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| (CNN) A mother whose toddler died weeks after they were released from a Texas immigrant detention center has filed a wrongful death claim seeking $60 million from the US government.\n\nYazmin Juarez's 19-month-old daughter, Mariee, died in May, six weeks after they were released from the immigration facility in Dilley.\n\nJuarez and her attorney allege that ICE and those running the facility provided substandard medical care for the toddler after she suffered a respiratory infection while in detention.\n\nYazmin Juarez and Mariee were detained by ICE in March.\n\n"The US government had a duty to provide this little girl with safe, sanitary living conditions and proper medical care but they failed to do that resulting in tragic consequences," attorney R. Stanton Jones said in a statement.\n\n"Mariee entered Dilley a healthy baby girl and 20 days later was discharged a gravely ill child with a life-threatening respiratory infection. Mariee died just months before her 2nd birthday because ICE and others charged with her medical care neglected to provide the most basic standard of care as her condition rapidly deteriorated and her mother Yazmin pleaded for help." | 11/28/18 |

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| 2)  Samantha Vinograd is a CNN National Security Analyst. She served on President Obama's National Security Council from 2009-2013 and at the Treasury Department under President George W. Bush. Follow her @sam\_vinograd . The views expressed in this commentary are her own. View more opinion articles on CNN.\n\n(CNN) Every week, I offer a glimpse of the kind of intelligence assessments that are likely to come across the desk of the President of the United States. Modeled on the President's Daily Briefing, or PDB, which the director of national intelligence prepares for the President almost daily, my Presidential Weekly Briefing focuses on the topics and issues President Trump needs to know to make informed decisions.\n\nHere's this week's briefing:\n\nImmigration: Relationship goals with Mexico\n\nYour plan to make Central American immigrants wait in Mexico while their asylum claims are processed -- along with your threats to close the border entirely -- could put a serious strain on Mexican resources, and your own budding relationship with President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. While Mexico's incoming government has denied there is an official deal , we assess that any extended "remain in Mexico" policy will have adverse consequences for the bilateral relationship. If your relationship goal is to create tensions with Mexico, extended stays for Central American migrants in Mexico or derogatory statements about Mexico's own border security will do the trick.\n\nUnder your new plan, some of the asylum seekers currently at our southern border may be allowed to wait in the US while their applications are being processed. But the majority will likely be forced to stay in Mexico for an indeterminate time. The migrants will need food, housing, healthcare and other basic needs while they wait, and it remains unclear whether the population influx will raise any tensions in Mexico. While the Mexican economy rebounded last quarter, domestic poverty and inequality remain high.  11/28/2018  3)  Obrador campaigned on giving money to Mexicans in need, not Central American migrants that the US does not want to take.\n\nOver time, Obrador, who takes office December 1, may grow increasingly upset with your decision to place a strain on Mexican resources in order to save on your own. Obrador's left-wing, populist campaign included promises of raising pensions for the elderly and increasing other social spending. So being asked to spend Mexican money on migrants that he thinks should be allowed in the US -- rather than on programs to help Mexicans in need -- could create a major rift.\n\nSome of the migrants will also end up waiting in dangerous border towns, which presents an additional humanitarian risk, given that Mexico experienced its most murderous year on record in 2017. While we do not share your risk assessment that these migrants are themselves dangerous criminals , we do think that thousands of people who are stranded at a border for an extended period of time could be at risk of criminal activity, especially if they are in areas already prone to violence.\n\nYou are already deeply unpopular in Mexico and your relationship with Obrador could deteriorate quickly as he shores up his footing early in his term. Despite a warm embrace this summer , he could shift gears and direct his ire at you to maintain a strong standing domestically.\n\n  4)  (CNN) Juan has been detained in an unaccompanied child shelter for nearly a year, long enough to see the emotional impact prolonged confinement has on children"They get depressed. They cut their skin," he told CNN by phone from inside a Texas detention center.Juan is not his real name. His attorney asked CNN to change his name for his safety.The 16-year-old says he fled his native El Salvador after being threatened by gangs. During this past year, four sponsors have tried taking him out of detention; but all of them have been rejected by the government, he says. A sponsor is a parent, family member or friend who is granted guardianship.Juan is caught in a record backlog that has 14,000 children experiencing longer detention times in shelters across America, according to a Department of Health and Human Services official. About 11,900 children were detained in June, that number rose to 12,800 in September.As detention times increase, with some staying up to a year, caretakers have seen children exhibit mental health and behavioral problems, according to a source inside a large detention service provider. This source adds that the unaccompanied children are considered higher risk. And while, in years past, child shelters used to be mission-driven (to serve children), now they are at full capacity and more policy driven.According to Immigration attorneys and advocates, complicated government rules are to blame for the backup. 11/30/18  5)  Washington (CNN)The Department of Justice said Tuesday that it plans to appeal a temporary restraining order issued last week that blocks the government from categorically denying asylum to those who enter the US between official ports of entry.  Justice Department lawyers told the lower court judge, Jon S. Tigar of the US District Court for the Northern District of California, that the government will seek to appeal his order to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals and asked him to put his ruling on hold while the appeal is filed.Tigar indicated later Tuesday that he will rule by the end of Friday on the government's request. He asked the groups that challenged the asylum policy to file their opposition to the request by Thursday.Tigar's order, government lawyers argued, "directly undermines the President's determination that an immediate temporary suspension of entry between ports of entry is necessary to address the ongoing and increasing crisis facing our immigration system."The move comes after President Donald Trump lashed out last week at Tigar, as well as the 9th Circuit, and said he would ultimately prevail in the case before the Supreme Court.The American Civil Liberties Union responded immediately to the government's request to put the ruling on hold. "We will vigorously oppose the stay request, so that people's lives are not put in danger," ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt, a lead lawyer for the challengers, said Tuesday.When he issued his order on November 19, Tigar said the Trump administration policy barring asylum for immigrants who enter outside legal checkpoints "irreconcilably conflicts" with immigration law and the "expressed intent of Congress.""Whatever the scope of the President's authority, he may not rewrite the immigration laws to impose a condition that Congress has expressly forbidden," Tigar wrote, adding that asylum seekers would be put at "increased risk of violence and other harms at the border" if the administration's rule is allowed to go into effect."Usually, an order like the temporary restraining order entered by Judge Tigar is not subject to immediate appeal," said Steve Vladeck, a CNN legal analyst and University of Texas at Austin Law School professor. "Therefore, there is a question as to whether the government will even be allowed to file for an appeal in the first place," he said.The Department of Homeland Security and Justice Department had criticized Tigar's ruling."Our asylum system is broken, and it is being abused by tens of thousands of meritless claims every year. ... It is absurd that a set of advocacy groups can be found to have standing to sue to stop the entire federal government from acting so that illegal aliens can receive a government benefit to which they are not entitled," Homeland Security spokeswoman Katie Waldman and Justice Department spokesman Steven Stafford said in a statement last week.They argued that the President has the right to suspend entry by individuals into the United States if he determines it to be in the national interest."As the Supreme Court affirmed this summer, Congress has given the President broad authority to limit or even stop the entry of aliens into this country. Further, asylum is a discretionary benefit given by the Executive Branch only when legal conditions are met and a favorable exercise of discretion is warranted," Waldman and Stafford said in their statement. "It is lawful and appropriate that this discretionary benefit not be given to those who violate a lawful and tailored presidential proclamation aimed at controlling immigration in the national interest."The temporary restraining order is in effect nationwide.The order is the latest setback for the administration, which has sought to crack down on what it says are flaws in the immigration system, and a victory for the ACLU, the Southern Poverty Law Center and other groups that argued it is illegal to block someone based on how they entered the country.Human Rights First has also filed a lawsuit in the US District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of six asylum seekers, including three children, who were barred from seeking asylum because they did not enter the US at an official border point. 11/27/18  6)  "Washington (CNN)The city of Baltimore announced on Wednesday that it is suing the Trump administration over a new State Department immigration policy the city says is discouraging residents from accessing benefits.\n\n\"The Trump Administration's changes to (a State Department manual) put a thumb on the scale in favor of barring immigrants from the country if they have used any of a host of federal, state or local programs -- making it much harder for immigrants to reunite with their families,\" the lawsuit reads.\nThe suit names President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the State Department as defendants, and it charges the administration with violating the Constitution's equal protection guarantees.\n\"The change was motivated by the Trump administration's well-known hostility towards certain immigrant groups -- most notable Hispanic, Asian and African communities -- and is a violation of the federal laws governing administrative agencies, including the Constitution's guarantee of Equal Protection,\" read a statement from the office of Baltimore Democratic Mayor Catherine Pugh.\nCNN has reached out to the State Department for comment on the suit.\nThe move, the city said, came in response to a State Department change to its definition of a \"public charge,\" a term for a prospective immigrant who is likely to be \"primarily dependent\" on government benefits. According to US Citizenship and Immigration Services, someone designated a public charge is inadmissible to the US and ineligible to become a legal permanent resident.\nAs CNN reported last spring, the Trump administration has considered including many additional benefits -- like the Children's Health Insurance Program and food stamps -- when deciding who might be a public charge, thus restricting legal immigrants' access to public benefits.\nBaltimore's lawsuit notes that a similar change at the Department of Homeland Security expanding the public charge definition has yet to take effect, while a parallel State Department policy has already been put into place.\nAccording to the suit, the State Department has expanded its definition of a public charge in the Foreign Affairs Manual to include a wider array of benefits, and the change has resulted in immigrant residents of Baltimore declining to accept \"the public benefits Baltimore makes available to all of its residents.\"\n\"Baltimore's residents, immigrant and not, will be less healthy and less well-off as a consequence of Defendants' unlawful actions,\" the lawsuit says.",  11/20/2018  7)  (CNN)Donald Trump just co-opted a new buzz phrase he hopes will define the next two years in politics: "Presidential harassment."His jab at the tactics of the incoming Democratic House represents an early effort to spin a new era of investigations and oversight that is about to shake the White House as a power grab by his opposition.Trump's appropriation on Twitter of a concept first coined by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell last week, points to the critical nature of the fight the President must wage to safeguard his hold on power, one that will surely start to feel pressure as lawmakers return to Capitol Hill with newly-elected members in tow.Trump's comment is also a reminder to Democrats that any sign they are persecuting the President without grounds, or acting unfairly could harm them with moderate voters who swapped sides in the midterm elections."The prospect of Presidential Harassment by the Dems is causing the Stock Market big headaches!" Trump tweeted Monday, falsely blaming his foes for a sell-off motivated by jitters in the tech sector.But the President's intervention did underline how Washington's calendar seems to have already flipped to 2019.Trump and Democratic leaders are making calculations and staking out positions that will shape the new political environment, set the stage for the 2020 election, and could ultimately dictate Trump's political fate.The arrival of a new class of lawmakers for orientation Tuesday will exacerbate the feeling of a fresh start, though critical business remains in the lame duck twilight of the GOP-led House — that could even degenerate into a government shutdown before year's end.On talk shows in recent days, incoming Democratic committee chairmen fleshed out earlier promises to look into Trump's policies and personal affairs.  8)  Rep. Jerry Nadler says hush payments &#39;might very well be an impeachable offense&#39;Rep. Jerry Nadler says hush payments 'might very well be an impeachable offense'At the same time, the likely next House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is trying to keep talk of impeachment from bubbling over.Some Washington veterans are already seeking parallels from the past, including the period after the 1994 midterms, when a new GOP majority that came to be seen as overzealous gave President Bill Clinton a foil that he used to win re-election two years on.With that in mind, House Democrats know they have to do enough to appease their voters outraged by Trump, 77% of whom, according to exit polls, support impeachment.But moving too fast could harm the credibility of Democratic oversight and foster an impression it is motivated by purely political motives rather than being in the national interest, and could offer Trump an opening.The party must also keep faith with the policy agenda that helped them win last week. That involves passing bills on securing coverage for Americans with pre-existing health conditions, acting to control the cost of college, and possibly working on infrastructure, even if most such measures hit a brick wall in the GOP Senate."I think the key word is balance in this," said Jim Kessler, senior vice president for policy at Third Way, a center-left think tank."There needs to be aggressive oversight of this administration," Kessler said. "There has been no oversight for two years. I think the watchword would be -- make these investigations in the taxpayers' interests."Nancy Pelosi calls on House Democrats to &#39;be unified&#39; as speaker race loomsNancy Pelosi calls on House Democrats to 'be unified' as speaker race loomsCalifornia Rep. Adam Schiff, the incoming House Intelligence Committee chairman, one of Trump's most aggressive critics on Russia, says the political delicacy of the coming clash is one reason Democrats should retain Pelosi as leader, and speaker, even if more radical members of the new class want change."We need the strongest general that we have," Schiff said on NBC's "Meet the Press" over the weekend. "We need the best tactician, we need the best organizer."Pelosi wants her party to stay unified and temperate as they erect the new checks and balances against the President."We are responsible. We are not scatter shot. We are not doing any investigation for a political purpose but to seek the truth," she said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, a message she repeated in a letter to members Monday."I think a word that you could describe about how Democrats will go forward in this regard is we will be very strategic," she told CBS.  11/30/2018  9)  (CNN)President Donald Trump is seizing on an attempt by 500 migrants to rush the southern border to use immigration as an issue to bolster his presidency at a critical political moment.  Trump spent weeks ahead of the midterm elections warning that the United States was about to experience an invasion from a migrant caravan trekking north across Mexico, and sent troops to the border in what critics branded a political stunt.He seized on unrest at the frontier on Sunday to hike pressure on Mexico and to squeeze his political opponents in Washington as he demands financing for his border wall in a looming government funding showdown."Mexico should move the flag waving Migrants, many of whom are stone cold criminals, back to their countries," Trump tweeted early Monday morning."Do it by plane, do it by bus, do it anyway you want, but they are NOT coming into the U.S.A. We will close the Border permanently if need be. Congress, fund the WALL!"Trump was reacting to reports that a group of migrants overwhelmed both Mexican federal and local police blockades and rushed towards the border at one of the busiest crossings between Tijuana in Mexico and San Diego. US authorities said several Border Patrol agents were hit by rocks, prompting the use of tear gas. Border crossings were closed in both directions for several hours, and it did not appear that any migrants breached the frontier.The situation appeared to fall well short of the mass invasion by a caravan of thousands of migrants conjured up by Trump before the midterms.Sunday's events will further electrify political tensions in Washington as it gets to work after the Thanksgiving holiday and ahead of a month of transition and increasing vulnerability for the President.Trump and Congress are already facing a two-week deadline to fund the government or risk a partial federal shutdown. Trump's White House is on edge as he mulls the fate of key players ahead of a staff reshuffle. The President is also keen to make the most of his final month of a GOP monopoly on power in Capitol Hill, and finally win funding for his border wall. He is also pushing an apparently reluctant Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to act on a criminal justice bill -- one of the few bipartisan initiatives this year.Trump is also set to travel to another big international summit this week -- the G20 in Argentina -- that carries the habitual possibility that he could again fall out with other world leaders. The trip will also bring him face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the most contentious moment in US-China relations for decades as a trade war rages between the two powers.  11/26/2018  **NBC**  **1)**  As the migrant caravan now sits on our southern border, President Trump is using it as an argument for Congress to fund his border wall. The president is so set on securing funding for the wall — reportedly at least $5 billion — that he is willing to shutdown the federal government when it runs out of money on December 7. He sees this as his last, best chance to fulfill his 2016 campaign promise to be very “strong” and “tough” on illegal immigration, as Democrats will assume the majority in the House of Representatives in January and have made clear that they do not believe the border wall is sound policy.His quest is quixotic in more ways than one.Truth be told, Trump has been remarkably weak on addressing illegal immigration. He pounds his chest while declaring that there is a “crisis” on the southern border where we are being “overwhelmed by uncontrolled masses of people rushing” the border and that it “costs us billions and billions and billions of dollars a year.”  Yet, Trump’s exclusive focus on our southern border is misplaced, and it reveals a lack of seriousness about, as well as understanding of, the realities of illegal immigration. Simply put, the crisis is not on our southern border, but rather in an area receiving little attention: Visa overstays.Every year since 2007, according to a report by the Center for Migration Studies, the number of undocumented immigrants who overstayed their visas to remain in the United States out of status has outnumbered those illegally crossing the southern border — by at least 600,000. Further, two-thirds of undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. in 2014 alone simply overstayed their visa. The Center for Migration Studies expects that the trend of visa overstays to account for the majority of illegal immigration for the foreseeable future.Despite this, the Trump administration has done nothing to address it. Instead, Trump continues to prattle on and perpetuate his claim that “the southern border is a big problem,” ignoring that, according to his Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Immigration Statistics, the number of entries into the U.S. via illegal border crossing dropped 75 percent between 2000 and 2016.Nevertheless, Trump persists with his chosen placebo: Building the wall. He has, however, dropped his campaign trail mantra that Mexico would pay for its construction and seemingly accepted that the United States will be responsible for the wall’s estimated $21.6 billion cost. However, Trump has not admitted the reality that not only will the wall take far longer to complete than the predicted 3.5 years, but will also cost far more than its public price tag.  11/30/2018  2)  In a July 2018 report from Trump's Government Accountability Office, eminent domain was identified as the main reason that the border wall “will cost more than projected [and] take longer than planned.”In order to build the wall along the 1,954 mile United States-Mexico border — which runs through California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas — the government would need to own the land on which it is planning to build. The Texas-Mexico border alone is 1,254 miles long, but only 100 miles are publicly owned, which means that the government would need to seize and provide just compensation to the private landowners.However — just as happened with the border fence authorized by Congress in 2006 — it will take years, if not decades, to resolve all the outstanding issues to appropriate the land, due to landowners contesting the seizure and/or compensation in federal court.And, not only is eminent domain a fiscal fool’s errand, it has long been an anathema to anti-big-government conservatives (though the president himself is a strong supporter of the use of eminent domain for private economic development) .Instead of continuing to pursue the boondoggle of a border wall and wasting billions of taxpayer dollars in the midst of a trillion dollar (and climbing) budget deficit, President Trump should focus on the bigger problem of visa overstays. Bafflingly, he has not — which demonstrates his (possibly willful) ignorance about immigration as a whole.That ignorance and lack of seriousness was on full display in October, when the president insinuated that the migrant caravan had terrorists in its ranks, tweeting, “Middle Easterners are mixed in.” One would think that Trump’s concerns about terrorism infiltration of the United States would extend to people overstaying their visa, as at least two of the 9/11 hijackers were in the United States on expired visas. But he has never addressed that at all.Trump would be wise to listen to his occasional outside advisor. former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who during a 2016 GOP presidential debate inartfully suggested implementing a biometric entry and exit system. (Currently, the United States only collects biometric data when people enter the country.) Such a program would help the government to verify that visa holders have left the country, as well as help ICE to target those who remain in the United States out of status. And, when it comes to the southern border, Trump could instead push Congress to fund technological fixes including increased remote surveillance, which would cost far less than any wall and likely be just as effective. Yet, President Trump and his administration have continues to focus their misguided immigration policies on the southern border while ignoring the elephant (on an expired visa) in the room. For someone who bills himself as tough when tackling the issue of illegal immigration, Trump‘s record reveals that he is anything but  11/28/2018  **3)**  TIJUANA, Mexico — It’s the image from the unfolding crisis in Tijuana seen around the world: a migrant mom and her young children running away from a smoking tear gas canister with barbed wire and a forbidding metal wall in the background.Both children are clad only in T-shirts, and one appears to be wearing a pull-up diaper. One child is barefoot, another wears flip-flops. The woman clutching their arms and dragging them out of harm's way is wearing black leggings and a T-shirt emblazoned with the smiling cartoon faces of the Anna and Elsa from the Disney movie "Frozen."That jarring portrait was captured on camera Sunday by veteran Reuters photographer Kim Kyung-Hoon moments after a group of Central American migrants approached the border crossing into San Diego and were forced backwards by tear gas canisters hurled by U.S. border agents."When the tear gas started, some people were screaming and everybody started running away,” Kim told NBC News on Monday. "I saw the woman and two children running away. One girl was barefoot from the beginning. The other was wearing beach sandals and lost them in the chaos."NBC News also tracked down the woman, Maria Mesa, a 39-year-old mother of five from Honduras, inside a tent at the Benito Juarez Shelter in Tijuana"I grabbed my children and ran," Mesa said of her 5-year-old twin daughters Saira and Sheilly.Mesa said her 3-year-old son James, who does not appear in the picture, was also with them and fainted after getting a lung-full of gas."One of them could have died," she said.Kim said Mesa "was travelling with five children.""Their father lives in Louisiana and they are trying to reach him," he said.  Kim's photograph, which appeared on the NBC News website and on the front pages of numerous newspapers, provoked worldwide outrage and appeared to make a lie of President Donald Trump’s claim that the caravans were an invading force of "criminals" and "gang members."But Trump defended tear-gassing the migrants, calling them "some very tough people."They were stopped at one spot by the Mexican police," the photographer said. "Then they climbed down the river bank. The wire fence was on the other side of the river about 20 meters away."Kim said he watched as the mother and the twins started fording the shallow river at the border. Asked if that was why the girls were wearing next to nothing, the photographer said he believes that was all the clothing they had.For a few seconds, Kim said, he was distracted by two men who had already made it across and were using their bare hands and a bucket to dig a hole under a fence so they could crawl under.Then, suddenly, the air was filled with choking smoke."One canister fell by the family and they started running away," he said, referring to the mother and twinsKim said he could hear the little girls coughing and crying and he immediately aimed his camera in their direction and starting shooting the unfolding chaos. He said he stayed with them as they fled back to the migrant encampment.Asked if he was rattled by what he witnessed and the heartbreaking sounds of children crying, Kim said "my job is to document what is happening.""I try not to let my emotions get involved in my work," he said.  11/26/2018  4)  TIJUANA, Mexico — Some of the Central American migrants who remain in the Benito Juarez shelter, the largest one giving refuge to participants of the migrant caravan in Tijuana, came together on Tuesday to plea for their lives and demand that their human rights stopped being violated.“Many of the people that partook in this journey, we have to continue trying [to come to the U.S.] because we’re going to get killed if we return to our countries,” read a joint statement from selected representatives of the migrant caravan. They call themselves the Éxodo Migratorio Centroamericano Por La Vida, which loosely translates to ‘For The Live Of Central American Migrants in the Exodus.’They also made an impassioned case at a press conference at the shelter, reiterating that they face real danger if they go back.It has been 46 days since these migrants left Central American countries such as Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.Members of the caravan defended themselves from the backlash that ensued after a protest at the Tijuana-San Diego border turned violent and U.S. border authorities used tear gas.“We were victims of the repression from the U.S. border patrol, they threw tear gas at us various times, the children were affected greatly and we were only walking because we wanted to be seen. We wanted to be recognized as a big group of people who wants to be heard so international laws can protect us as we migrate and seek better lives,” they said in the statement and later at the press conference.The migrants requested a number of things, including that the U.S. speed up the process to seek asylum, that the incoming Mexican government create a commission willing to negotiate with the migrants who wish to stay and a stop to the “arbitrary, manipulated and involuntary deportations.” Additionally, they pleaded for solid information that could help them make better decisions and protect their lives.The statement alludes to some of the violent conditions the migrants are fleeing in Central America.The countries of the Northern Triangle of Central America, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, already deal with the highest levels of violence worldwide. Their murder rates are three to eight times over what the World Health Organization considers to be epidemic levels, according to Amnesty International.The Mexican government has set up tents to help migrants with humanitarian visas that would allow them to stay in Mexico legally and find work. Mexico's federal government said 600 migrants from the caravan have received such humanitarian visas, so far. In the last few months, the Mexican government has deported 11,000 Central American migrants, including around 2,000 from the caravans.Mexico is providing help to those who decide they are going to return to their countries of origin. According to Mexican authorities, 200 migrants asked to be self-deported. At least 81 people who were part of the caravan have decided to return to Honduras, according to NBC News’s Gadi Shwartz. Authorities in Tijuana have detained at least 194 migrants. The group is asking that “human rights are present in every detention” and that the names of those who have been deported are released to the public.  11/27/2018  5)  AUSTIN, Texas — The number of people living in the United States without legal permission fell to 10.7 million in 2016, the lowest number in more than a decade, according to the non-partisan Pew Research Center.The drop from a peak of 12.2 million in 2007 is almost entirely attributable to a sharp drop in the number of Mexicans entering the country without legal authorization, according to Pew's report released Tuesday. The last time the number of people in the country illegally was that low was 2004. Because the numbers are based on 2016 populations, the decline cannot be attributed to President Donald Trump, who took office in January 2017, and his immigration policies. MOST OF THEM ARE LONGTIME RESIDENTS The drop in the population of people illegally living in the country is largely because fewer new immigrants are coming to the country, which means more are longtime United States residents. About two-thirds have lived in the United States for more than a decade and a greater share, 43 percent in 2017 versus 32 percent in 2007, have U.S.-born children.About half of the people living in the country illegally are from Mexico — about 1.5 million fewer than in 2007, according to Pew.Along border, Trump creates a war zone that doesn't exist. However, about 375,000 more people from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras came to the U.S. without legal permission between 2007 and 2016, for a total of about 1.85 million in the country. Central America is the only region from which more immigrants arrived in the years from 2007 to 2016, according to Pew.The total number of people who came to the U.S. illegally and were originally from South America, Europe and Canada dropped while those from the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East and Africa remained steady. IMMIGRATION Fact check: 7 things Trump got wrong about the border and immigration. The report of fewer people living in the country illegally comes after the administration shut down the San Ysidro port of entry in California for hours Sunday after border officers used tear gas on men, women and children to keep them from entering the U.S. illegally and asking for asylum. It is a misdemeanor to cross the border without legal permission. But once across the border, the law allows a person to request asylum.The number of adult unauthorized immigrants in the workforce, 7.8 million, was lower in 2016 than a decade earlier and they made up less than 5 percent of the workforce, also a drop from 2007 when they were about 5.4 percentThe number of unauthorized immigrant workers in low-skilled jobs declined, while those in management, business and professional jobs rose by a third, Pew said.  11/29/2018  6)  WASHINGTON — A caravan of migrants fleeing Honduras has grown to 4,000, and the Mexican government has sent 500 additional federal police to its border with Guatemala in anticipation of their arrival, according to U.S. government documents obtained by NBC News.Part of the caravan, which has split into two groups, is approaching the Mexico-Guatemala border amid a surge in border crossings on the U.S.-Mexico border.In September, U.S. Border Patrol agents apprehended more than 41,400 undocumented immigrants, up from 37,544 in August, according to numbers not yet released publicly but obtained by NBC News. The Washington Post reported Wednesday that the numbers of families and children traveling on their own surged to record levels in September.Caravan of migrants flees Honduras, heading northShelters and churches along the border have been flooded as a result of the surge as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have been releasing hundreds of migrants from detention at a time.Many of the Hondurans traveling in the caravan are children, some traveling with their parents and some without, according to the documents. Because children are afforded special protections in the United States, their arrival is creating anxiety within the Trump administration, which has pledged to decrease illegal immigration. President Donald Trump said last week that he would consider separating migrant families at the border once again, after reversing his controversial "zero tolerance" policy in June.U.S. Customs and Border Protection is tracking the caravan as the Hondurans make their way north toward the U.S. border. Meanwhile, the State Department is trying to stave off that possibility by compelling the Mexican government to stop them at its border with Guatemala.Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to Mexico to meet with his counterparts on Friday, and plans to stop the caravan will be a "prominent" topic of discussion, a senior State Department official told reporters on Wednesday."I am certain that there will be conversations in Mexico about how we can work together on this issue," the official said about the caravan. "We are certainly looking for concrete results and for solutions that work for both countries."Trump has threatened to cut aid to Honduras and Guatemala if their governments do not stop the caravan. It remains to be seen what pressure the United States will put on Mexico, but a senior Homeland Security official said border agents were hopeful that State Department negotiations would significantly curb the numbers that reach the United States.The deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala, David Hodge, arrived on Wednesday at Casa del Migrante, where hundreds of Honduran migrants continue to arrive. He told them not to continue traveling to the north.Hodge said in an interview that he was there to tell the migrants "that President Trump's message was clear — that anyone who enters the United States illegally will be arrested before being deported.""The United States government is very aware of the security and prosperity problems in the countries of the Northern Triangle, but we are investing hundreds of millions of dollars every year to improve situations," he said, referring to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador."People need their future in their country, and they must return to their country," he said.A rare look inside the vastly expanded tent city at U.S.-Mexico border.Police have been sent in part to quell protesters in the state of Chiapas, which borders Guatemala, who are advocating for the safe treatment of the immigrants, according to the documents. Cooperating with the United States on strict border policies has been met with a serious backlash in Mexico, and it contributed to the election of President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador.López Obrador said Wednesday that when he takes office on Dec. 1, his administration will "give jobs to Central Americans. It is a plan that we have, that anyone who wants to work in Mexico will have a work visa." He said he had told Trump that he wanted to emphasize options besides deportation, including work, for Central Americans.  **10/17/2018**  **7)**  WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security is gathering intelligence from paid undercover informants inside the migrant caravan that is now reaching the California-Mexico border as well as monitoring the text messages of migrants, according to two DHS officials.The 4,000 migrants, mainly from Honduras, have used WhatsApp text message groups as a way to organize and communicate along their journey to the California border, and DHS personnel have joined those groups to gather that information.The intelligence gathering techniques are combined with reports from DHS personnel working in Mexico with the government there in an effort to keep tabs on the caravan's size, movements and any potential security threats.Feds gather intelligence from informants in migrant caravan  On Monday, DHS officials told reporters that their intelligence on Sunday night had indicated that a group of migrants wanted to run through the car lanes of a border crossing near San Diego. Customs and Border Protection shut down all northbound lanes of the crossing from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. as a result. However, the ambush was never attempted.Paying informants, placing officers in the region or monitoring the communications of non-U.S. citizens is not illegal, said John Cohen, former acting undersecretary of intelligence for DHS, but it does raise some concerns about the allocation of resources."Those resources have to come from some place. They are not being devoted to thwarting terrorist threats, mass shootings, mailed fentanyl coming into the country or cyberattacks," said Cohen.First group of Central American migrants arrives in Tijuana to seek asylum in U.S.Cohen said the caravan presents a logistical and humanitarian issue, but because the vast majority of its members want to present themselves legally to claim asylum, it is not wise to devote a significant amount of intelligence resources to it."I find it hard to believe that the highest risk facing this nation comes from this caravan," Cohen said.  It is not known how much money DHS is spending on the intelligence gathering inside the caravan.Judge blocks Trump's asylum ban for migrants crossing southern border illegally  In a statement, DHS Spokeswoman Katie Waldman said, "While not commenting on sources or methods, it would be malpractice for the United States to be ignorant about the migrants — including many criminals — attempting to enter our country. We have an obligation to ensure we know who is crossing our borders to protect against threats to the Homeland and any indication to the contrary is misinformed.  11/20/2018  8)  Current immigration policies and fears of deportation are keeping U.S. children out of school.Authors of UNESCO’s new Global Education Monitoring report, Building Bridges, Not Walls studied how the way different countries implement education and immigration policies can either promote or learning environments for immigrant children, migrants or refugees.Experts found that in the U.S., deportation fears are having an impact on school attendance, whether students are afraid of their own deportation or of a loved one's.The fear is exacerbated if schools allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to search the facilities or collect immigration information from students.Seven percent of U.S. children are born to parents who don't have legal immigration status.A school district in Las Cruces, New Mexico, saw a 60 percent spike in absenteeism after an immigration raid shook the community in February of last year. As a result, the school board changed its policies. They stopped collecting information regarding the immigration status of its students and started rejecting requests from ICE agents to access school grounds without judicial warrants.  11/22/2018  9)  In Tennessee, a similar pattern surfaced seven months ago after one of the largest workplace immigration raids took place in Morristown — mainly affecting Latino families living in the area. According to the report, 20 percent of Hispanic students in Hamblen County, where Morristown is located, missed school following the raid.This is taking place all over the country, according to the research findings.“I’m afraid that one day out of the blue, my mom will be gone or my dad will be gone” said Heidi Mensobar, a student from Academia Avance in Los Angeles, who was interviewed as part of the report.Academia Avance's principal, St Claire Adriaan, works with a student population that includes Mexican-American students of legal and undocumented status.“We’ve had parents arrested for deportation which obviously affected the school,” said Adriaan. “It is bothersome that students are going through so much, and how it affects their learning.”St Claire Adriaan, principal at Academia Avance in Los Angeles, works with a student population that's a mix of documented and undocumented Mexican or Mexican-American children.St Claire Adriaan, principal at Academia Avance in Los Angeles, works with a student population that's a mix of documented and undocumented Mexican or Mexican-American children.Marton Varo / Courtesy GEM ReportOverall, the study found that the immigration policies being implemented by the U.S. government “are detrimental to the education of those with undocumented status.”Roughly 50,000 children are detained at the U.S.-Mexico border any given year. According to the report, pediatric and mental health professionals who visited family detention centers nationwide reported that the facilities provided inadequate education services.However, the report points out some silver linings in the way some U.S. policies protect immigrants’ education.As of May 2018, about 700,000 people eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, applied.DACA, which was introduced by President Barack Obama in 2012, provides two-year renewable protections that shield some undocumented youth from deportation if they are working or attending school.Since DACA’s implementation, high school graduation rates increased approximately 15 percent, according to the report. Community colleges, which tends to better accommodate working students also saw positive effects.Eric Gay / APThe program opened the door for more undocumented students to enroll in colleges and universities in all states except in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. However, many public higher education institutions charge undocumented immigrants out-of-state tuition even if they are long-time state residents.In an effort from President Donald Trump to phase out the DACA program, current beneficiaries are able to renew their DACA status but the program is not taking new applications.After studying the impact immigration and education policies have on undocumented students in the United States, UNESCO issued the following recommendations in its final report:The U.S. needs to strengthen measures that enable better access and improved quality for immigrant children’s education.It needs to ensure that school grounds are a safe space for undocumented migrants, without fear of deportation.  11/24/2018  **Fox News**  1)  Escaping poverty is a natural desire, but it’s not an excuse to take advantage of America’s generosity or to stretch our laws to the breaking point.Refugees are people who flee their homes due to war, persecution or violence. They need to legally visit a border entry point or an American consulate and request refugee status.Immigrants are people who want to move to another country to improve their lives and they go through a long vetting process.People who cross the border illegally, no matter what their background, are illegal aliens.Many Democrats see all the people in the caravan as refugees, entitled to taxpayer-funded care. These Democrats are uncomfortable sending any foreigners coming to America back to their home countries, because too many Democrats have stopped making a moral distinction between legal and illegal immigration.These Democrats contend that if any people from other countries want to enter the U.S., let them. If any foreigners seek to escape poverty, call them refugees and let them in.But for those who seek to escape poverty by illegally entering the United States, who is going to pay for their health care once they get here? Who is going to pay for their housing? Their food? Where should they live?  10/24/2018  2)  Should all the estimated 7,000 people in the caravan be sent to a sanctuary city like San Francisco, where the federal government can tell leaders there that it’s up to them to provide for everyone’s needs?Allowing all immigrant to call themselves refugees is like allowing all American to call themselves veterans of our armed forces, entitled to the benefits and privileges earned by veterans. Most Americans aren’t veterans and most immigrants aren’t refugees.Our generosity as Americans is being taken advantage of. Our catch-and-release procedures have turned our laws into a game of tag. When people touch base in the United States, they’re safe and typically aren’t caught. That’s the practical reason so many come here illegally. Their relatives and friends have told them they can get away with it.Immigration must not be a game. It’s a statement of who we are as a country and how we define citizenship based on the rule of law.I still support a comprehensive modernization of our immigration laws. The Democrats should give President Trump a wall wherever our Border Patrol says one is needed. President Trump should let long-residing illegal immigrants who haven’t broken any additional laws to remain here, free from deportation.As the son of an immigrant who came here legally, I know that legal immigration enriches us. Illegal immigration doesn’t.  10/24/2018  3)  President Donald Trump is locked in a battle with Congress over much-needed funding for a wall on the southern border. Critics have lambasted the president over his immigration policies, claiming his agenda discriminates against Hispanics.But these critics are confused. President Trump’s agenda is more pro-Hispanic than any other immigration agenda put forward in the past.The president is reforming our broken system from one that poses no serious challenge to dangerous illegal entries, to one that fosters a legal, more secure alternative. As a Hispanic woman and legal immigrant from Bolivia, I see this proposed system as significantly more pro-Hispanic and pro-immigrant than the shameful status quo.America is a country built on immigration. For hundreds of years, legal immigrants from diverse backgrounds have been proud to call the United States home.However, the immigration debate has shifted radically left as liberals promote open borders for the sake of political opportunism. Encouraging families to illegally cross the border does nothing but endanger them and invite false hope of a better life.Journeying through Central America to the southern border is the definition of hell. According to statistics compiled by the United Nations International Organization for Migration, 412 missing or dead migrants were found near the U.S.-Mexico border last year alone, including women and children. Some 90 died from drowning.Sadly, these numbers represent a minimum estimate due to unrecorded accounts of those who died on the journey before reaching the border area.Still, statistics don’t do justice to how truly horrible the journey is. I recently had a conversation with a former co-worker who had illegally crossed the border himself. I listened to his account of the unimaginable degree of hardship one must face and resilience one must show during the dangerous trek.“Crossing the border is heinous. You get through it because you remind yourself – someone always had it worse than you did,” he told me. He explained that women usually travel during their “time of the month” in order to reduce their chance of being sexually assaulted. Unfortunately, this story is consistent with what other illegal immigrants have told me through the years.  11/14/2018  4)  HARTFORD, Conn. – Dozens of demonstrators, some of them chained to each other and barrels filled with sand, blocked the doors to a federal courthouse Friday in support of an immigrant from Ecuador who was been living in a church for a year to avoid deportation.  About 60 people joined the rally to demand that Immigration and Customs Enforcement stay the deportation order for Nelson Pinos, 44, and allow him to return home to his family. Protesters sang songs and chanted "Bring Nelson home."Pinos sought sanctuary in a New Haven church after he was ordered to leave the U.S. a few weeks before Christmas last year. A New Haven resident, he has been living in the U.S. illegally since 1992. He is married and the father of three children who are U.S. citizens.Supporters say his situation has caused psychological harm to his children."He's been living in the U.S. so long," said Pinos' friend Jesus Morales Sanchez, who was chained to another protester and a sand barrel. "The amount of suffering this family is going through is cruel and inhumane."  11/30/2018  5)  JUCHITAN, Mexico – The Latest on the caravans of migrants making their way through Mexico (all times local):10:10 a.m.Mexican immigration authorities so far haven't tried to detain migrants in largest caravan of Central Americans now walking through the southern part of the country. But it's a different story with the second, smaller caravan of migrants about 200 miles behind them.A federal official who was not authorized to be quoted by name says 153 migrants were detained Wednesday during highway inspections in the southernmost state of Chiapas.While the precise size of that caravan is unclear, that could be equivalent to about 10 percent of those participating.Mexico's immigration agency does normally operate highway inspection checkpoints in the area near the Guatemalan border. But Wednesday's detentions appear to mark a shift in enforcement strategy toward the caravans.Officials haven't tried to detain the first, larger group, instead offering free trips home or legal status in Mexico. But agents appear to be focusing on picking off smaller groups.\_\_\_7:05 a.m.Thousands of Central American migrants have again resumed their trek through southern Mexico after failing find buses to carry them.The group estimated to number some 4,000 set off before dawn from the city of Juchitan. Organizers say they've shifted the planned route and now are heading for the town of Matias Romero en route to the Gulf coast city of Veracruz.That city is a common transit route toward McAllen, Texas.The group took a day off from walking on Wednesday, resting and caring for swollen feet.A second, smaller group of 1,000 or so migrants is more than 200 miles behind the first caravan. A third band of about 500 from El Salvador has made it to Guatemala, and a fourth group of about 700 set out from the Salvadoran capital Wednesday.  11/1/2018  6)  Unintended consequence: Child exploitation? One advocacy group believes the administration's policies could have the unintended consequence of exposing children to human trafficking."We are concerned this could happen," said Ashley Feasley, Director of Policy at the Migration and Refugee Services Office of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.Feasley says undocumented parents are afraid to come out of the shadows and sponsor their children because HHS can share their address and personal information with ICE. And adds, that undocumented parents are now asking a distant relative or family friends -- who are U.S. citizens or legal residents -- to sponsor their children, and that could put a child in the hands of a human trafficker or expose the child exploitation.While Feasley says her office has not identified such a case, her field staff is on the look out for possible signs of abuse."That is a concern," Feasley told CNN. "A lot of protocols have been put in place; but that could be an unintended consequence. We could see children exploited."The fingerprint irony As the Trump era policies keep unaccompanied children in detention longer by requiring stricter vetting, like fingerprints from their parents, an HHS watchdog memo shows the government didn't hold itself to the same standard when it rushed to open the Tornillo, Texas, shelter earlier this fall.The HHS inspector general found that the department failed to conduct FBI fingerprint background checks for 1,300 staff members at the massive temporary Texas facility.The Tornillo shelter houses about 1,800 unaccompanied migrant children aged 13 to 17, and as of early October, the average stay was 27 days, up from 20 days. CNN reported in September that HHS was planning to triple the facility's capacity to nearly 4,000 beds.To respond to the ballooning number of children in detention, the report says, HHS relied on private contractors with less rigorous FBI background check hiring practices.The memo acknowledges that officials have begun to address the background check issue. And HHS responded to the watchdog's memo by saying the department is working "to resolve the background check and clinical staffing issues identified in the report."Abuse has been an issue at other shelters. In August, two men were accused of sexually abusing eight teenage boys and molesting a 14-year-old girl at two Arizona shelters.  11/30/2018  7)  MEMPHIS, Tenn. – An immigration board has rejected an appeal from a Spanish-language news outlet reporter who was arrested during a demonstration in Tennessee.The Commercial Appeal reports that while the Board of Immigration Appeal granted Manuel Duran a stay of deportation in May, it rejected his appeal in mid-October.Latino Memphis attorney Christina Swatzell says Duran could be deported to El Salvador by mid-November, but he's fighting his case at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.The 42-year-old reporter was arrested for disorderly conduct and obstruction of a highway in April. A lawsuit asserting his detention was retaliation for news coverage was dismissed in September.Duran's lawyers have said he came to the U.S. after receiving death threats related to reporting on corruption in El Salvador.  11/6/2018  8)  PHILADELPHIA – Immigration judges are accusing the Justice Department and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions of undermining a Philadelphia judge's independence by having cases removed from his court, apparently because he was too slow to issue deportation orders.The judge's union filed the grievance Wednesday.The grievance stems from a case of a Guatemalan immigrant who had come to the U.S. as an unaccompanied minor and had missed several court hearings. Judge Steven A. Morley had suspended the case to examine whether proper notice had been sent to the man. The agency then reassigned the case to a supervisory judge who traveled from Virginia to hear the matter and issued a deportation order. The union says dozens of additional cases were also removed from Morley.  10/8/2018  9)  Illegal immigration also benefits those who seek to exploit the less fortunate in order to make a quick buck. Coyotes and smugglers have a well-deserved reputation for being ruthlessly criminal and brazenly inhumane. They put men, women and children in danger in exchange for what amounts to a lifetime's worth of savings by families seeking a better life.Knowing this, it’s shameful that the left would rather play politics than discourage families from being exploited and endangered.Still, the optimistic side of me wants to believe that once people make the horrendous trip, they’ll be given unlimited opportunities and their troubles will be left at the border. Yet the facts on the ground suggest otherwise.They are exploited by unscrupulous employers, tempted to obtain illegal documentation, sometimes recruited by vicious gangs, and in some cases participate in criminal activities in order to access basic resources. It seems to be a never-ending cycle.We can put a hard stop to this – at the border.It is frustrating as a Hispanic woman to hear from a loud and biased mainstream media that President Trump’s policies are unfair, inhumane and anti-Hispanic. If anything can be considered fair, humane and pro-Hispanic, it would be discouraging illegal immigration, building a border wall and reforming our legal immigration system.“This is a country of laws and we must follow them,” my father would tell my mother. His appreciation never wavered for America’s legal system after growing up in Bolivia, a country that lacked law and order. Our appreciation should be the same. | 11/25/18 |

11/14/2018