applaud their efforts to stand with migrants and to inquire how civil society and faith communities can work together to protect migrant families at the local and state level.
- Visit residents from your district or constituents' loved ones being held in detention in Arizona and ask about conditions and treatment they receive.

September 25, 2025: Request a full accounting from local law enforcement for each case of individuals turned over to ICE, especially those never charged with a crime by local police.

August 14, 2025: Request a full accounting from local law enforcement for each case of individuals turned over to ICE, especially those never charged with a crime by local police.

July 17, 2025

- Meet with individuals in their districts who have been impacted by increasingly forceful and hostile immigration enforcement tactics and listen to their stories.
- Request that Governor Hobbs implement an executive order requiring that all personnel conducting arrests or detentions in Arizona clearly identify themselves and display verifiable credentials at all times to ensure transparency, accountability and safety for Arizona communities.

June 26, 2025: Oppose the portion of House Bill 2947 (general appropriations act; 2025-2026) that designates nearly \$13 million to support immigration enforcement and supporting federal immigration efforts and instead invest these dollars in needed programs like education and social services in Arizona communities.

May 29, 2025: Join AZ Congressional Delegation members Senators Kelly and Gallego and Representatives Stanton and Ansari in calling for answers from ICE leadership about disappearing individuals after their immigration court hearings in Phoenix last week and additional reported disappearances after ICE followed individuals leaving the Phoenix court this week and at other sites across the country.



11 Arizona Legislature Recommendations by Date

April 24, 2025: Advocate for any border related funding in the state budget to go toward community programs that support education and health rather than ramping up efforts to arrest and detain suspected migrants.

April 10, 2025: Urge Governor Hobbs to veto any anti-immigrant bills that get to her desk, especially:

- SB1164, SB1088, and HB2099 which would force total local and state compliance with federal mass deportation, no matter how costly, burdensome, or inhumane,
- SB1268 which would require hospitals to document the immigration status of patients and as such make hospitals unsafe for people without regular status,
- SB1610 which would require county jails to send ICE information on anyone simply arrested for minor criminal offenses, including theft and shoplifting, and
- SB1294 which would lease the shuttered Marana Prison to the federal government for a single dollar to serve as an immigrant detention center, using state resources to expand the federal government's capacity to separate families and detain and deport members of the Arizona community.

March 13, 2025:

- Oppose SB1088, as this bill would require state and local officials, as well as government contractors, to comply with federal immigration enforcement. This measure would force cooperation with ICE, severely limiting local governments' ability to push back against federal actions that may be harmful or unconstitutional.
- Oppose SB1164, which requires local law enforcement collaboration with federal mass deportation efforts and local jails to house people detained for immigration regardless of the expense. This bill would institutionalize racial profiling against BIPOC communities, increase fear of interaction with local law enforcement and thus endanger public safety by eroding the trust that Arizona authorities have built.



11 Arizona Legislature Recommendations by Date

February 27, 2025: Oppose HB2099, HB2606, SB1268 and SB1164, as more 287(g) agreements and other collaborations between local law enforcement and immigration authorities will result in more family separations and greater harm to our community.

February 13, 2025: Oppose HB 2099, HB 2606, SB 1268 and SB1164, all of which obligate local and state officers and agencies in Arizona to collaborate with mass deportation efforts through information sharing, staffing and using Arizona taxpayer dollars for these efforts.

January 30, 2025: Uplift and celebrate Kino Teens' presence at Education Day at the Arizona State House this week, an event organized by Aliento AZ to humanize migrants through sharing with lawmakers.



12 Consolidated Monthly Updates



December 11, 2025

Over the last month, KBI documented continued patterns of arrests that target long-term U.S. residents and asylum seekers; use of unidentified or masked agents who deliver people to ICE; confiscation and non-return of property; due process violations; harsh and sometimes degrading detention conditions; and forced family separation.

In light of the information below, KBI respectfully asks Congress to:

1. Make public your support for the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, introduced on December 3, which creates oversight and guardrails on immigration detention and protects civil and human rights, or add your name as a cosponsor if you have not done so already.
2. Cosponsor and publicly affirm the bipartisan Dream Act of 2025 reintroduced on December 4, which creates a pathway to citizenship for individuals who came to the United States as children and who have long contributed to our communities, economy, and workforce and who face increased risk of detention and deportation under the current administration's indiscriminate enforcement actions.



12 Consolidated Monthly Updates

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Publicly condemn ICE and DHS use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Tucson and elsewhere in Arizona, and affirm that immigration enforcement must never violate residents' constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly.
- Press county sheriffs and police departments to limit voluntary cooperation with ICE (including 287g agreements and informal collaborations) and end pretextual traffic stops that funnel residents into ICE custody.

Key Trends and Findings

1. Arrest by Local Law Enforcement: Testimonies describe local police and sheriffs as the initial arresting authorities, who then turned people over to ICE, often after pretextual traffic stops or apparent profiling. In Pinal County, Arizona, people reported that sheriff's deputies patrolled Interstate 10 looking for minor traffic violations as a pretext for broader questioning and immigration referrals. This practice aligns with public comments by Pinal County Sheriff Ross Teeple, who has stated that his deputies use traffic enforcement to justify further stops and who this week announced increased collaboration through a 287(g) agreement.
 - a. Miguel* lived in Arizona and was on his way to work in a car with several coworkers when a sheriff's deputy pulled them over without providing any reason. The group believed they were targeted because several Latino men were riding together. The deputy refused to explain the stop and instead demanded identification from everyone in the car. Shortly afterward, an unmarked van arrived with men who had no visible identification but claimed to be ICE. They took Miguel and his coworkers into custody.
 - b. Raúl*, who had lived in Texas for 18 years, was pulled over by local police for a broken car light. Instead of issuing a citation and allowing him to continue, the officers handed him over to ICE, leading to more than a year in immigration detention and eventual deportation away from his family.



12 Consolidated Monthly Updates

2. Family Separation: Several testimonies describe long-term residents who were abruptly separated from spouses, children, and extended family in the United States, often after many years of work and community ties.

- a. Hugo* is a father of five and husband of a US citizen veteran. He had lived in the US since he was 16, and worked for years as a co-lead on a construction team where he supervised 30 people in projects like building arenas and museums in Colorado. Hugo says a typical day he got up at 5, went to work, picked up his daughter from school on his way home and made dinner in time for his wife to eat when she got off work. One of his final court hearings for permanent residency, ICE detained Hugo along with 150 others at the courthouse. He tried multiple times to explain to officials that he was in a legal process and had permission to be in the US, but they ignored him and instead said he would have to continue his case from Mexico. Hugo witnessed ICE cutting up others' green cards in front of them. Since ICE deported him to Mexico, Hugo has been in touch with his lawyer, who says ICE admitted they made a mistake. Hugo hopes to be able to reunite with his family in Colorado, saying "My wife and my kids are my world."
- b. Héctor* had lived in Tucson for 27 years, working in concrete construction and participating actively in his local Catholic parish. While driving to work, ICE agents stopped him, refused to explain the reason for the stop, and demanded his identification. They deported him, leaving his wife and daughter behind in Arizona. Because his daughter has DACA status, she cannot safely travel to Mexico to visit him, turning the deportation into a de facto permanent separation.



12 Consolidated Monthly Updates

3. Abuses in Detention: Migrants describe abusive and degrading treatment in detention centers, including extreme cold, being shackled for 24-hours at a time when being transferred, overcrowding, sleep deprivation, and spoiled food.

- a. Ana* walked for two days through the desert before Border Patrol agents detained her using a helicopter. They held her for three days in Tucson and then transferred her to the Florence Detention Center. There, officials packed her and many others into small rooms with the air conditioning running at full force and prohibited them from speaking with one another. Staff took all of her clothing and searched her, leaving her feeling humiliated and exposed.
- b. Jorge* lived in South Dakota for six years and worked in construction. A county sheriff stopped him without giving any reason and turned him over to ICE. He was held in a facility in Washington state, where he reported that the food was often frozen or spoiled, but his concerns were ignored.

3.1. Abuses in Detention- Medical Attention Denied at Detention Centers:

Testimonies describe migrants suffering injuries in custody and repeatedly requesting medical care that was never provided.

- a. José* had been living in Tucson when ICE detained him. They hit his arm with the door of one of their vehicles and beat him. His arm became bruised. He requested medical help and the agents ignored him. The ICE agents took all of his belongings including his cell phone, passport and \$600 in cash, none of which they ever returned.. ICE transferred him to Florence where he again requested medical attention and medication, but the officers ignored him.



12 Consolidated Monthly Updates

4. Belongings Not Returned, Especially Money, IDs, and Phones: Deported people continue to report that authorities confiscated their belongings - particularly cash, identification, and phones - and never returned them.
 - a. Arturo* had lived in the US for more than 20 years and worked a variety of jobs. One day he took his dog for a walk in a public park. When the dog became agitated, Arturo held him back, and bystanders called the police. Officers arrived, arrested Arturo, and turned him over to ICE. He was carrying more than \$9,000 in cash from a legal settlement for a hit-and-run accident. Police logged the money but never returned it, even after contacting his lawyer, who confirmed the lawful source of the funds.



12 Consolidated Monthly Updates

November 20, 2025

Greetings,

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, statistics, and stories from the last month. Thanks for your support lifting up this information and sharing with others.

Over the last month, KBI documented continued patterns of arrests targeting long-term US residents and asylum seekers; use of masked, unidentified agents delivering people to ICE; confiscation and non-return of property; due process violations; harsh detention conditions; and family separation.

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Visit their local detention centers and exercise oversight powers to investigate conditions such as illegal detention, access to legal calls, and coercion to abandon asylum claims by threatening to send migrants to a third country.
- Engage in discussions regarding the Stop Excessive Force in Immigration Act, making sure border communities and people seeking safety at the border are protected without exception.

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Seek a full accounting from local law enforcement for cases of individuals turned over to ICE.
- Visit Arizona detention centers (Florence, Eloy) to hear directly from detained constituents about conditions and access to legal counsel .
- Coordinate with faith leaders to bolster community-based support and accompaniment for separated families and recent deportees.



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Faith Community Solidarity

KBI applauds the Catholic bishops in the United States for standing with migrant families. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a special pastoral message on immigration - the first full-body statement since 2013 - expressing solidarity with migrants and raising pastoral concerns about current policies. We encourage legislators to engage bishops and local Catholic leaders to advance protections and community support for families impacted by detention and deportation. [See a short video here.](#)

Key Trends and Findings

1. Unidentified arresting agents and handoffs to ICE: Multiple testimonies describe masked, hooded men without badges stopping and forcing people into unmarked trucks and delivering them to ICE at public locations like Walmart parking lots. Victims also say they were stopped without cause while driving to jobs or moving through downtown areas.
 - a. Roy*, originally from Hidalgo, had lived in Phoenix for three years. Masked men with no badges stopped him, forced him into an unmarked truck, and took him behind a Walmart where ICE picked him up. At the detention center, he read his rights, requested a lawyer, and refused to sign a “20-year punishment,” but ICE never gave him access to counsel.
 - b. Samuel*, who spent 17 years building a life in Las Vegas, was on his morning drive to work with relatives when an unmarked car with flashing lights pulled them over. Agents emptied their wallets on the hood and detained those who had only consular IDs.



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2. Property confiscation and non-return: Phones, cash, IDs, and even work tools and instruments were taken and not returned upon deportation, cutting people off from family and legal support.
 - a. Juan*, a guitarist who earns his living playing at parties, was arrested by an undercover officer in Mesa in the morning after a late-night gig. Officers took his guitar, between \$300 and \$500 in earnings, his phone, and other belongings. After 27 days in custody—20 without family contact—he was released with \$1.25 and documents, but not his phone, guitar, or earnings. He still reports paralysis in his left hand and bruising from the arrest.
3. Denial of rights and due process: ICE never granted Individuals who requested attorneys connection to legal counsel. ICE also deported others without a court date despite having a lawyer or coerced them into giving up their asylum claims so they would not be sent to a third country.
 - a. Delia*, a woman who arrived at the KBI shelter earlier this month, shared with KBI that while detained in Eloy, ICE agents told her and other Mexican migrants that if they decided to continue with their asylum claims, ICE would send them to Honduras. Delia and at least one other woman from the group opted to give up their fear claims and sign their deportation to Mexico so that they would not be sent to Honduras.
 - b. Roberto* lived in Arizona for two years and was detained leaving his factory job. He retained a lawyer and was waiting for a court date, but he was deported without ever seeing a judge, and his belongings were not returned from the Florence Detention Center.



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4. Harmful detention conditions and transfers: Accounts describe extreme cold without blankets, used clothing, prolonged cell confinement, long chained transfers across multiple states, and poor-quality food.
- a. Daniel* was driving to work when agents pulled him from his car and took him to detention. The cold made him sick, staff refused his requests for a blanket for two days, and they issued used underwear while initially refusing clean clothing. Staff also delayed phone access despite his repeated requests.
 - b. Camila* came to the US at age three and was living in Las Vegas with her five children, working two restaurant jobs to support them. She was arrested while driving near the airport. Over three months in custody, officials transferred her across four states—Las Vegas, San Diego, Orlando, and Phoenix—often locking her in her cell all day and serving food she said was like catfood.

*Names changed to protect privacy



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October 23, 2025

Greetings,

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, statistics, and stories from the last month. Thanks for your support lifting up this information and sharing with others.

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Read this [joint statement](#) from US bishops and engage with faith leaders and migrants to implement the bishops' recommendation for community building and encounter.
- Urge an investigation into Border Patrol's confiscation and non-return of migrants' personal belongings like phones in short-term custody, despite [CBP Directive 5240-010](#)'s clear guidance on the retention and return of essential personal property.

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Reach out to their local Catholic bishops to [applaud their efforts to stand with migrants](#) and to inquire how civil society and faith communities can work together to protect migrant families at the local and state level.
- Visit residents from your district or constituents' loved ones being held in detention in Arizona and ask about conditions and treatment they receive.



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Catholic faith leaders across the US and Mexico have been speaking and acting publicly to demonstrate their unwavering support for migration with dignity, in honor of the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees celebrated earlier this month.

- On October 12, eight bishops from U.S. and Mexican Dioceses, clergy, pilgrims, and civil society united in procession and prayer for migrants at the San Luis, Arizona, and San Luis Río Colorado border. The “Binational Encuentro” gathered pilgrims from 27 different dioceses in the US and Mexico to send a clear message of solidarity with migrants. Bishops signed a joint declaration affirming that “in the church, no one is a stranger” and calling the faithful to take action in support of migrants.
- On September 28, nearly 1,000 Catholics processed prayerfully through the streets of Washington, DC in a call for solidarity with migrants facing deportation.

Catholic groups held at least 25 public vigils for a national Catholic day of action in solidarity with migrants on October 22. These vigils were held outside courthouses, ICE offices and detention centers in 16 different states.

People deported to Nogales over the past month have reported torturous conditions in Arizona detention centers and medical neglect while in Border Patrol custody.

- Joel* is 18 years old and had been living in the US since he was two. ICE pulled him over while driving, but did not give a reason for the stop. Although Joel was driving safely and did not have a criminal record, ICE immediately asked for his documents and then detained him. Joel said that during the six months he was jailed in the Florence Detention Center, he was forced to sleep sitting on the floor. Joel explained, “They use a type of psychological torture on you so that you ask for your deportation.”



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- Alfredo,* who crossed into the US between border crossings before Border Patrol detained him, said that during his 13 days they detained him in Eloy, the food was terrible, the officials ignored them, and he experienced psychological abuse.
- Emilio* was injured as he attempted to cross into the US. Border Patrol detained him and took him to a hospital, where he had surgery on his leg. Three days later, Border Patrol took him out of the hospital and to their office near Nogales, where they arrived around 2PM. Instead of turning him over to Mexican authorities that day, which is customary for people with medical vulnerabilities, Border Patrol kept him in the office overnight, where they made him sleep on the floor and only gave him half of his pain medication dosage.

ICE continues detaining and deporting individuals to Nogales, Mexico who are simply going about their daily routines, including those who have valid work permits and close family ties in the US.

- Hernando* was living in Las Vegas and had a pending asylum case as well as his work permit. He was in the car with his wife when Highway Patrol pulled him over and called ICE, who then detained and deported him.
- Juan Lorenzo* had been living in Colorado for four years. He worked as a carpenter in the summer, and in the winter, he shoveled snow and worked at a restaurant. One day while he was getting gas, a group of people Juan Lorenzo identified as “bounty hunters” who help immigration, showed up and called ICE. ICE then came to arrest him. Juan Lorenzo’s wife and son are still in the US.
- Patricia* arrived in the US when she was 13 years old. She was deported even though she had a valid work permit, and she is worried about her two young children who are still in the United States.



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- Concerning reports from those arriving deported to Nogales, Mexico indicate that Border Patrol is systematically confiscating migrant's phones and not returning them upon deportation. This cuts migrants off from support networks and puts already vulnerable individuals at even higher risk upon arrival to Mexico.
- Last week, a group of 8 individuals arrived at Kino after being deported to Nogales. All of them reported that Border Patrol had taken their phones and not returned them.
- Kino staff spoke with a group of 16 individuals at the Mexican government run shelter last week who said that Border Patrol did not return their cell phones when they deported them. One explained that at first Border Patrol said their phones would later be returned, but then another Border Patrol agent told them their phones would be destroyed.
- María Elena,* a young woman from southern Mexico, came with her younger brother to try to cross into the US to work and support her family late September. Border Patrol detained her and deported her to Nogales last week without her phone. Since she does not have any family members' phone numbers memorized, she has not been able to communicate with her loved ones in over a month to let them know that she is okay. Her first language is Mexteco, which makes her communication challenges even more difficult.

*Names changed to protect privacy



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About KBI

The Kino Border Initiative (KBI) is a binational, inclusive Roman Catholic organization, inspired by the spirituality of the Jesuits and Missionaries of the Eucharist; locally rooted in Ambos Nogales on the Mexico–US border and with a regional approach throughout Central America and North America. We offer direct humanitarian assistance and holistic accompaniment at our center in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. We serve people removed to Nogales, Sonora, by DHS as well as individuals fleeing violence who arrive at the border to seek asylum. At the KBI, we conduct an intake survey with every individual who receives our services, and this survey is the source of the above data. Other information comes from our communication with other partner groups as well as humanitarian monitoring at the port of entry and the Mexican government shelter in Nogales, Sonora. We have less detailed data on arrivals to the Mexican government shelter because we cannot do individual interviews with each person, but we do carefully document what we hear and observe and in some cases follow up if individuals come to KBI after leaving the Mexican government facility.



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September 25, 2025

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Read [this letter](#) from The Sentencing Project and vote no on [HR 3486](#), the “Stop Illegal Entry Act,” if it comes up for a vote. This bill would impose double punishments on people with irregular immigration status, thus extending family separation and cutting detained parents off from communication with US citizen children for extended periods of time under the Trump Administration’s expanded enforcement priorities.
- Catholic Members: Join in person or amplify an upcoming celebration of the [111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#), for example the Pilgrimage and Mass in Washington, DC on [Sunday, September 28](#).

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Request a full accounting from local law enforcement for each case of individuals turned over to ICE, especially those never charged with a crime by local police.



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Not only does the US Government continue to deny access to asylum at the US-Mexico border despite court orders mandating access to protection, but also ICE is targeting asylum seekers in the interior of the US and deporting people back to danger.

- **Juán Alberto*** entered the US to seek protection and pursue an asylum case. He had been in the US for three and a half years, attending all his ICE check-in appointments. When he appeared for his most recent ICE check-in, ICE detained him, transferred him to detention in Tacoma, WA and then deported him to Nogales.
- ICE deported **Valeria*** to Nogales earlier this month. When she arrived in Nogales, she asked KBI staff how she could reunite with her one-year-old son, who was left in her cousin's care in the US since ICE detained Valeria. She expressed concern for her safety in Mexico as her ex-partner, who abused her, was also recently deported to Mexico and had been looking for her.
- **Rigoberto*** had come to the US to work, and found employment working in warehouses and agriculture in the northwest. One day he was walking out of a store, and ICE detained him without cause because, in Rigoberto's words, they racially profiled him. ICE took him to a detention center in Tacoma and then deported him to Nogales. Rigoberto fears returning to his hometown in Guerrero, where there is documented rampant crime and violence. Given that people repatriated from the US are perceived to have access to wealth, they would be particular targets for the cartels, who extort people with income streams.



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As KBI published in our [recent report](#), 44% of those ICE deported to Nogales, MX during May, June and July were brought to the US by family as children and had resided in the US for ten years or more. This month KBI saw this trend continue as we spoke with numerous long-term US residents ICE deported to Nogales who have no ties in Mexico.

- Daniel’s* parents brought him from Mexico to Utah when he was 11 years old. His whole family lives in Utah, including his US citizen children, a 19-year-old daughter and 21-year-old son. When Daniel arrived in Nogales, he shared with KBI that during transport, ICE chained them for 14 hours, and then held them in a storage area with no air conditioning for hours. A number of people in the group fainted from the heat and lack of cold water. Upon arrival in Nogales, Daniel said he didn’t know what to do because Mexico is foreign to him.
- Alejandro’s* family brought him to the US when he was 3 years old. His whole family is in the US, including his two children. After a previous deportation, Alejandro tried to cross back into the US to reunite with his family, and Border Patrol detained him. Alejandro said that during his four months in detention, sometimes they would only feed them one meal a day. He observed how officials denied many other detainees access to medical assistance when they needed it, and some were so sick they couldn’t get up. In Alejandro’s words, “(los oficiales) las dejan a su suerte.” “They leave them to their fate.”



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Local law enforcement is using increasingly arbitrary and even dishonest tactics to detain people for ICE in the interior of the US. This is particularly concerning given that, as KBI's recent report found, 40.2% of those deported to Nogales are first stopped by local or state police. This month, numerous people ICE deported to Nogales said the impetus for their detention was racial profiling, which the Supreme Court is now allowing to proceed with impunity.

- Alán* lived in Wyoming for 16 years. He and his wife were recently undergoing fertility treatments to try to have children. On his drive to one of their treatments, Alán says a police officer pulled him over without cause. He suspects it was racial profiling. While the officer called ICE, Alán tried to explain that he had done nothing wrong, that he was only going for a medical treatment so he and his wife could have a family. The officer told him that wasn't his problem. ICE detained him first in San Diego, then transferred him to Las Vegas and then to Florence Detention Center and finally Eloy in Arizona. Each time ICE transferred Alán to another detention center, they chained him at the wrists, waist and ankles for 24 hours. In the Arizona detention centers, Alán said they sometimes only ate every other day. US officials never allowed him to make a phone call from detention, so he couldn't communicate with his wife at all about what had happened until ICE deported him to Nogales.
- Juan Ángel* shared with KBI staff that when law enforcement detained him, it seemed to come out of nowhere. He was driving down the freeway and some officials in a white and black truck pulled him over. They claimed they were going to take him in because they suspected he was involved in an accident that happened nearby, although Juan Ángel knew nothing about the incident. When they brought him to court, the judge explained that Juan Ángel had a clean record and that the investigation showed he had nothing to do with the accident. However, when Juan Ángel left the court, ICE was waiting to detain him.



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August 14, 2025

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Visit their local detention center to exercise oversight powers by investigating conditions like overcrowding, access to legal calls and medical attention.
- Publicly amplify the cases of DACA recipients detained by immigration authorities through media interviews, public statements, and questions to administrative officials during hearings and other oversight opportunities

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Request a full accounting from local law enforcement for each case of individuals turned over to ICE, especially those never charged with a crime by local police.

Over the past month, KBI staff have heard numerous, concerning testimonies from migrants arriving deported to Nogales that ICE and CBP cut off all access to communication with the outside while they were in custody. Many people also reported that ICE or Border Patrol kept them chained for long periods of time, sometimes denying them food and water.

- Roger* was attempting to enter the US to reunite with his family when Border Patrol detained him. Border Patrol transferred him to the Florence Detention Center, where they held him for 75 days, during which authorities never allowed him to make a phone call to his family to let them know he was okay. He decided to request deportation because he felt his mental health was at risk due to the terrible conditions in the detention center.
- Elvira,* a mother of four from Puebla, Mexico, tried to climb the wall to cross into the US. While she was crossing, she got caught on the barbed wire and fell, fracturing her leg. Border Patrol took her to the hospital and although she could not walk, kept her chained the whole time she was being treated for a broken leg. Border Patrol did not allow her to call her family to let them know she had been injured and was in the hospital.



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- Luis* had lived about a year and a half in Florida, but did not have legal status. He was working to save up money to send his daughters to school. One day while Luis was shopping at Walmart, ICE agents rushed in and detained everyone shopping at the store without asking any questions, including US citizens and legal permanent residents, who were only released after about five days. ICE transferred Luis to three different detention centers within a week. When they transferred him from El Paso, Texas to Denver, Colorado, they kept him and the others on the bus chained for a total of 25 hours during the transfer process. For 19 of those hours, ICE gave them no food or water. Luis complained to an officer that his hands and feet were swelling because the chains were too tight, but the officer refused to loosen them. Many of those on the bus felt sick after the trip and requested medical attention upon arrival in Denver, but officers refused. Illness within the group grew so concerning that 70 of them in the same cell block decided to refuse to return to their cells until authorities sent a doctor or nurse to attend to the dozen or so from the group who were suffering from various medical conditions, including diabetics who needed insulin. Instead of sending medical attention, ICE sent for tear gas to force everyone back into their cells.

The Trump Administration is ramping up pressure on DACA recipients to directly and indirectly force their departure from the country.

- Santiago's* family brought him from Mexico to the US when he was 9 years old. Over the last 29 years, he lived for a time in California and then moved to Washington state, and successfully applied and was approved for DACA. One day this spring as he was driving down the freeway to work, highway patrol stopped him, citing that he was driving too close to the car in front of him, although Santiago thought the car was fairly far from him. The patroller said he would let Santiago off with a warning, but then called ICE. Santiago showed him the social security number he had gotten with his DACA status, but it had expired. ICE detained Santiago for several months while he tried to apply for other forms of relief, but he was denied and deported to Nogales.



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Local law enforcement agencies are increasingly using indiscriminate tactics to detain long-time US community members and hand them over to ICE for detention and removal.

- Juan Lucas* had lived for 12 years in Tucson, Arizona. He left Mexico because many of his friends were being killed and he did not feel safe. His partner of five years is a US citizen, but they never married. He left his work painting houses for the day, and as he was biking home, a Pima County Sheriff Deputy stopped him. The deputy took him to the jail where they ran his name and discovered he had no criminal history, but they had already called ICE to pick him up. He eventually signed his voluntary removal because he did not want to be detained indefinitely to fight his immigration case.
- Jorge* had lived in the US for 22 years when Las Vegas police detained him and turned him over to ICE. Jorge came with his mother to the US from Guadalajara when he was 8 years old to reunite with his father. Police detained him for biking in the dark without lights. They took him to jail, and the judge said they would let him go. However, when Jorge was preparing to leave the jail, officers said ICE needed to see him. ICE officers were waiting for him outside, where they detained him immediately and later deported him to Nogales.

Reports from our Jesuit Refugee Service Mexico partners confirm the lack of infrastructure for processing asylum seekers in Mexico that KBI has observed. Many migrants seeking asylum in Mexico arrived with the intention to seek asylum in the US, a process the Trump Administration shut down at the US-Mexico border in January.

- Migrants attempting to access the Mexican asylum process in Chiapas, near the Mexican border with Guatemala, are met with collapsing infrastructure due to funding and staffing cuts at COMAR, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, in recent years. Historically US foreign aid through UNHCR has been crucial to COMAR's capacity.
 - Migrants in Tuxtla report limited COMAR personnel, a lack of translators, a three month wait just to begin their asylum process, and up to a year to receive approval to regularize their status.



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- Migrants in Tapachula report corruption in COMAR offices, as individuals are paying Mexican officials to speed up their asylum process or to secure a positive result.
- Limited access to immigration status in Mexico has also affected migrants' ability to access stability as they resettle. Migrants in Tuxtla report that because INM, the National Institute of Migration, is refusing to grant humanitarian visas, they are kept from accessing formal work opportunities and employers lack workers. At the same time, there is little humanitarian infrastructure to support them due to aid cuts.

July 17, 2025

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Sign onto the VISIBLE Act, calling for law enforcement agencies engaged in immigration enforcement to display agency name and badge numbers and prohibiting non-medical masks that obscure identity in public places, especially given the rise in threatening encounters like Homeland Security Investigation agents recently holding Tucson Samaritans at gunpoint.
- Request an update from the Trump Administration about how the Department of Homeland Security plans to fulfill its congressionally mandated oversight functions after such deep staffing cuts in March.



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We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Meet with individuals in their districts who have been impacted by increasingly forceful and hostile immigration enforcement tactics and listen to their stories.
- Request that Governor Hobbs implement an executive order requiring that all personnel conducting arrests or detentions in Arizona clearly identify themselves and display verifiable credentials at all times to ensure transparency, accountability and safety for Arizona communities.

Kino staff who visit the Mexican government run shelter in Nogales for humanitarian monitoring have asked individuals arriving after ICE or Border Patrol deported them whether they would respond to a voluntary survey about their apprehension, detention and deportation. Survey responses from the last three weeks demonstrate increased collaboration among law enforcement agencies to detain people in their communities.

- Twenty-four survey respondents deported to Nogales, Mexico in the last three weeks reported that they were detained in the interior of the US. Eleven people were detained while driving, seven people were detained at their homes, and five were walking in a public place.
- Of the 24 survey respondents detained while living in the US, only seven were detained by ICE and one by Border Patrol. Two out of three of those detained while living in the interior of the US were apprehended by another law enforcement agency that then turned them over to ICE. Other arresting agencies included municipal police, US Marshalls, sheriff deputies and highway patrol.
- Highway patrol stopped Alfredo,* a man who had lived for three years in Las Cruces, NM, while he was driving to work. He was driving some co-workers as well, who were all Mexicans. Immigration detained him and his co-workers and accused him of human trafficking because he was transporting them to work. ICE held him in detention for six months before deporting him to Nogales.



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- A Sheriff's Deputy stopped Ricardo* while he was driving in Mesa, AZ. One deputy threw him violently to the ground while three others handcuffed him.
- Eduardo,* a Mexican father who had lived in Phoenix for twelve years, was on his way home from work when the police stopped his vehicle because they alleged that his license plate registration had lapsed by four days. Eduardo told the police that he was still within the window to renew the registration. He called his wife to come help him verify the registration renewal date, but when she arrived the police ran her off and turned him over to ICE. Eduardo said the treatment at the Florence Detention Center was bad and hostile.

Since March 21, when the Trump Administration slashed three key DHS oversight agencies, KBI continues to file complaints on behalf of migrants, but with limited or no response. This while DHS continues to ramp up deportations, people in detention report overcrowding and inhumane conditions, and the passing of HR 1 paves the way for unprecedented spending to expand detention efforts.

- Since oversight offices CRCL, OIDO and Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman were cut in March, KBI has filed 5 complaints on behalf of migrants, which included abuses like medical neglect, dangerous detention conditions and verbal abuse.
- The last four complaints KBI has filed on behalf of migrants in May and June with the office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, three of which were copied to the Detention Ombudsman (OIDO) because they related abuses experienced in immigration detention, have received no response, not even the typical automatic acknowledgement of receipt KBI would receive in the past.
- Although KBI has filed 7 complaints with the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties on behalf of migrants over the last 6 months and 15 over the past year, the last time KBI received a substantive update on a complaint from an oversight office was February 11, 2025. Eight of the fifteen complaints KBI filed in the last twelve months still have not received a response about any follow up or steps taken to investigate the complaint.



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In recent months, Border Patrol has deported several women to Nogales, Mexico with serious injuries, including broken bones that required surgery, after attempting to cross into the US through the desert or climbing over the border wall. These experiences demonstrate the real dangers migrants face when the US Government closes off legal channels, leaving risky crossings as their only option for entering the US.

- Last week, KBI staff spoke with Alma Rosa,* a woman who attempted to cross into the US by climbing over the border wall near Agua Prieta, AZ. The guide crossing her had her climb across using a rope, but on her way down on the US side, it gave way and she fell, fracturing her ankle. Border Patrol took her to the hospital on the US side and told her that it was fractured, but they just put some bandages and a splint on her leg and gave her ibuprofen for the pain. Border Patrol then took her to a detention center where it was very cold, they only gave her an aluminum “blanket” and Alma Rosa’s pain worsened. She did not receive any additional medical attention in the US, and Border Patrol deported her to Mexico with a fractured ankle.
- Elba,* a 36-year-old woman, had a broken ankle when Border Patrol detained her. They took her to the hospital in Tucson where she had an operation to repair her fibula. Border Patrol deported her to Nogales three days later. When doctors in Nogales did further tests, they found she had a more serious fracture of the tibia that had been ignored and had to perform an additional surgery, which included removing the screws that had been put in her leg.



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June 26, 2025

Greetings,

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, statistics, and stories from the last two weeks. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Vote against the so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” which hands the Trump administration more than \$100 billion to erode due process and democratic norms further. A yes vote to this bill means supercharging behaviors like masked ICE agents violently arresting people who show up for court hearings. We urge you to stand firmly against this bill’s attempt to enshrine cruelty into law and instead advocate for policies that uphold human rights and legal safeguards.
- Demand an adequate and transparent investigation into the deaths under ICE custody in Georgia of the two Mexican citizens Jesus Molina Vega and Abelardo Avellaneda Delgado, and urge an inspection of the detention centers run by CoreCivic, given its involvement in these deaths and various mistreatment and abuse complaints.

We also recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Oppose the portion of House Bill 2947 (general appropriations act; 2025-2026) that designates nearly \$13 million to support immigration enforcement and supporting federal immigration efforts and instead invest these dollars in needed programs like education and social services in Arizona communities.



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ICE and CBP continue to carry out abuses such as rights violations during arrest and denying access to due process. Catholic Sisters and allies highlighted these abuses during the “Sisters Speak Out” prayer vigil this week in front of the Eloy Detention Center.

- Ernesto* lived in Washington for 5 years. On May 30, 2025, he went to air up his tires at the gas station. Suddenly three unmarked vehicles arrived, and eight people in civilian dress with green vests descended upon him and started asking for his license, which he provided upon request. One of the group told him to get out of the car because he had an arrest warrant. When Ernesto asked him to provide the warrant, he said he would show it to him when they arrived at the place they would be going, but did not explain where they would be taking him. Ernesto asked again why he was being detained, and they said he had an arrest warrant, but none of the men could produce any proof. They took him away and denied him any phone calls during the first 24 hours he was detained, even though Ernesto pleaded to speak to his family or a lawyer. When they finally allowed him access to his phone, they tried to force him to unlock it in front of them, and when he refused, they hit him and threw him to the ground. ICE detained Ernesto in multiple locations for more than two weeks and then deported him to Nogales, Mexico.
- Two women who ICE had detained in Eloy shared with us that they were victims of abuse and inhumane conditions at the detention center. “They threw the food to the floor and yelled at us, “Now eat, dogs!”. On other occasions, they were given rotten beans. At times, they were so desperate due to the lack of water that they drank water from the toilet. They also mentioned that a fire happened inside this center and someone died.
- Around 70 people gathered for the “Sisters Speak Out” prayer vigil on Tuesday. Eloy authorities sent a drone to scope out the peaceful gathering, and the Eloy Detention Center decided to deny access to lawyers as a result of the gathering, despite its location far from the building and the peaceful nature of the public prayer. Eloy authorities approached the group and told them they could be breaking the law by trespassing on CoreCivic property. However, it was later revealed that the land where they stood belonged to an individual who, when advised about the event and asked whether he would have asked the group to leave, responded, “Why would I prevent someone who is praying?”



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ICE and other law enforcement continue to arrest long-time Arizona community members in public places or while driving.

- Miguel lived in the US for eight years. He was apprehended at a QT store in Phoenix. Police officers approached him and asked for his driver's license. Since he did not have one, the police officers took him to jail. When they released him, ICE arrived. ICE detained Miguel for 3 months before deporting him to Mexico. Miguel said, "I have a wife and a 4-year-old daughter, both American citizens, and I'm no longer with them. In detention, I saw people who were following their asylum process, and when they went to sign at courts, they got detained".
- Ricardo* is a 43-year-old man, originally traveled to the US to be a financial support for his parents. "I had a dentist appointment, and when I went out, ICE was outside waiting for me. They told me not to run or move, then handcuffed me and put me in their car. I know I had the right to a lawyer or to see a judge, but when I asked, they told me I did not and tried to force me to sign some documents. They insisted and said it was better if I didn't resist, otherwise they would beat me. I didn't sign anything, and they deported me. I was in the process of renewing my work visa, which I've had since 2022. My lawyer told me that I should be fine until a judge's order arrived saying that I should leave the country, and that order never came, but anyway, I got deported".
- Two women and a man who arrived in Nogales were detained after going to court to pay a traffic ticket. ICE had been waiting for them outside. ICE heavily tied up and handcuffed the man. One of the women was a mother who went to court with her son and got arrested and mistreated in front of her child.



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ICE continues to deport long-term US residents to Mexico, where many no longer have support networks, face family separation or the impossibility of returning to their place of origin due to safety concerns.

- Jaime* lived for 11 years in Sedona, Arizona. he was walking on the street close to his home when the officers approached him and told him that, as he was undocumented, they would deport him. He was immediately arrested. “They didn’t even give me a chance to say bye to my mom. She found out later that I was detained in Florence. She was really worried about me”. Jaime spent 5 months in detention. “I explained to them my mom relied only on me and I needed to take care of her, but they did not care, and deported me. Now I’m thinking of staying here [at the border] because when I left [my hometown] 11 years ago, it was because of the violence in my city, so there’s no way I can go back”.
- Tania* is a 64-year-old woman from Michoacan. She was taken to the US by her father when she was 16. She lived in Salt Lake City for 48 years. She says she can’t return to her small town in Michoacán due to the presence of organized crime there. She plans to resettle in Nogales, despite having no roots or network in Mexico.

May 29, 2025

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices, Arizona legislators and allies:

- Join AZ Congressional Delegation members Senators Kelly and Gallego and Representatives Stanton and Ansari in calling for answers from ICE leadership about disappearing individuals after their immigration court hearings in Phoenix last week and additional reported disappearances after ICE followed individuals leaving the Phoenix court this week and at other sites across the country.



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We at KBI recommend that Congressional offices also:

- Vote against the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025” that would prioritize mass deportations and jailing of immigrants over critical investments in families and communities.
- Demand the unconditional release of Andry Hernández Romero, an asylum seeker that fled Venezuela to escape anti-LGBTQ+ and political persecution, only to be wrongfully disappeared to CECOT in El Salvador, and others like him who have been forcibly removed without due process under the Alien Enemies Act, and restoration of basic legal protections to those seeking refuge in the U.S.

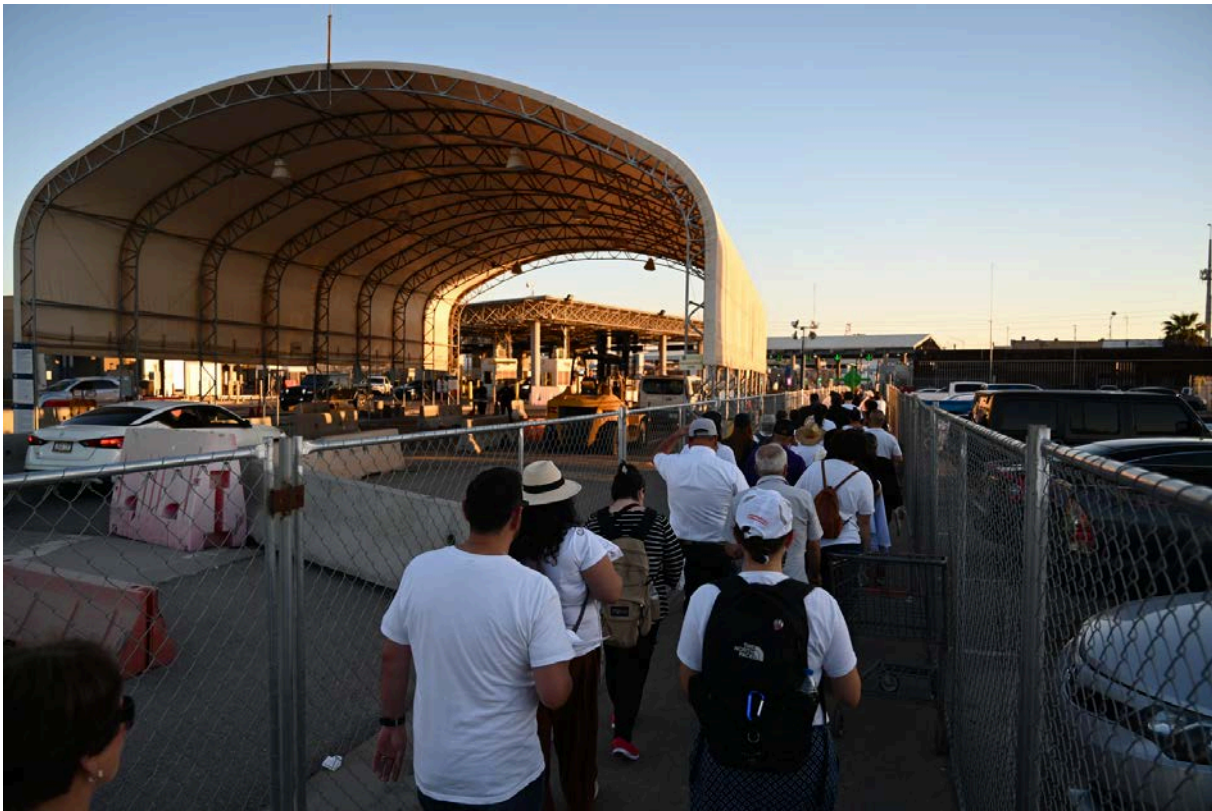
The majority of people US officials are deporting to Nogales, Sonora, have been long-term Arizona residents, and many were apprehended in public spaces, including cases where the detention occurred just a few steps from their homes.

- May 20 and 21, plainclothes ICE officers wearing masks waited in the hallway outside immigration court in downtown Phoenix and immediately detained dozens of individuals, including families with children, as they walked out the door from their court hearings. Accompanying family members and lawyers were left in shock, and ICE officers refused to answer any questions about why they were detaining these people. Although these tactics seemed to subside after public attention and protests, human rights groups reported earlier this week that ICE had begun following cars leaving the Phoenix courthouse to stop and detain people after their court hearings instead. Similar incidents have been reported outside courthouses in New York City, Los Angeles and Seattle.
- Rogelio*, a 57-year-old Mexican father, had lived in Tempe, Arizona for 38 years. Initially, due to the immigration amnesty in place at the time, he was able to travel freely in and out of the country. On May 11th, while he was cleaning his truck in the parking lot of his residence, ICE agents arrived and arrested him without warning. He was never shown any documentation confirming a deportation order. During the arrest, agents used excessive force, slamming him to the ground, which caused serious injuries to his forehead, eye, and knee. While Rogelio was deported to Mexico, his entire family, including his son and siblings, remains in the U.S.



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- Rafael*, a 37-year-old man from Guerrero, was recently deported to Mexico's southern border in Tapachula after police detained him in Phoenix and turned him over to ICE. He was arrested while purchasing bread and tortillas outside his favorite local store. "I was buying tortillas for burritos and bread for tortas when they grabbed me," he shared. The Phoenix police officers who detained him refused to explain the reason for his arrest and ignored his questions. "The officer spoke Spanish, but he refused to answer me. I felt it was racism—they arrested me just because I looked dirty coming from work and because I look like a migrant." Rafael came north again through Mexico in hopes of reuniting with his wife, a US citizen living in Phoenix. He fears returning to his hometown due to the extreme violence currently happening there.



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ICE and CBP continue to carry out abuses such as denial of access to medical care, verbal abuse, and medical negligence. There continues to be no meaningful accountability for abuses, despite DHS' claims to the contrary.

- Maribel, a mother and ex-police officer from Jalisco, asked for asylum in December of 2025 at a border crossing in Arizona. She was fleeing threats from organized crime against her and her son in their hometown, due to her work. She entered with her tourist visa and, upon arrival at the port, explained her fear of return to a CBP officer. After processing Maribel, ICE sent her to Eloy, AZ, where they detained her for five months. During her detention, Maribel was exposed twice to toxic smoke from microwave fires in the detention unit. “On one occasion, the microwave in our unit caught fire during the night, while we were locked in our rooms. Smoke and chemical fumes filled all the rooms. We all pressed the emergency button because we were suffocating, but no one came to open the doors. I had to wet a shirt and use it to cover my nose and mouth to avoid inhaling the chemicals. The next morning, I woke up with dizziness, nausea, vomiting, a sore throat, and irritation in my throat and eyes. I attempted to file a report, but the staff ignored me...More recently, another microwave caught fire in the adjacent unit. The situation became chaotic. The officers didn't know how to evacuate us properly. Instead of using the emergency exit in our unit, they led us through the unit filled with smoke, further exposing us to toxic inhalation. The officers panicked and began verbally assaulting us and threatening us with pepper spray. During the evacuation, one woman collapsed in the yard. I witnessed how staff performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, CPR, and used oxygen. Her pulse did not return until they used defibrillator paddles to administer an electric shock to her chest. That is what brought her back to life. There were more people lying on the ground, unable to breathe due to smoke inhalation. At least three people fainted, and no one was attending to them.”



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- Julia*, a young Mexican woman, shared with KBI that she fell off a cliff while running from Border Patrol. Julia was in excruciating pain, and the Border Patrol agent who detained her claimed she was pretending. Border Patrol took her to the hospital in Tucson, where medical staff sedated her without explaining her diagnosis or what was happening. In Julia’s words, “They never told me that my foot was fractured. Even though they took an X-ray and I asked for a prescription or to show me the X-ray, nobody paid attention to me or gave me any paperwork.” When Border Patrol deported Julia to Nogales, they handed over to the Mexican authorities without telling her that her foot was fractured or giving her any discharge paperwork, including x-rays or diagnosis. These actions are in direct violation of protocols outlined in the office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Hospital Discharge Memo last year, which resulted from an investigation of similar complaints.
- Human rights groups recently sued the Trump Administration for gutting congressionally mandated immigration oversight offices. Although the litigation process resulted in DHS announcing they would reopen these offices, KBI has still observed concerning shifts in complaint responses. For example the last two complaints KBI filed did not even receive the typical automatic response acknowledging the complaint had been received for review by the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties office.



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As people continue arriving at the border seeking asylum or have been stranded for months in Mexico, they face dangerous conditions and cannot access safety.

- Gabriela* and her 9 year old son are originally from Ecuador. They arrived in Nogales a few days before the beginning of Trump's new administration. A week ago, Gabriela experienced an attempted kidnapping right after dropping her child off at school. She noticed a man following her and then a pickup truck with heavily tinted windows pulled up. A man exited from the back seat on the passenger side, grabbed her by the arm, and attempted to force her into the vehicle. He insulted and threatened her, stating that he would kill her if she refused. He then pulled out a firearm and pressed it against her waist, demanding to know where she was from. After a brief struggle, a National Guard patrol vehicle drove down the street, the armed man quickly returned to the truck and the group drove away. All this happened in broad daylight, in close proximity to a public school, which underscored the insecurity that migrants face in border cities.
- Enrique* an 18 year old from Chilpancingo, Guerrero, arrived in Nogales last week with his two younger sisters. The three of them fled to Nogales to join his uncle, who arrived at our shelter in January trying to seek protection in the US. He and his wife were fleeing threats from organized crime in the same town, and the violence hasn't stopped. Now Enrique and his sisters are also fleeing threats, and since asylum access at the border is closed, they are all stranded in the same country where they face threats against their lives.



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April 10, 2025

In light of the information below, we at KBI recommend Congressional offices to:

- Urge DHS to immediately suspend the issuance of notices of termination to CBP One and CHNV parolees and implement safeguards to ensure that individuals are not stripped of lawful status without clear, accessible information and an opportunity for due process. Many affected individuals do not fully understand the notices they are receiving due to language barriers, literacy limitations, or lack of legal support, leaving them even more vulnerable to detention and deportation without proper recourse.
- Ensure the intended use of funds allocated for CRCL and OIDO operations in FY2025 appropriations and maintain these funding levels for DHS oversight in the FY2026 federal budget resolution (read KBI's statement condemning the dismantling of DHS' accountability mechanisms).

We at KBI recommend Arizona legislators and allies:

- Urge Governor Hobbs to veto any anti-immigrant bills that get to her desk, especially:
 - SB1164, SB1088, and HB2099 which would force total local and state compliance with federal mass deportation, no matter how costly, burdensome, or inhumane,
 - SB1268 which would require hospitals to document the immigration status of patients and as such make hospitals unsafe for people without regular status,
 - SB1610 which would require county jails to send ICE information on anyone simply arrested for minor criminal offenses, including theft and shoplifting, and
 - SB1294 which would lease the shuttered Marana Prison to the federal government for a single dollar to serve as an immigrant detention center, using state resources to expand the federal government's capacity to separate families and detain and deport members of the Arizona community.



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With the Trump Administration nearing the 100-day mark, we continue to witness that shutting down legal pathways and restricting access to asylum will not deter people from seeking safety in the United States; rather, it forces them to undertake increasingly dangerous routes.

- Ingrid*, a 37-year-old Guatemalan mother, was deported to Mexico three days after crossing the border through the desert. She had left her hometown twelve days prior to arriving at our center, seeking safety and dignified living conditions for herself and her three children. “I crossed with a big group through the desert. We climbed the wall and then entered the desert. I was very scared, but I did it thinking about my family,” she shared. Despite the severe risks of injury or death she faced, and the impact of experiencing detention, Ingrid—like many other migrants in desperate need—considers crossing the desert again as her only viable option. “I think I want to try it again. I need to do it for my family, and there is no other way right now.”

In a continued effort to dismantle legal pathways for vulnerable individuals seeking protection, the Trump Administration has begun issuing notices of termination to individuals who entered the U.S. through the CBP One app and were subsequently granted parole. These notices, abruptly rescinding previously granted legal status, are delivered with threatening language, including the chilling warning: “Do not attempt to remain in the United States — the federal government will find you.” This aggressive rhetoric has generated deep fear and instability among migrants who followed lawful processes to seek safety. In many cases, individuals do not even fully understand the meaning or implications of the notice of termination due to language barriers, limited literacy, or other vulnerabilities, further exacerbating their risk and confusion.



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- Mirna* is a young Mexican mother from Guerrero who arrived in Nogales, Sonora, in June of 2025 seeking protection. She and her daughters fled their hometown due to the ongoing violence perpetrated by organized crime in Guerrero. When Mirna arrived at our center, she was pregnant and facing a high-risk pregnancy due to severe anemia. She struggled to access adequate prenatal care to manage her condition. Her young daughter also suffered from malnutrition, which led to multiple illnesses over the previous months. After 6 months of waiting, Mirna finally secured a CBP One appointment and entered the United States in January of this year, shortly before the new administration took office. However, this week, Mirna and her family received an email ordering them to leave the country immediately. The high cost of legal assistance and the pressing medical needs of her family had made it impossible for her to initiate an asylum process, although she remains within the legal timeframe to do so. Now, despite having just given birth and having been in the country for less than three months, she is being required to abandon the safety she only recently attained. When we spoke with Mirna, she was not even aware of what the notice meant: “I don’t even know what it says; it’s in English,” she shared. Her experience underscores the profound vulnerability faced by many individuals who, despite following lawful processes, are now at risk of being forced back into danger without adequate information or support.



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While the Trump Administration continues to restrict legal pathways to protection at the U.S.-Mexico border, we are witnessing profound harm inflicted on individuals on both sides of the border. Families who are unable to access asylum in the U.S. face significant risks, challenges, and service gaps while stranded in Mexico, where systemic barriers often make it impossible to find true safety. Many individuals are forced to navigate an overwhelmed and inconsistent asylum system, compounded by limited access to specialized medical care, legal services, and basic protections against violence and exploitation.

- Sandra*, Ernesto*, and their young son Lauro*, a Venezuelan family, have been in Nogales, Sonora, for more than a year after being unable to secure entry to the U.S. through the CBP One application. After careful consideration, they decided to apply for refugee status in Mexico. Despite submitting their application on February 26, 2025, their case had not been admitted by the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) as of early April. While awaiting the processing of their case, Liam, the couple's young son, was referred by our physician at KBI to the General Hospital of Nogales due to a chronic kidney condition. After undergoing medical examinations and laboratory tests, it became clear that his health was at serious risk. Nogales lacks access to a pediatric nephrologist within the public health system, making it necessary for Lauro to be transferred to Mexico City to begin specialized treatment. On March 21, 2025, the family submitted a formal request to the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, via Mexico's immigration office (INM), to transfer their asylum case to Mexico City. According to Mexican law, the authorities have three days to issue a response to such requests, either granting or denying them. However, by April 6, 2025, the family had received no response. Left with no choice, Lauro and his family traveled to Mexico City without the necessary official safe-passage document (*salvoconducto*), exposing them to significant risks, including extortion, detention by authorities, or violence at the hands of organized crime. Fortunately, they arrived safely in Mexico City on April 7. Upon presenting themselves at COMAR's offices, and despite providing stamped copies evidencing their previous application and transfer request, officials informed them that there was no record of their prior filings and instructed them to submit a new application—effectively erasing months of waiting and jeopardizing their legal process. Despite what they had been through, they chose not to file a formal complaint for fear of retaliation.



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April 24, 2025

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Ensure that funding for the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) and the Unaccompanied Children Program, which provide essential legal education and support to some of the most vulnerable individuals, is maintained in upcoming appropriations processes and that no further efforts to criminalize legal advocacy or civil rights education are permitted to advance. These programs often serve as the primary source of guidance for individuals navigating a complex legal system who lack proficiency in English, legal training, or access to representation. Terminating them not only undermines access to due process but also strips thousands of individuals of their ability to understand and participate meaningfully in their legal cases.
- Hold an oversight hearing with the DHS Secretary Kristi Noem to examine the implications of proposed LOP and Unaccompanied Children Program cuts and demand transparency on how DHS intends to meet its obligations to ensure access to legal information and representation.

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Advocate for any border related funding in the state budget to go toward community programs that support education and health rather than ramping up efforts to arrest and detain suspected migrants.



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People ICE has deported to Nogales, MX in the last two weeks report inhumane conditions both in detention in Arizona and in the deportation process, including using shackles as restraints during long flights, medical neglect and verbal abuse.

- After nearly three months of persistent efforts, the KBI team finally secured access to the temporary shelter operated under the “México te Abrazo” program in Nogales, commonly known as the Unidad Deportiva (sports complex). During our visits, in addition to providing information about our services, we have documented the conditions under which repatriated Mexican nationals experience detention and deportation. Deported individuals repeatedly described their treatment as inhumane. Many reported being shackled at both hands and feet, and observed that children, including entire families, were frequently placed together on removal flights. One individual, who had never flown before, described the experience as terrifying, not only due to fear of the aircraft itself but because he was restrained throughout the flight, adding to his anxiety and confusion.
- During our first visit, we encountered a group of approximately 70 adult men who had been transferred from a migrant detention center in Tacoma, Washington. They were flown to Arizona and subsequently held overnight at Florence Service Processing Center. During their stay, they were not provided access to beds or blankets, making it impossible for them to sleep. They were also denied the opportunity to bathe. Although showers were available, officers informed them that no towels had been allocated for their use.
- Alfredo, who crossed the border with a group, shared that on the fifth day of walking through the desert, they were spotted by Border Patrol. In an effort to avoid apprehension, they fled and hid, leaving their supplies behind. When they returned, they found their food and water had been destroyed by agents, which forced them to continue without sustenance. Alfredo eventually reached a freeway, severely exhausted from days of walking without food or water. While attempting to flag down passing vehicles for help, he was apprehended by Border Patrol. Despite the fact that Alfredo showed signs of severe dehydration, Border Patrol initially denied him medical assistance. Only after he repeatedly insisted was a nurse called, who confirmed he was suffering from acute dehydration. Alfredo was brought before a district court and sentenced to 30 days in prison for unauthorized entry. Due to an administrative error, he remained detained for an additional six days after his sentence had concluded. Border Patrol then deported Alfredo without his personal belongings—including his cellphone, wallet, debit card, and driver’s license.



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Testimonies from individuals ICE deported to Nogales during the past two weeks demonstrate concerning violations of due process, illegal racial profiling and disregard for the rule of law, which has resulted in harmful consequences inflicted on families and individuals.

- ICE detained Angélica, a Mexican mother who has lived in the United States for the past 30 years and is a survivor of domestic violence, in Eloy Detention Center December of 2022. During her years in detention in Eloy, officers discriminated against Angelica and verbally abused her. “When I arrived, they threw my food on the floor and called me a ‘stupid f***ing wetback,’” she recounted. Angélica also reported multiple instances of medical neglect, including being given the wrong medications for her epilepsy, gastritis, diabetes, and thyroid condition. “They gave us rotten food and just laughed at us,” she added. On April 5, 2025, at approximately 3 a.m., officers entered her cell and informed her she would be transferred to another location. Despite her physical limitations and difficulty walking, they pressured her to carry heavy bags and walk unaided. She was then placed in a room she described as extremely cold and very small, where she remained for approximately eight hours. During this time, she repeatedly requested to speak with her attorney or an officer to understand what was happening, but officers only mocked her in response. Eventually, she was transported in a van while shackled at the ankles, wrists, and waist. As Angelica walked with these constraints, she tripped and struck her head. Officers subsequently refused to provide her medical report to her attorney. Later that day, ICE deported Angélica to Nogales in error, despite her ongoing case and pending court appearances. Although she was represented by legal counsel, her right to due process was obstructed by what ICE later described to her attorney as a “mistake.” “What worries me most,” Angélica shared, “is that I have seven U.S. citizen children, and I am now separated from them. I am afraid of losing them.”



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- Bernardo*, who had lived in the United States for 25 years—first in Colorado and later in California—shared that he had been actively fighting his case from within detention when he was coerced into signing a document he did not understand. He stated that he was never given a clear explanation of what he was signing and was not allowed to complete his legal proceedings. Even his attorney expressed confusion, unable to understand why Bernardo had been deported before his court process had concluded. Bernardo also reported that during the removal process, detainees suffered from pain and hunger as ICE held them shackled on airplanes for extended periods—up to 12 hours—with only a single sandwich.
- Julio*, who had been living in Mesa, Arizona, with his brother, shared that his brother had a prior DUI conviction. Aware of this, his brother had left the country and no longer resided in Arizona. Julio recounted that one day, while leaving his home, just about 500 meters from his front door, ICE agents apprehended him and stated, “We were looking for your brother, but we got you instead.” They told him that he had been under surveillance for a week, yet no warrant bearing his name was ever presented to him.
- Gabriel* is married and the father of U.S. citizen children. He shared with KBI staff that he was approached by a police officer at a gas station “simply because they saw I was Mexican—based on my physical appearance or the way I was dressed.” The officer followed Gabriel until he was stopped, at which point the officer took his green card and tore it up in front of him. “I had gone through the entire process and spent a significant amount of money to obtain it,” he recounted. Gabriel informed the officer that he had been residing in the United States for 25 years and possessed legal authorization to remain. The police officer responded, “Not anymore,” stating that the rules had changed under the new administration. Shortly thereafter, ICE agents arrived in unmarked vehicles, wearing no uniforms. Gabriel worked as a plumber and, on the day of his arrest, was carrying approximately \$15,000 worth of materials in his work truck for a job he was scheduled to complete. He has received no information about the whereabouts of his vehicle or whether he will be able to recover the tools and materials he purchased for that project.



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Those ICE deported to Nogales in recent weeks include Mexican families who had been seeking protection through the asylum process and have now been returned to the country they were fleeing, in direct violation of non-refoulement protections.

- Ricardo* entered the United States in 2022 with his wife and 13-year-old son after fleeing organized crime in Mexico. The family was in the process of seeking asylum and had begun to establish themselves in Phoenix. Ricardo was stopped by a police officer in Phoenix, taken into ICE custody, and subsequently deported. Despite being fully aware of the risks involved and having no viable alternative to reunite with his family, Ricardo is now considering re-entering the United States through irregular means.
- Elizabeth* is a young mother originally from the state of Guerrero, Mexico, who has been living in Utah for two years. The first time she crossed into the United States, she voluntarily turned herself in to Border Patrol, which allowed her to continue her asylum process and remain in the country. After two years, she was detained while en route to pay a fine. She has two children, ages four and one, and both, along with her husband, remain in the United States. Elizabeth shared that during her detention in Arizona, officials asked if she wanted her children to be deported with her. She refused, fearing they might be separated or placed in unknown conditions, as she had received no information or proper orientation about the process. Elizabeth does not speak English, and all the documents she was forced to sign were in English. She was never provided with an interpreter and was pressured to sign a statement falsely claiming that both of her children were born in Mexico, even though her youngest was born in the United States. Eventually, she discovered that the documents contained numerous rights that had never been explained to her by the officers. Elizabeth is currently seeking legal information to determine how her children might return to Mexico legally and stay with her.



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March 13, 2025

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, statistics, and stories from the last two weeks. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In light of the information below, we at KBI recommend Congressional offices to:

- Urge DHS to abandon any plans to expedite remove parole grantees and observe the principle of non-refoulement, ensuring that no individual, regardless of immigration status, is returned to a place where their life or safety is at risk.
- Oppose the Trump Administration's efforts to reinstate family detention, and prioritize alternatives that keep families together and uphold children's rights and dignity.

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Oppose SB1088, as this bill would require state and local officials, as well as government contractors, to comply with federal immigration enforcement. This measure would force cooperation with ICE, severely limiting local governments' ability to push back against federal actions that may be harmful or unconstitutional.
- Oppose SB1164, which requires local law enforcement collaboration with federal mass deportation efforts and local jails to house people detained for immigration regardless of the expense. This bill would institutionalize racial profiling against BIPOC communities, increase fear of interaction with local law enforcement and thus endanger public safety by eroding the trust that Arizona authorities have built.



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Nearly two months into the current administration, we at KBI continue to observe the evolving impact of the Trump Administration's executive orders. In February, the majority of individuals at KBI were asylum seekers stranded at the border. However, since the beginning of March, we have seen an increase in deported individuals seeking assistance, now comprising 67% of our total new arrivals, compared to 33% last month.

- Of those deported in March who arrived at KBI, 80% had been living in the U.S. for years before their removal. This group had lived for 11 years in the US before being deported on average.
- Edgar*, a 33-year-old Honduran man, was deported after living in the U.S. for seven years. He suffers from a knee injury that hinders his ability to work in Nogales, where factory jobs require standing for long hours. With no family or support network in Mexico, he shared with KBI that the only option he sees is to consider risking his life and crossing the border irregularly again to reunite with his family: "I have no family here, nothing. I'm thinking about trying to cross again."
- Jorge*, a Mexican father, was deported for the first time in 2003 after spending 28 years in the U.S. His attempt to reestablish himself in Guerrero, Mexico failed due to violence and extortion from organized crime. Last year, Jorge attempted to reenter the U.S. in Arizona but Border Patrol detained him and transferred him to detention in Florence. There they held Jorge for a year before deporting him to Tijuana on February 14. Jorge later traveled to Nogales, as it allows him occasional contact with his children in Phoenix: "It's the only way I won't feel so far away from them."



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Since the Trump Administration has closed off all legal pathways for individuals seeking protection at the US-Mexico border, Mexican families fleeing violence are particularly impacted by the lack of due process and violation of non-refoulement protections.

- Areli*, a Mexican mother of three, is a survivor of gender-based violence at the hands of her husband and mother-in-law. She continues to suffer active persecution from her mother-in-law: “I’m afraid she will beat me again and take my daughters away from me.”
- Anahí*, a 56-year-old Mexican woman from Michoacán and survivor of sexual violence, fled political violence and gender-based persecution. She arrived at KBI in November and was admitted to the United States three days before the Trump Administration took office. Despite having evidence of the violence she faced—including threats and violent attacks from a local councilman, a federal deputy, and organized crime—she was not allowed to appear before an immigration judge, nor did any U.S. official review her evidence. Immigration authorities kept Anahí in detention for 40 days, during which she reported poor treatment. Border Patrol then removed Anahí to Mexico.
- Tamara*, a woman from Michoacán, fled cartel violence and domestic abuse at the hands of her former partner, who was linked to organized crime. She describes: “Our town was constantly besieged by armed groups. They threatened to kill us if we didn’t inform them of rival groups entering the area. My ex-partner was involved with them too.” In December, after attending an ICE check-in in Wenatchee, WA, she was detained and later transferred to Tacoma, where she experienced physical mistreatment by ICE officers. “During the transfer, they handcuffed me and treated me like a criminal. The handcuffs were too tight, and my arm was hurting a lot. When I told the officer, he completely ignored me.” Border Patrol removed Tamara to Mexico, where she could now be vulnerable to her partner’s criminal group tracking her down.



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Since the Trump Administration's closure of the CBP One pathway, many individuals and families have expressed to KBI staff their desperation over lack of access to regular migration routes, not feeling safe in Mexico and lack of access to work to support themselves. These limitations leave them at the mercy of organized crime, who profit from their desperation.

- KBI staff recently conducted a needs assessment among individuals facing prolonged displacement in Nogales. Thirty-nine percent of those who responded are unemployed, and of those who have found employment, 60% do not receive benefits. These families also shared concerns about access to education and housing, experiences of xenophobia and discrimination and the absence of support networks.
- Angy* and her son traveled north from Ecuador and joined a caravan through Mexico last year. They arrived in Nogales in January, hoping to seek asylum in the United States. Angy shared that she feels she is constantly being watched in the city. Whether going to the pharmacy or interviewing for jobs, once someone realizes she is not Mexican, they start questioning her—asking why she came, who she is with, and how much money she has. Even when she held a temporary permit to travel through Mexico, she was still extorted on her journey north. Having witnessed firsthand how Mexican police collaborated with cartels by allowing them onto buses to extort migrants, she is hesitant to engage in any legal process in Mexico that would provide authorities with additional information about her. She wants her son to attend school in Nogales but fears he will be bullied because he is not Mexican. “I left one unsafe situation only to end up stuck in another.”



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- Alberto* and his wife arrived in Nogales last December after fleeing political persecution in southern Mexico. Alberto had run for mayor in his town and lost by a small margin. Fearing that he would challenge the results, the opposition party began threatening him. One day, as he drove through town, gunmen shot at his vehicle, prompting him and his wife to leave immediately. Despite holding a valid driver's license from his home state, Alberto was denied work as a taxi driver in Nogales because local regulations require a Sonoran-issued driver's license. The cost of obtaining a one-year Sonoran license is \$3,800 pesos (\$190 USD), an amount he cannot afford—especially compared to the \$600 pesos (\$30 USD) for a three-year license in his home state. A few weeks ago, while walking downtown in the evening, two men attempted to kidnap Alberto. He managed to escape and hid for half an hour near the port of entry. When a Mexican police officer found him hiding, Alberto explained that he had just survived an attempted kidnapping. Instead of offering assistance, the officer told him to leave.

February 27, 2025

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, statistics, and stories from the last two weeks. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Oppose the proposed budget moving through the reconciliation process that prioritizes mass deportations and jailing of immigrants over critical investments in families and communities. The \$350 billion proposed budget for militarized enforcement and mass deportations would tear families apart while slashing essential programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and student aid that millions of people rely on.



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- Protect unaccompanied children by pushing back against efforts to deport them and by funding essential services for them and their families.
- Call on the federal administration to ensure transparency regarding CRCL Investigative Memos which, as of last week, are no longer available on the CRCL website. KBI recommends offices insist on restoring access to these reports, as they are critical in holding authorities accountable for their actions.

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Oppose HB2099, HB2606, SB1268 and SB1164, as more 287(g) agreements and other collaborations between local law enforcement and immigration authorities will result in more family separations and greater harm to our community.

More than a month into the current administration, we continue to observe the impacts of the dismantling of the asylum system and the lack of legal pathways for individuals seeking protection.

- Rodrigo*, a 29 year old Venezuelan father traveling with his wife and three children, waited for months in southern Mexico before securing a CBP One appointment in October of last year. However, on their way to the US-Mexico border, Rodrigo and his family were kidnapped and taken to an abandoned location full of heavily armed individuals, where they were robbed and extorted. After several weeks, and having missed their CBP One appointment, they were finally released and transported to Hermosillo, Sonora. They then moved to Nogales, hoping to secure another appointment. However, the policy changes on January 20 left them stranded in Mexico without access to safety.



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- Daniel*, a young father from Honduras, shared that his primary reason for attempting to enter the U.S. is to reunite with his six-year-old daughter, who is already there. After nearly five months in Mexico, he has experienced multiple extortion attempts. Unfortunately, there is currently no legal pathway for him to enter the U.S. to reunite with his family or ensure his safety.
- Andrea*, a Honduran mother with two young daughters, arrived in Nogales after walking over 170 miles from Hermosillo. She fled Honduras due to gang extortion, violence, and extreme poverty. Along her journey through Mexico, she suffered multiple violent incidents. "I don't feel safe here. Many things happened to me on the route, things I don't even want to remember. I'm constantly worried about my daughters, about our safety, and we don't know anyone here".

Following President Trump's inauguration, the Mexican government launched the strategy "Mexico te Abraza," which aims to receive recently deported Mexican nationals at 10 border cities. The program, operated by multiple federal agencies, in coordination with state and local governments, so far has excluded the participation of NGOs or local communities. In so doing, the Mexican government has denied individuals access to support and reintegration services from organizations like KBI that have supported migrants for decades before the government decided to step in.



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The approximately 1,000 Mexicans deported through Nogales, Sonora, throughout the month of February represent 75% of the total repatriated population during that period. The remaining 25% consists primarily of individuals from Guatemala, Honduras, and Venezuela, as well as some from El Salvador, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Despite the lack of information about available services in the community, numerous deported individuals have arrived at our center seeking support.

- Yesenia is a young Venezuelan mother who was detained on February 11 in Tucson after a woman insulted her and called the police simply because Yesenia was selling homemade empanadas. "They handcuffed me in front of my children," she said. "I never thought the police would call immigration on me." Yesenia described how Border Patrol interrogated her and her children: "They asked me if I was part of the Tren de Aragua gang. They interrogated my six-year-old daughter, shouting and frightening her, asking if my husband or I were criminals. My nine-year-old son was extremely nervous and distressed. He wanted to protect me; he was crying a lot. The officer kept yelling at him to be quiet." Yesenia's deportation separated her from her husband and her two other children, who were with him at the time. She was also sent back to a country where she does not feel safe. "I told them when they were about to deport me that I was afraid to return to Mexico because I had been kidnapped by organized crime when I passed through here before. But the officers responded that it was not their problem." Neither her husband and two other children nor anyone else in Yesenia's community knew what had happened to her or her whereabouts. She was deported through Nogales and immediately sent to the southern border of Mexico. Finally, she was able to contact her family on the evening of Friday, February 14—three days after her apprehension—from Villahermosa, Tabasco.



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- Mauricio*, Yesenia's husband, arrived at KBI with their two other children five days after he was finally able to communicate with her. That day, they voluntarily left the U.S. and came seeking support to reunite with her in central Mexico. He left Venezuela due to political persecution, violence, and threats that endangered his life and that of his family. He had already applied for asylum and was following the legal process. However, after his wife's deportation and the abuses she endured, he made the difficult decision to come to Mexico to reunite his family and support her. "All I have ever done is work. It hurts me that they did this to her and that they treated my children this way." Ultimately, fearful of the risks he and the children faced, Mauricio decided to move to central Mexico, driven by love and his responsibility to his family.

Since all Mexican nationals deported through Nogales are transported to the center operated by the Mexican government at a local sports park, while non-Mexican deportees are transported to Hermosillo and then to the southern border of Mexico, this has meant a decrease in the number of people arriving at our center. Even so, our February data reveals that 70% of deported individuals receiving our services reported abuse at the hands of US officials.

- Irene*, a Honduran woman, lived in the United States from 2005 to 2022. She left the country hoping to adjust her immigration status at the U.S. Consulate in Honduras, but at her appointment she was informed that she would face a five-year ban on returning to the United States. She attempted to cross the border again to reunite with her family and care for her seriously ill U.S. citizen child, but she was arrested by Border Patrol, detained for one month in Florence, AZ, and then deported. "They treated us very poorly in detention. The food was rotten, they mocked us, yelled at us, and shined their flashlights to our faces. There were many of us in the cells. When they saw that the food they gave us had maggots, they laughed and shined the light on the food to scare us even more, emphasizing the maggots. The mockery and shouting were so overwhelming that a girl who was there with me had a panic attack, and no one helped her. Some others fainted from the shock."



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- Miguel* is a 50-year-old Mexican father who lived in Mesa, Arizona, for 28 years after migrating in search of a better quality of life. One morning, while going to McDonald's to buy breakfast for his daughters, nieces, and sister-in-law, he heard commotion on the street and someone shouting "Stop." Because he did not stop immediately, officers shot him first in the leg with a rubber bullet and then in the back. They took his belongings and chained him, restraining his neck, arms, and legs. "ICE took more than fifteen people in that raid," he recalled. Miguel was imprisoned for six months before being deported. He tried daily to request a court hearing to fight his case but was never given the opportunity. "In detention, we endured verbal mistreatment just for being Mexican. I heard some heartbreaking cases - some people considered taking their own lives - because of the abuses. There are so many injustices, terrible conditions that make us sick, and we don't have access to medical attention."
- José,* a Mexican father of two children, had been living in Tucson for 15 years. When he arrived at Kino, he shared that throughout the deportation process, he would always be transported in chains. "They treated us like criminals. The Southern Border Monitoring Collective confirms what José described in their reporting about the arrival of deported individuals in Tapachula, chained by their hands, feet, and waists.
- The Trump administration has not only doubled down on harsh immigration policies but has openly celebrated their cruelty. Border Patrol's Tucson Sector recent Facebook posts, echoing the federal administration, display an alarming degree of mockery and indifference toward the suffering of those being expelled. They also document the ongoing violation to asylum law by reporting the constant denial of the right to asylum; in short, these posts constitute a public statement of the current non-existent access to asylum.



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February 13, 2025

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, statistics, and stories from the last two weeks. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that Congressional offices:

- Call on the federal administration to immediately clarify how it intends to honor U.S. law and international treaty obligations toward asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.
- Oppose the “No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities” Act (H.R. 32), which threatens communities, undermines the balance of power, and puts critical services at risk. We recommend that Arizona elected officials and allies:

We at KBI recommend that Arizona legislators and allies:

- Oppose HB 2099, HB 2606, SB 1268 and SB1164, all of which obligate local and state officers and agencies in Arizona to collaborate with mass deportation efforts through information sharing, staffing and using Arizona taxpayer dollars for these efforts.

KBI is beginning to see the initial effects of the Trump Administration’s intensified immigration raids and inspections, and the difficult decisions and uncertainty individuals are facing under a federal government that prioritizes any person with irregular status for deportation.

- Manuel, a 61-year-old Mexican father, had lived in the United States for 36 years. "I left my hometown due to economic conditions. I decided to go to the United States for work to provide my family with a future. I crossed in 1989 and worked there until now. ICE agents conducted a raid at my workplace, a bakery in Tucson, and that’s where they arrested me. From the moment they detained me, they handcuffed my wrists and ankles as if I were a criminal." Manuel shared how deeply discriminated and criminalized he felt during the detention and deportation process.



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- Fernando*, a 19-year-old young man from Jalisco, had lived in Philadelphia for the past three years. He entered the United States as an unaccompanied minor and had a Special Immigrant Juvenile visa; however, he was denied a work permit. "They denied me the work visa, and now it is becoming difficult to live without papers." He requested voluntary departure with the support of the Mexican consulate. "I was afraid that, given the current situation, if they caught me, I would be punished for many years and would not be able to apply for another process."

Despite the Trump Administration closing off of all orderly pathways to seek asylum at the US-Mexico border, KBI continues to receive individuals fleeing violence and persecution, among them Mexican nationals who are waylaid in the same country they are fleeing, in direct contradiction to non-refoulement protections.

- Francisco* is a 31-year-old man from Chiapas, was forced to leave his hometown of Chicomuselo due to threats from organized crime. "Because of the criminals, due to my work as a local farmer, we had to pay extortion fees. We were threatened that if we did not pay, we would be killed or our land would be taken from us."
- Priscila*, a 54-year-old woman, was forced to leave her hometown in Colombia due to violence, including extortion and kidnappings by organized crime. She was a victim of an express kidnapping, where her captors demanded a ransom of 10 million Colombian pesos (US \$3,500). She had been waiting for her CBP One appointment in central Mexico for eight months and finally secured one for January 24. However, during her journey to the border, she was kidnapped by organized crime in Mexico near Hidalgo. Unfortunately, despite reaching the border in time for her appointment, she was denied entry due to the executive order issued by President Trump. The rest of her family is already in the United States, undergoing the asylum process, and she hopes to find a way to reunite with them and reach a safe place.



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Individuals arriving at KBI over the past two weeks after Border Patrol deported them reported that Border Patrol agents physically abused them, confiscated and did not return essential belongings and ignored their claims for asylum.

- Ernesto*, a Mexican father from Oaxaca, was detained for 30 days in Florence after crossing the border with his wife and daughter. "We turned ourselves in to request asylum, but they did not listen to us." In addition to being denied the right to apply for asylum, Ernesto was stripped of his belongings, including his Mexican identification, which was not returned to him. He was also separated from his family, as his wife and daughter were allowed to stay, while he was sent back to Mexico.
- Maribel, a 45-year-old Nicaraguan woman, was traveling with her three grandchildren. She had to flee her country due to political repression and violence, suffering threats and harassment at her home by the government. Upon crossing the border, she was separated from her grandchildren and was not allowed to speak: "They told me that, by order of President Trump, no one could cross or apply for asylum." After spending a couple of days in detention, she was deported to Mexico.
- Ricardo, a 25-year-old man from Hidalgo, Mexico, was detained for 30 days after crossing the border. Border Patrol confiscated his epilepsy medication, and ICE agents denied him medical care while in Florence. "The agent who was going through my belongings asked me what the medicine was for. I told him it was for my seizures because I suffer from epilepsy. As soon as I told him that, the agent threw the medicine into the trash." As a result, he suffered multiple seizures while in ICE detention. He was also forced to urinate and defecate into bags since he was not given access to a bathroom. "When they took me out, when they were taking me to the border for deportation, I asked for my belongings, and a Border Patrol agent punched me in the ribs as I was getting off the bus."



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January 30, 2025

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, stats, and stories from the last two weeks. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In light of the below information, we at KBI recommend that elected officials and allies:

- Urge the Department of Justice to restore the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) provided to detained individuals in AZ and across the US by the Florence Project and other NGO's as this program educates and empowers migrants while also making the legal process more efficient.
- Inquire with the Trump Administration how they plan to fulfill US law and treaty obligations to protect asylum seekers given the abrupt end of the CBP One app process and the lack of any formal replacement process, even for particularly vulnerable individuals.

For Arizona elected officials and allies:

- Uplift and celebrate Kino Teens' presence at Education Day at the Arizona State House this week, an event organized by Aliento AZ to humanize migrants through sharing with lawmakers.



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Shortly after taking office, the Trump administration began implementing its restrictive immigration agenda, and we saw immediate effects in Nogales. Minutes after the inauguration, the administration terminated CBP One program for asylum seekers and canceled previously scheduled appointments. In addition, we later learned that many of the individuals who had been processed that morning, families who would previously have been released to reunite with relatives and attend local court hearings, were being held in detention in Eloy, AZ.

- Mohammadi is a 40-year-old Afghan man fleeing persecution by the Taliban. He speaks and understands very little English and no Spanish. He had a CBP One appointment scheduled for January 23, three days after the Trump Administration announced that the pathway for asylum processing through the CBP One app was closed.
- Lorena* is a 38-year-old Mexican mother traveling with her three children. They left Guanajuato and headed north to Tijuana because of death threats against one of her children. She is a police officer in her hometown and although she decided to report the incidents, the case never progressed. She had been working in Tijuana since May 2025 while waiting for her CBP One appointment, which had been scheduled for January 21, 2025 through Nogales port of entry, but was unfortunately canceled.
- Yuli* is a Venezuelan woman traveling with her husband and three children - two boys ages 9 and 15 and a 6-year-old girl. Her family left Venezuela due to political persecution after participating in a march where she was shot in the legs. They left their home in September 2025 and crossed the Darién Gap, where Yuli suffered sexual violence. When they reached Tapachula, Mexico, the family was also robbed and kidnapped by organized crime. They had finally obtained a CBP One appointment for January 21, but now they are stranded in Nogales.



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- Vivienne* is a 29-year-old woman from Haiti who is traveling with her 3-month-old baby. She left her country with her sister, nephews, father, and brothers because of the extreme violence and political persecution they experienced there. Vivienne shared with KBI, “We had a CBP One appointment for January 21 and it was canceled. Now we have to see how to organize our lives—we are afraid because we don’t know anyone here.”

“Who is going to protect us?” was one of the most compelling questions migrant families asked during a forum KBI and the Florence Project held with approximately 170 migrants in Nogales last week to provide information and answer questions. This question expresses a well-founded fear given the abuses Mexican and US officials and criminal groups commit against migrants on their journeys, and the lack of infrastructure in Mexico to provide foreigners with stable documentation and protection.

- In January alone, 51% of the total population arriving at KBI experienced some kind of abuse during their migratory process (whether on the route, when waiting or during some process of deportation or expulsion). These abuses included kidnapping, threats, extortion, robbery, physical and verbal abuse. Furthermore, 68% of those arriving at KBI during the same time period have cited some form of violence as the reason for leaving their place of origin.
- Individuals from Venezuela, Haiti, Bolivia, Colombia and Mexico attended the informational forum. Throughout the event, people repeatedly expressed concerns about interactions with Mexican authorities, their lack of legal status in Mexico, and the reality that there is no reliable pathway to justice when they do experience abuse in Mexico.



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- Inés* is a 20-year-old woman from Chiapas, traveling with her husband and one-year-old baby. She left her hometown because of violence linked to organized crime. “Several cartels entered Metepec; they started fighting among the Nueva Generación, the ‘4 letras,’ and others. They threw grenades and set cars on fire.” Her family rented a house, and criminals told them to leave or they would kill them. “At 6 in the evening you cannot go out because they will get you, and the next day you will appear dead.” For this reason, they decided to leave. They no longer have family in Mexico, but they do have a relative in the United States. Their aim was to seek asylum, but when they crossed the wall they were detained and deported.
- Ana is a 29-year-old woman from Venezuela. She left her country because of the lack of freedom of expression and in search of better opportunities. On her journey, she was kidnapped by organized crime outside Tapachula and then again in San Pedro. The second time, she was held on a mountain overnight and then released along with the rest of the group she was traveling with. She reports having been kidnapped several times during her stay in Mexico. She had a CBP One appointment on June 5 but missed it because of a kidnapping. She has tried to make another appointment but has not been successful.
- Many of the foreigners stuck in Mexico, either because CBP canceled their CBPOne appointment or because they had not yet secured an appointment, find themselves with irregular status in Mexico. Even if they travel south to the airport in Hermosillo, there are immigration checkpoints from north to south, including a checkpoint just three hours’ drive south from Nogales where migrants have reported being detained or extorted. With the suspension of foreign aid, the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) program that previously offered voluntary return to migrants has also been suspended.
- Although non-Mexicans can apply for refugee status in Mexico, they face significant obstacles. In Nogales, applications must be submitted to the INM, the same agency which also detains and deports foreigners, as there is no representation from the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) in the state of Sonora. Since mid-2025, COMAR has begun to deny many applications for Refuge in Mexico, and most of the cases KBI’s Mexican attorney has accompanied have faced delays of more than a year for a response. This year the Mexican government has also slashed resources for COMAR, meaning delays for processing will likely increase.



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Mexican officials have stopped releasing most deported migrants in Nogales, MX and instead are exerting additional control and cutting off channels to local humanitarian services, only channeling migrants to particular shelters or sending them on buses further south to Hermosillo or near the Mexican border with Guatemala.

- Since January 20, KBI has only received 11 individuals deported to Nogales, MX, compared to 63 individuals the first 3 weeks of January and 218 in the month of December. However, KBI staff in conversation with Mexican officials have learned that Border Patrol continues to deport large groups of migrants to Nogales. Mexican immigration officials and the Mexican National Guard are escorting deported individuals directly to 2 specific shelters, at times “against their will,” since many migrants express they prefer to travel on their own to the bus station.

January 16, 2025

Good morning and blessings in this new year,

As part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed about the on-the-ground reality in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, here is a synthesis of trends, stats, and stories from the last month. In addition, we have included a summary of trends from 2025. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with you in 2025. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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In light of the conditions on the ground that the KBI has documented, we urge Congressional offices to:

- Echo Arizona Bishops' plea for the Trump Administration to uphold the 2011 ICE “Sensitive Locations Memo,” which protects houses of worship, schools and hospitals from unnecessary raids and enforcement actions,” during their transition to leadership.
- Inquire during DHS Secretary nominee’s Kristi Noem’s confirmation hearing January 17 regarding protections for migrants at the US-Mexico border seeking protection after suffering abuse by Mexican authorities, specifically 1) due process for Mexican nationals who express fear of return to a US official and 2) Non-Mexicans who have suffered abuse and persecution in Mexico and who have not been able to access asylum via the CBP One app and are summarily denied access to asylum at POEs.

Jan 15, 2025

Over the past month, numerous internally displaced Mexican women have shared experiences of gender-based violence, either as a reason for their migration or as violence they experienced during their journey.

- Rosalba,* a young Mexican mother who arrived at KBI last month with her 9-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter, shared that she fled her town in southern Mexico because her ex-partner abused her. He beat and threatened Rosalba and then began threatening her children. He worked with an organized crime group and had access to a gun, which he would point at Rosalba and the children. At one point, he even threatened to dismember her and dispose of her body in a plastic bag.
- Paula,* a middle-aged Mexican mother, shared with KBI that she traveled north with her daughter to escape the criminal violence in her central Mexican town. Paula said that the authorities do nothing to protect residents from organized crime, and that her own son beat her and threatened to kill her.



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- Esmeralda* shared with KBI, when she arrived in December, that her partner had beaten her, and that she fled so quickly to save herself that she did not bring any clothing or documents.
- Alejandra's* son was killed in the spring of 2025 in their southern Mexican town. Her husband had long mistreated and threatened her, warning that he would harm her if she left him. After her son's death, she decided to flee and travel north to Nogales with her three youngest children.

Reports from non-Mexicans arriving in Nogales during the past month demonstrate the ongoing danger they face as criminal groups and Mexican officials systematically extort, kidnap and harass them on the journey north to the US-Mexico border.

- Yaritzi,* a Venezuelan woman traveling with her husband and four children, shared that in her country, there are no viable options for food, work or study. "If we are not allied with the government, they kill us," she said. She traveled with her family through Hidalgo, where an organized crime group kidnapped them and held them for ransom. They paid and were released. After several months, they were able to secure an appointment through the CBP One app. However, as they traveled by taxi to get to their appointment, they were stopped and harassed by Mexican police officers who told them their paperwork was fake. Organized crime kidnapped them once again in Sonora, where they had to pay \$10,000 pesos (\$500USD) to be released. In total, between police and organized crime threats, Yaritzi's family was forced to pay \$43,000 pesos (\$2,150USD) in extortion. The harassment and kidnapping caused them to miss their CBP One appointment, and when they arrived in Nogales and explained these abuses, CBP officers refused to listen and said they would have to get another appointment.



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- Silvano,* an 18-year-old from Honduras, shared with KBI upon his arrival last month that gangs were trying to recruit him and his mother wanted him to leave their town as soon as possible. He decided to travel to the U.S.-Mexico border but suffered greatly along the way. In Chiapas, organized crime kidnapped him and took him to a place they called “the hen house,” where they held him captive while they called his family to demand extortion money. As he passed through a neighboring state, Silvano was robbed, and later in Mexico City he was assaulted and threatened with a knife. Silvano was able to escape, but his aggressors continued looking for him, so he decided to continue north and wait for his CBP One appointment.
- Marco Antonio* left Venezuela with his wife after he became aware of corruption in the government office where he worked and received threats as a result. They traveled through Colombia, Panama, and several other countries to reach the U.S.-Mexico border. When they crossed from Guatemala into Chiapas, Mexico, a criminal group kidnapped them and held them captive for 16 days, until they were able to pay a ransom of 2,800 pesos (US \$160). Later, in Hidalgo, members of an organized criminal group robbed them.
- Ana Catarina,* a young Venezuelan woman, explained that she left her country because, in addition to the economic situation that prevents her from providing for her family, she is unable to express herself freely there. Organized criminal groups kidnapped Ana Catarina and her family multiple times on their way through Mexico in order to extort them. The first time, they were held captive outside Tapachula. The second time, they were held for several days in the mountains, which caused them to miss their CBP One appointment. After this incident, they continued trying to secure another appointment for many months without success.



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Our 2024 Congressional Year in Review is available [here](#).

- **Demographic Overview:**

- The population that Kino receives is increasingly of Mexican origin. In 2020 and 2021, only about 58% of people arriving were Mexican. In 2023, 76% of new arrivals at KBI were Mexican nationals. In 2024, 84% of people arriving at Kino were internally displaced or deported Mexicans.
 - The second most common country of origin for arrivals to KBI in 2024 was Venezuela, representing 5% of new arrivals, down from 11% in 2023. Following Venezuela, top countries of origin were Honduras (2.6%), Colombia (2.2%) and Ecuador (1.4%).

- **Reasons for Migrating:**

- In 2024, 78% of arrivals at KBI reported leaving their place of origin due to violence or persecution, 17% for economic reasons, and 5% to reunite with family. The vast majority of people arriving at KBI are fleeing violence, mostly perpetuated by organized crime, government persecution or alarming impunity and lack of government protection in their places of origin.

- **Abuses on the Migration Journey:**

- In 2024, 60% of arriving individuals reported experiencing some form of abuse while migrating. This compares to 28% of those interviewed reporting abuses in 2022 and 24% in 2023. Of those who identified the abuser in their interview at KBI, 41% reported that US authorities perpetrated the abuse (82% of those abuses were committed by US Border Patrol), followed by Mexican authorities, responsible for 19% of abuses (47% of those abuses were committed by Mexican immigration), and criminal groups responsible for 16% of abuses.

