

Mexico Asylum Cases Must Be Reduced

The New York Times

December 14, 1995, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Editorial Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 30; Column 4; Editorial Desk ; Column 4; ; Letter

Length: 231 words

Body

To the Editor:

Although there has been an increase in Mexican nationals granted asylum in the United States this year, after years in which such applications were routinely denied, the number is still small -- 55 -- and represents one-half of 1 percent of all asylum applicants from Mexico.

Of greater concern is that more than 9,500 Mexican nationals have filed applications for asylum in a single year.

Based on the rate of approvals, we can assume that the majority of these applications are frivolous and have been filed by illegal aliens solely to delay their departure from the United States.

House Resolution 2202, the immigration bill of which I am the principal sponsor, includes provisions to reduce the filing of frivolous asylum claims. These include requirements that arriving aliens who have no valid entry documents establish a credible fear of persecution before they are permitted to enter the United States and pursue an asylum application.

The legislation also streamlines procedures for adjudicating asylum claims and for removing illegal aliens from the United States.

Our asylum system should protect legitimate refugees, whatever their country of origin. But abuse of the asylum system, as shown by the number of Mexican applicants, must end.

(Rep.) LAMAR SMITH
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Immigration and Claims
Washington, Dec. 11, 1995

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: POLITICAL ASYLUM (91%); IMMIGRATION (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); REFUGEES (78%); LEGISLATION (75%)

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Geographic: **MEXICO** (94%); UNITED STATES (93%)

Load-Date: December 14, 1995

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