



**Updated Submission of the Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC) and the
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL) to the United Nations
Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America**

**53rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review - Fourth Cycle (November 2-13, 2026)
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The Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC) and the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL) submit this update to their initial submission of April 7, 2025¹ regarding ongoing human rights violations by U.S. border authorities between April 2025 and April 2026 to the Human Rights Council for the 2026 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United States in light of the Council's decision to reschedule the U.S. UPR.²

On September 25, 2025, a U.S. federal court found that U.S. Customs and Border Protection was still not in compliance with binding legal mandates on basic humane treatment of migrants at Open Air Detention Sites (OADS) in late 2024.³ While CBP is not currently detaining migrants

¹ SBCC and CHRCL, Submission of the Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC) and the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL) to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America (Apr. 7, 2025),

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/alliancesandiego/pages/409/attachments/original/1744066149/Final_UPR_OADS_Report_-_SBCC_CHRCL.pdf?1744066149

² Hum. Rts. Council, Decision to Reschedule the Universal Periodic Review of the United States, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/OM/19/L.1 (Nov. 7, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/OM/19/L.1> (last visited Apr. 9, 2026).

³ Order on Plaintiffs' Motion to Enforce the Flores Settlement Agreement, *Flores v. Bondi*, 2:85-cv-4544 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 25, 2025) (Dkt. 1670).

in OADS, CBP agents instead have deployed across the country in 2025 and 2026, terrorizing communities while engaging in race-based sweeps, violent arrests, and killings of U.S. citizens and immigrants alike.⁴ CBP has likewise never disavowed use of OADS, and is able to make use of these dangerous makeshift sites at any time should numbers of migrants increase in the border region.

Over the last year, the Trump Administration designated large swaths of the border in all four border states as “National Defense Areas” (NDAs), declaring that any unauthorized presence could result in criminal prosecution, including essentially the entire border riverfront of Cameron and Hidalgo Counties in Texas spanning 250 miles.⁵ Attempts to ascertain the exact locations and boundaries of the NDAs were met by conflicting information by military and border authorities, and many of the nearly 5,000 migrants charged with military trespassing since April 2025 were unaware they were on purported military land after crossing the border in often remote regions far from any signage.⁶ Despite a majority of these cases ultimately being dismissed, Trump Administration officials have defended and continue to file the cases, amounting to more such cases “filed in 2025 than in the prior decade.”⁷

On July 4, 2025, the United States supercharged its capacity for further abuse, killings, and border militarization at OADS and otherwise by enacting the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA) at the urging of President Trump, appropriating an unprecedented \$170 billion for CBP and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for enforcement and detention.⁸ This represents over three times the 2024 annual budget of CBP and includes \$46 billion to expand the deadly U.S.-Mexico border wall that CBP used at OADS, and billions more for additional unaccountable CBP agents and detention facilities.

⁴ See CBS News, 2,000 federal agents deploying to Minneapolis in immigration crackdown, fraud probe (Jan. 5, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/minneapolis-federal-agents-crackdown/>; Reuters, Trump’s showy immigration enforcement leads to violent confrontations (Jan. 10, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trumps-showy-immigration-enforcement-leads-violent-confrontations-2026-01-10/>; KATU, US Border agent shoots, wounds two people in Portland that DHS says are gang members (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://katu.com/news/local/ice-shoots-two-people-in-portlandoregon>; SBCC, Fatal Encounters with CBP since 2010 (Updated Mar. 16, 2026), https://www.southernborder.org/deaths_by_border_patrol

⁵ See Luis Martinez, ABC News, To stop migrants, US Army to take control of some of border with Mexico (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/stop-migrants-us-army-control-border-mexico/story?id=120831964>; Associated Press, Defense Department designates a second military zone on US border, extending into Texas (May 1, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/military-border-immigration-texas-mexico-d7d15f23bd755b95cd90cbb9a89df6fa>; US Air Force News Service, National Defense Area established in South Texas (June 25, 2025), <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4226175/national-defense-area-established-in-south-texas/>; KRGV, National Defense Area established in the Rio Grande Valley (June 25, 2025), <https://www.krgv.com/news/national-defense-area-established-in-the-rio-grande-valley/>; Associated Press, Trump administration adds militarized zone in California along southern US border (Dec 10, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/trump-adds-militarized-zone-border-california-b592a6a82351c4a632e861e92d71a181>

⁶ ProPublica, Why We Went Looking for National Defense Areas Along the U.S. Southern Border (Apr. 2, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/military-zones-border-migrants-charges>

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Public Law 119–21, 139 Stat. 72 (Jul. 4, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ21/PLAW-119publ21.pdf>

The impact of this massive surge of funding is not hypothetical. In 2026 alone, as border agents used their expansive authority to act both at the border and into the U.S. interior, CBP and ICE agents killed two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis, a parent who just dropped off his child at school in Chicago, a son in Texas, and a father in Los Angeles.⁹ Across the southwest, border wall construction has accelerated, threatening even Indigenous sacred sites such as Cuchumá Hill in California, religiously significant Mount Cristo Rey in New Mexico¹⁰, iconic and previously protected sites such as Big Bend National Park in Texas and the San Rafael Valley in Arizona, and urban areas in Laredo, Starr County, and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.¹¹

Additionally, migrants experiencing human rights violations by CBP face limited avenues for redress. Where SBCC previously filed administrative complaints with DHS against OADS, more than a year ago the Trump Administration fired most staff in DHS's oversight bodies responsible for addressing civil rights and civil liberties complaints, inspecting DHS detention facilities, and assisting with other immigration problems. Despite a lawsuit brought by SBCC and allies demanding a restoration of the offices, as of this submission the offices remain decimated.¹²

⁹ ProPublica, Two CBP Agents Identified in Alex Pretti Shooting (Feb. 1, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/alex-pretti-shooting-cbp-agents-identified-jesus-ochoa-raymundo-gutierrez>; MinnPost, Minneapolis vigil draws thousands as city reels following ICE shooting (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.minnpost.com/metro/2026/01/minneapolis-vigil-draws-thousands-as-city-reels-following-ice-shooting/>; Chicago Sun-Times, ICE officer fatally shoots man during traffic stop in Chicago suburb, authorities say (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/09/12/ice-officer-fatally-shoots-man-during-traffic-stop-in-chicago-suburb-authorities-say>; New York Times, A Fatal ICE Shooting Occurred in Texas Months Before Renee Good's Killing (Feb. 20, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/20/us/ruben-ray-martinez-ice-shooting-texas.html>; The Guardian, Family of man killed by off-duty ICE agent in LA demands charges: 'The ache will never go away' (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/16/keith-porter-jr-ice-killing>

¹⁰ El País, The United States damages millennia-old archaeological site with explosives to build the border wall (Apr. 7, 2026), <https://english.elpais.com/usa/2026-04-07/the-united-states-damages-millennia-old-archaeological-site-with-explosives-to-build-the-border-wall.html>

¹¹ The Atlantic, The "Big Black Scar", Trump is blowing up national-park land in Arizona to wall off one of the border's last wild places (Mar. 17, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/03/trump-border-wall-construction/686403/>; MySA, Border wall to slice through beloved Texas wildlife refuge (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/south-texas/article/texas-national-butterfly-center-border-wall-22096266.php>

¹² The Guardian, Court records reveal gutting of DHS oversight: 'Incredibly dangerous' (Mar. 8, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/mar/08/dhs-oversight-court-record-review>