

# NEWS



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### The Ongoing Situation on our Southern Border

BY TYLER DUNN

**T**HE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO BORDER has been the prime location of a hot button issue for the last decade, one that has been especially pertinent during Trump's presidency. During this last summer immigration was at the center of attention, dominating the news cycle as the Trump administration started enforcing the "zero-tolerance" immigration policy which included, in some circumstances, separating children from their parents.

After President Trump signed an executive order allowing children to remain with their parents during this process, two major immigration reform bills hit the floor in the Republican controlled House of Representatives.

Both the "Goodlatte Bill" and the "Compromise Bill" failed to pass in the House, keeping the current laws in place. These bills focused on E-Verify, DACA, Asylum Speakers, and providing funding for the border wall that President Trump promoted and promised in his campaign platform.

Currently the border is open again, despite its closure earlier this month due to congestion caused by an steep increase in the amount of people who were seeking asylum. The San Ysidro Port of entry near Tijuana can hold roughly 300 people and can, at maximum efficiency, process 100 people per day through the port of entry, after an extensive legal process for gaining asylum.

The protests that have been gaining national news on the border lately, are the asylum seekers in Tijuana protesting the speed at which asylum seekers are currently being processed into the

United States. On December first, the protests began peacefully but then escalated into more violent measures, such as storming the border fence and throwing rocks at u.s. Agents.

After the Mexican Authorities couldn't contain the protest, u.s. border agents were required to take action. In response to the rock-throwing, u.s. authorities deployed tear gas. The wind caused the tear gas to affect many people who were not involved, and this came to be viewed as a poor choice of action. There were roughly ninety people arrested on the Mexico border

and then on the United States side of the border u.s. agents made forty-two arrests.

The current solution being proposed is named the "Remain in Mexico" plan, which would detain asylum seekers in Mexico until their claims are processed. However, asylum seekers who are faced with immediate fear of persecution in Mexico will be allowed into the United States.

There has been continuous conversation

regarding the immigration situation. At the moment, Mexico is accepting the asylum seekers from Central America. However, the country remains reluctant behind the proposed deal, out of fear of constant caravans coming to Mexico that are creating problems for the new incoming government of Mexico. The new president is less willing to work with the United States.

With the future in limbo, it will be very interesting to see how this situation at the border unfolds, as this will certainly be a very important issue going into the 2020 election. With a split legislative branch it will be much tougher to pass legislation without a compromise on one parties behalf.

An amendment was drafted by Texas Republican Will Hurd (TX-23). His plan includes the longest border district in the United States stretching over 800 miles. This amendment would promote a "SMART" wall used for patrolling the border, which would prevent a large spending of taxpayer dollars and avoid trying to build a barrier in places unnecessary and difficult to construct one in. He believes this solution could be a more effective way to help protect the southern border. Congressman Hurd has also been very vocal about solving the DACA issue and moving toward productive debate on immigration policy. †



Photograph provided by Adobe Stock: US-Mexican Border in Arizona