Mexico rails against U.S. border plan

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Body

The Mexican government, angered by a <u>U.S.</u> proposal to extend a wall along the <u>border</u> to keep out migrants, has struck back with radio ads urging Mexican workers to denounce rights violations in the <u>United States</u>.

Facing a growing tide of <u>U.S.</u> anti-immigrant sentiment, the Mexican government is also hiring an American public relations firm to improve its image.

President Vicente Fox denounced the $\underline{\textit{U.S.}}$ measures, passed by the House of Representatives on Friday, as "shameful" and his foreign secretary, Luis Ernesto Derbez, Monday called the wall "stupid."

It's hard to underestimate the ill-feeling the proposal has generated in <u>Mexico</u>, where editorial pages feature cartoons of Uncle Sam putting up walls bearing anti-Mexican messages.

The government is scrambling to fight on two fronts. On Monday, it announced it had hired Allyn & Co., a Dallas-based public relations company to help improve *Mexico's* image and stem the immigration backlash.

The government also has stepped up its defense of migrants, airing radio spots aimed at migrants returning home for the holidays.

"Had a labor accident in the <u>United State?</u> You have rights... Call," reads the ad, sponsored by <u>Mexico's</u> Foreign Relations Department, which has helped migrants bring compensation suits in the <u>United States</u>.

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