

Background

1. The United States has historically been a nation of immigrants, with much of its population descending from various waves of migration from around the world.
2. In recent years, migration flows from Latin America to the United States have increased dramatically, driven by worsening poverty in Central America and the Andean countries, as well as by the mass exodus of Venezuelans due to the crisis in their country.
3. In response, the U.S. government implemented various immigration measures. In 2021, it introduced the “humanitarian parole” program, which was expanded in 2023 to include Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans.
4. Alongside the CBP One app for managing immigration appointments and the suspension of Title 42 in May 2023, these actions triggered new waves of migration by offering temporary legal entry pathways and easing certain border restrictions.
5. The impact of these policies was evident in the increased transit through the Darién jungle. In 2024, nearly 300,000 Latin Americans—mainly Venezuelans, Colombians, and Ecuadorians—crossed this dangerous route under extreme conditions, marking a historic record according to Panamanian immigration authorities.
6. Currently, it is estimated that at least 11 million undocumented migrants reside in the United States, 77% of whom have lived in the country for over five years. However, independent organizations estimate this number at 14 million, highlighting the difficulty in obtaining accurate records.
7. During the 2024 presidential campaign, immigration became a central issue in political debates. Donald Trump made the migration crisis a pillar of his rhetoric, claiming that the United States was being “invaded” by illegal immigrants bringing crime and chaos. He vowed to carry out the largest deportation operation in the country’s history.

Deportations under the Trump Administration

8. Since the beginning of Donald Trump's second term, deportations have significantly increased. According to the Department of Homeland Security, between January 20 and February 3, 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) removed 5,693 people to 121 countries, including Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, and Venezuela.
9. Extrapolating this rate to March 6, with an average of 406 deportations per day, the estimated total number of removals in the first 46 days of the term reaches approximately 18,705 people.
10. Some reports have indicated that certain deportees face traumatic conditions, especially those transferred on military flights. For example, the Arab outlet Al Jazeera documented the case of 104 Indian citizens shackled during a U.S. Air Force flight, describing the journey as a deeply distressing experience.
11. In addition, there have been reports of deported migrants being relocated to makeshift camps in the Panamanian jungle, where they remain isolated and without access to legal or humanitarian assistance.
12. The U.S. government has declared that it aims to further accelerate deportations in the coming months. According to leaked documents published by outlets such as *The Washington Post*, the administration plans to reach a pace of up to 15,000 deportations per week, equivalent to 780,000 annual expulsions.

Detainees in Guantánamo

13. One of the measures worsening this situation is the confinement of migrants at the Guantánamo Naval Base. On February 4, the first flight transferred ten detainees, whom authorities linked to the Venezuelan criminal organization *Tren de Aragua*.
14. The government has announced plans to expand Guantánamo facilities to incarcerate up to 30,000 migrants, most of them Venezuelans, along with some from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.
15. According to the Department of Homeland Security, these migrants have been classified as “highly dangerous” or “high-risk criminals,” although organizations like *ProPublica* have questioned the validity of these categorizations, noting that some detainees have no serious criminal records in their countries of origin.
16. On February 20, ICE transferred 177 migrants from Guantánamo to Honduras, as an intermediate step before final deportation to Venezuela. This suggests that Guantánamo may be functioning as a temporary transit center rather than a permanent detention facility.
17. If the Trump administration maintains the deportation pace observed during its first weeks, the total number of expulsions could exceed half a million people in the first year. Furthermore, the intensification of these policies suggests a possible tightening of detention conditions and stricter measures applied to migrants in transit, which could trigger a humanitarian crisis in the receiving regions.

Reactions from Latin American Countries

18. Mass deportations have significantly impacted relations between the U.S. and Latin American countries. Below are the responses from some of the most affected nations:
19. **Colombia:** President Gustavo Petro initially opposed receiving deportees on military planes. However, after the U.S. threatened to impose 25% tariffs on Colombian products, the country accepted the deportees without restrictions. As a potential future action, Colombia may strengthen its trade alliances to reduce economic dependence on the U.S.
20. **Mexico:** President Claudia Sheinbaum reported that the country had received around 4,000 deported migrants as of March 2025, without a significant increase compared to previous periods. In the future, Mexico may implement reintegration programs and strengthen policies supporting returned migrants.
21. **El Salvador:** President Nayib Bukele has sought agreements with the U.S., including the possibility of receiving migrants from third countries to apply for asylum in Salvadoran territory. In this context, the country may strengthen its asylum systems and seek international support.
22. **Brazil:** The government has received 88 repatriated individuals on a flight that landed in Manaus, maintaining repatriation agreements with the U.S. since 2018. In the future, Brazil may renegotiate these agreements to improve conditions for deportees.
23. **Panama:** The government has agreed to serve as a transit point for deported migrants of various nationalities. As a future action, Panama may request logistical and financial support from the U.S. to manage deportees.

Violated International Norms

24. The immigration policy implemented by Donald Trump's administration has violated multiple international human rights treaties, as well as norms of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Among the key violated instruments are:

25. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

- Art. 13: Freedom of movement and the right to leave any country.
- Art. 14: Right to seek asylum.
- Art. 25: Right to an adequate standard of living.

26. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)

- Art. 9: Right to life.
- Art. 17: Protection from arbitrary detention.
- Art. 22: Prohibition of collective expulsions.
- Art. 25: Equal treatment in employment.

27. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- Art. 9: Protection from arbitrary detention.
- Art. 12: Freedom of movement.
- Art. 17: Protection of family life.
- Art. 26: Equality before the law.

28. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

- Arts. 6 and 7: Right to work and fair conditions.
- Art. 11: Adequate standard of living.
- Art. 12: Right to health.

29. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- Art. 3: Best interests of the child.
- Art. 9: Right not to be separated from parents.
- Art. 22: Protection for refugee children.

30. Convention Against Torture (CAT)

- Art. 3: Prohibition of deportations that risk torture.

31. American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR)

- Art. 22: Prohibition of arbitrary and collective expulsions.
- Art. 24: Equality before the law.
- Art. 25: Judicial protection.

Non-Compliance with UPR Recommendations and the Migration Crisis

32. In the 2020 UPR, the UN recommended that the U.S.:
- End the separation of migrant families.
 - Cease prolonged detention of minors.
 - Ensure humane treatment of asylum seekers.
 - Ratify key treaties such as the CRC and the Migrant Workers Convention.
 - Create a National Human Rights Institution.
33. These recommendations are even more relevant today, in light of the violations caused by the current immigration policy: border militarization, deportations without due process, inhumane detention centers, and the use of force.

Questions for the United States' 2025 Universal Periodic Review

34. **On respecting the human rights of migrants**
- How does the U.S. ensure mass deportations do not separate families and respect due process?
 - What measures exist to avoid expulsions to dangerous countries?
 - How does the U.S. respond to reports about treatment on deportation flights?
 - What legal access do detained migrants have?
 - What does the U.S. do to protect unaccompanied minors?
35. **On Guantánamo**
- What legal basis justifies detaining migrants there?
 - How are “highly dangerous” classifications determined?
 - What safeguards exist against cruel treatment?
 - What independent oversight is in place at Guantánamo?
36. **On international treaties**
- How does the U.S. justify mass expulsions?
 - What protections exist for migrant labor rights?

- What monitoring mechanisms are in place?

37. On the impact in Latin America

- How does the U.S. ensure dignified return conditions?
- How does it justify economic pressure on countries like Colombia?
- What steps has it taken to prevent crises in transit countries like Panama?

Conclusion

39. The Latin American Association for Human Rights (ALDHU) draws the attention of the UN Human Rights Council and the U.S. government to the severity of this immigration policy, which constitutes one of the largest mass human rights violations.
40. The United Nations must demand the immediate cessation of these practices and the implementation of corrective measures to ensure respect for the rights of migrants and their families.

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