Case Study

Name

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The protection of the U.S. border from illegal immigrants and transnational crimes remains an endemic problem that the country is yet to address fully. Border security remains under threat, particularly from illegal immigrants who invest all their hopes and resources in trying to enter the country (Verdecchia & Carena, 2015; Davis, 2021). The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have been overwhelmed with a growing number of illegal immigrants that need processing. Tens of thousands of others make it into the U.S. without being detected by border agents.

The recent surge in the number of illegal immigrants trying to by-pass the security systems and enter the U.S. is due to weakness in the legal and administrative systems. The processing of illegal immigrants for possible deportation is faced with legal and administrative obstacles that create a backlog of cases that ought to be dispensed with to help the CBP unit manage the situation at the borders (Davis, 2021). Moreover, the backlog of cases provides an incentive for more illegal immigrants to travel to the U.S., hoping that the delays in dispensing with cases mean they will never be departed. The legal issues that include limiting the powers of the government to deport illegal immigrants and the time needed to hold on to the illegal immigrants before they can be brought to court contributes to low rates of deportations. According to By Davis, the situation has contributed to holding centers being overwhelmed by the population of immigrants. A system that is meant to hold about 4000 people now holds about 20,000 people (Davis, 2021). In the long run, the immigrants cannot enjoy decent services because the system is overwhelmed.

The issues about the conditions in which immigrants are held and how they are treated cannot be addressed without increasing resources to the CBP or reducing the number of illegal immigrants who make it to the U.S. border. The higher number of illegal immigrants from Central American trying to enter the country poses a great the challenge (Davis, 2021). Parents' attempts to use children as a shield to protect their entry into the U.S. is another issue that has given rise to further challenges. The net effect of these maneuvers is depleting of the ICE’s detention capacity, resulting in the humanitarian crisis that was witnessed in the recent past.

Border Crisis was beyond the ability of the CBP resources, meaning that it produced further negative results on the part of the immigrants and the border security. As the system got overwhelmed, the agents were forced to provide care to those in detention centers, resulting in a low number of agents along the border (Davis, 2021). Some illegal immigrants used this opportunity to get into the country unnoticed. The border agents can only work well if they are not overstretched. The delays in determining cases of illegal immigration in courts when more persons are traveling from the outside to the borders with the hope of gaining entry mean that the system is inadequate (Davis, 2021). The response by the CBP was within the available resources and capacity, which were far below the required standards.

Moreover, the issue of unaccompanied children among illegal immigrants leaves the CBP in an awkward situation because such children cannot be turned back nor be sentenced. Minors need special protection. However, the CBP has limited capacity to handle a huge number of children. The creators of the system did not anticipate children as part of illegal immigrants, hence a new challenge that the CBP has tried to manage within its capacity (Davis, 2021). Children, given their age, need help to bathe and perform other basic tasks to keep themselves healthy.

The decision to tighten more restrictions on immigrants coming from Mexico will help deal with the border crisis issue partially but will not significantly reduce the number of illegal immigrants seeking entry into the U.S. The major success will be realized through the Mexican government other Central American countries collaborating with the U.S. in curbing the problem of illegal immigration in the region. Addressing the problem from the source is vital in arresting the border crisis (Davis, 2021). However, the CBP has no authority beyond the U.S. border, hence dependent on the other departments and units of the government to facilitate collaboration between the U.S. and other foreign governments in addressing the influx of immigrants to the border (Nichols, 2017).

The increase in the number of border agents, improving the holding capacity, and reinforcing physical barriers to illegal immigrants’ entry will also help deal with the border crisis. The attempt to block immigrants from entering the U.S. before being processed is daunted as an answer to crowding in holding centers and incentives to the influx of more immigrants along the border. It would be good to hold immigrants outside the U.S. border until they are successfully processed, and their cases heard. However, this may lead to challenges of jurisdiction and also humanitarian outcry.

Reference

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