



TÉLÉCOPIE • FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: 14 October 2021

A/TO: Mr. Benjamin Moeling
Chargé d'affaires
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations in Geneva

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EMAIL: GenevaHA@state.gov; GenevaUSmission@state.gov

DE/FROM: Beatriz Balbin
Chief
Special Procedures Branch
OHCHR

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beatriz Balbin".

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REF: AL USA 27/2021

PAGES: 12 (Y COMPRIS CETTE PAGE/INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

OBJET/SUBJECT: **JOINT COMMUNICATION FROM SPECIAL PROCEDURES**

Please find attached a joint communication sent by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

I would be grateful if this letter could be transmitted at your earliest convenience to His Excellency Mr. Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State.

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

REFERENCE:
AL USA 27/2021

14 October 2021

Mr. Moeling,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 43/36, 45/24 and 43/6.

We would like to bring to the attention of your Government information we have received concerning allegations of **systematic forcible expulsion of Haitian migrants under authority granted by Title 42 of the U.S. Code (42 U.S.C. § 265)**.

Special Procedures mandate holders already expressed to your Government on a number of occasions concerns about the referenced U.S. forcible return policies that threaten to violate the principle of *non-refoulement*, most recently through communications dated 19 June 2018 (USA 12/2018) and 19 October 2017 (USA 23/2017). In addition, the forcible return of Haitian migrants was the subject of a communication to your Government dated 10 July 2015 (USA 15/2015), with a reply received on 11 September 2015.

According to the information received:

Since 2010, a confluence of natural disasters, environmental crises aggravated by climate change, high levels of inequality and widespread poverty, food insecurity, political instability and insecurity has caused the forced migration of thousands of Haitian nationals and a humanitarian crisis. The situation has only worsened since the assassination of Haitian President, Jovenel Moïse, in July 2021, which prompted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to acknowledge that “Haiti is grappling with a deteriorating political crisis, violence, and a staggering increase in human rights abuses” and to designate Haitian nationals as eligible for Temporary Protected Status. The earthquake that struck the south of the country on 14 August 2021 and the tropical storm

His Excellency
Mr. Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

“Grace” two days later further aggravated this situation.

Despite this recognition, the United States has recently pursued a policy of collective expulsion of migrants, including those who might be eligible for international protection and who have sought to enter the country at its Southern and Northern borders. Invoking public health authority under Title 42 of the U.S Code, U.S. immigration officials are alleged to have asserted that they are legally authorized to summarily deport migrants attempting to enter the United States without any procedural due process. Reportedly, this systematic expulsion of migrants on public health grounds has been taking place without individualized evaluation of each person’s protection needs under international refugee law and international human rights law. Recently, migrants of Haitian origin seem to have been the most affected by the implementation of this policy.

Title 42 authority was invoked by the former administration in March 2020 to authorize the collective expulsion of migrants encountered by the U.S. border police and the Office of Field Operations at the borders with Mexico and Canada. U.S. authorities have continued using Title 42 to carry out collective expulsions, despite credible claims that this policy rests on tenuous public health grounds. Between October 2020 and August 2021, 937,628 expulsions reportedly took place. Several thousand Haitians have reportedly been forcibly and arbitrarily expelled under this policy, which is ostensibly meant to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, prominent public health experts have contested claims that the current policy of collective expulsion achieves that aim or protects public health in the United States.

Reportedly, Title 42 has been used to intentionally prevent thousands of Haitians, among migrants with other origins, from seeking asylum, and it has resulted in their immediate removal to Haiti or Mexico, with no individualized analysis of whether the expelled individuals would be at risk of persecution, torture or other irreparable harm if returned to either country. The use of Title 42 in this manner has been a continuous occurrence since 2020, culminating with highly publicized large expulsions, which took place in September 2021.

It is reported that this policy of collective expulsion particularly harms women, children, families and LGBTQI+ migrants, due to their vulnerability to intolerance, exclusion and violence based on racial and gender identity.

In addition, the use of Title 42 to systematically expel Haitian migrants and refugees is an alleged continuation of earlier U.S. policies that targeted Black Haitians for interdiction and rapid expulsion. Reportedly, these policies have continued to deter Haitians and other asylum seekers by turning applicants back at ports of entry and forcing them to remain in Mexico. At the same time, in Mexico and other Latin American nations, Haitian migrants face anti-Black racism, gender violence and xenophobia. According to the allegations received, Haitian asylum seekers are subject to exclusion and discriminatory treatment, which has led to a failure of refugee protection, family separation, and human rights violations. Furthermore, the information received alleges that the United States Border Patrol allows institutional impunity for violent acts, racial slurs, sexual comments, and other offensive language espoused by agents toward migrants. This fosters xenophobic narratives regarding Haitians.

Within this context, the collective expulsion of Haitians, whether to Haiti, Mexico or elsewhere, without individualized evaluation of each migrant's protection concerns to be part of a broader history of racialized immigration enforcement against Haitians and other migrants.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, we are deeply concerned that the collective expulsion of Haitian migrants and migrants of other origins from U.S. territory without individual assessment of their protection needs under international human rights and refugee laws, or of any actual threat to public health violates the prohibition of collective expulsion and the principle of *non-refoulement*. The principle of *non-refoulement* is firmly enshrined in both conventional and customary international law. Further, we caution that U.S. immigration policies which effectively prevent Haitians from entering the country and asserting asylum claims could constitute racial discrimination under the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) international human rights law.

International law prohibits blanket deportations or collective expulsions; States cannot label all migrants and refugees from a certain nationality *per se* as threats to national security, and all migrants, no matter their nationality or race, must be guaranteed the protections and respect for human rights called for under international law. Collective expulsions, even during public health emergencies, are not permissible under the "national security exception" of the Refugee Convention, and they, by definition, lack the adequate safeguards against *refoulement* mandated by the Convention against Torture (CAT). These non-derogable obligations require an individualized evaluation of each case in order to ensure compliance with international refugee law and international human rights law.

While other human rights instruments, such as the ICCPR, allow derogations of certain rights in times of public emergency, such measures must be strictly necessary and proportional to the requirements of the situation.

With respect to our concerns regarding the racialized collective expulsions of Haitians and other migrants, we are particularly concerned that the systematic targeting of Haitians for forcible expulsion could further violate the fundamental human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) which the United States is a party to. In expediting the collective expulsion of Haitian migrants, the United States has been subjecting a group of predominantly Black migrants to impermissible risks of *refoulement* and human rights abuse. We note that, to the extent that the same policies are enforced at the Southern border against migrants from other majority non-White countries, similar concerns about the racialized deterrence of legal asylum claims are warranted.

We are especially concerned by allegations that Title 42 is the latest chapter of a decades-long history of U.S. immigration policy targeting Haitian migrants for interdiction, rapid expulsion, and deterrence of legal asylum claims. In the backdrop of this reported history, we found images and footage of U.S. border agents on horseback roughly apprehending and degrading Haitian migrants deeply troubling.

In connection with the information and concerns mentioned above, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law** attached to this

letter, which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

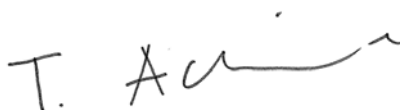
1. Please provide any additional information and any comments you may have on the above mentioned allegations;
2. Please provide disaggregated information by age, sex, and national origin on the number of migrants who have been expelled.
3. Please provide information on the steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the migrant(s) affected by the Title 42 immigration policy in compliance with international human rights instruments.
4. Please provide detailed information on the procedural and substantive safeguards in place to prevent the *refoulement* of Haitian migrants and migrants of other origins who are subject to Title 42 deportation;
5. Please explain how your Excellency's Government intends to observe its international human rights obligations in accordance with the relevant international human rights instruments and apply them in a non-discriminatory fashion to the individuals apprehended and forcibly expelled as a result of the implementation of the Title 42 policy;
6. Please detail the measures your Excellency's Government has taken to provide gender-responsive protection to Haitian women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other individuals with vulnerabilities, including those who have been apprehended and detained at the Southern border and subsequently expelled under Title 42;
7. Please provide information on the steps taken to ensure that migrants, including those seeking to assert asylum claims and other protections at the Southern border are not subjected to arbitrary detention or arbitrary use of force;
8. Please explain how judicial, legislative, or administrative measures are geared toward guaranteeing family reunification, protection, and non-discrimination for Haitian migrants and refugees;
9. Please provide additional information on migrants and asylum seekers currently detained at the border pending implementation of expulsion under Title 42 and legal protections provided for these migrants, including Haitian migrants;
10. Please list policies and measures which ensure that Haitians and other migrants subject to Title 42 have equal access to effective remedies, including the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention, expulsion orders, and are allowed effectively to pursue such remedies.

This communication and any response received from your Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations and that all migrants are treated with the dignity and respect owed all human beings.

We may publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will also indicate that we have been in contact with your Government's to clarify the issue/s in question.

Please accept, Mr. Moeling, the assurances of our highest consideration.



E. Tendayi Achiume
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination,
xenophobia and related intolerance



Dominique Day
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent



Felipe González Morales
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Annex
Reference to international human rights law

We remind your Government of its obligations under the **1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees**, which the United States adopted via its accession to the **1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees** on 1 November 1968. Under article 1(A)(2) of the Refugee Convention, a refugee is any person who, “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.” States parties to the Refugee Convention and Protocol have accepted binding legal commitments which limit their power to forcefully expel individuals who meet the refugee definition. We direct your Government to article 33(1): “No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.” This provision is non-derogable, and as such, the sole exception arises when there are “reasonable grounds for regarding [the refugee] as a danger to the security of the country in which he is, or who, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of that country” (the “national security exception” of article 33(2)).

Furthermore, the prohibition of return to a place where individuals are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment is enshrined in article 3 of the **Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)**, ratified by the United States on 21 October 1994. This absolute prohibition against refoulement is stronger than that found in refugee law, meaning that persons may not be returned even when they may not otherwise qualify for refugee or asylum status under the 1951 Refugee Convention or domestic law. Accordingly, *non-refoulement* under the CAT must be assessed independently of refugee or asylum status determinations, so as to ensure that the fundamental right to be free from torture or other ill-treatment is respected even in cases where non-refoulement under refugee law may be circumscribed. Like the Refugee Convention, the CAT requires individualized status determinations carried out via due process of law—under neither instrument is it permissible to forcibly expel migrants without allowing them to pursue asylum or *non-refoulement* claims.

We would like to direct your Government’s attention to the “**Key Legal Considerations on access to territory for persons in need of international protection in the context of the COVID-19 response**,” published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 16 March 2020. UNHCR emphasizes that “imposing a blanket measure to preclude the admission of refugees or asylum-seekers, or of those of a particular nationality or nationalities, without evidence of a health risk and without measures to protect against *refoulement*, would be discriminatory and would not meet international standards, in particular as linked to the principle of *non-refoulement*. In case health risks are identified in the case of individual or a group of refugees or asylum-seekers, other measures could be taken, such as testing and/or quarantine, which would enable authorities to manage the arrival of asylum-seekers in a safe manner, while respecting the principle of *non-refoulement*. Denial of access to territory without safeguards to protect against

refoulement cannot be justified on the grounds of any health risk.” Further, the agency reminds States that “measures to protect public health may affect persons seeking international protection. While such measures may include a health screening or testing of persons seeking international protection upon entry and/or putting them in quarantine, such measures may not result in denying them an effective opportunity to seek asylum or result in *refoulement*. Not only would this be at variance with international law, it could send the persons into ‘orbit’ in search of a State willing to receive them and as such may contribute to the further spread of the disease.”

We refer your Government to article 13 of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, ratified by the U.S.A. on 8 June 1992, which provides that “[a]n alien lawfully in the territory of a State Party to the present Covenant may be expelled therefrom only in pursuance of a decision reached in accordance with law and shall, except where compelling reasons of national security otherwise require, be allowed to submit the reasons against his expulsion and to have his case reviewed by, and be represented for the purpose before, the competent authority or a person or persons especially designated by the competent authority.” In addition, the Human Rights Committee has reaffirmed this principle in its **General Comment No. 15**, paragraphs 9 and 10.

We would also like to refer to paragraph 9 of **General Comment No. 20 of the Human Rights Committee** which states that “States parties must not expose individuals to the danger of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment upon return to another country by way of their extradition, expulsion or *refoulement*.” Your Government may also consider the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/HRC/25/60, ¶ 46), which states that the *non-refoulement* obligation is a “specific manifestation of a more general principle that States must ensure that their actions do not lead to a risk of torture anywhere in the world.”

Furthermore, we would like to bring to your Government’s attention **article 26 of the ICCPR** stating that “all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

In regards to limitations and derogations of obligations under the ICCPR, we recall the **Siracusa Principles on the Limitation and Derogation Provisions in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, which provide guidance to states on derogating from the Covenant in times of public emergency and stipulate that the “severity, duration, and geographic scope of any derogation measure shall be such only as are strictly necessary to deal with the threat to the life of the nation and are proportionate to its nature and extent.” We reiterate that neither the Refugee Convention nor the Convention against Torture allow derogation of the principle of *non-refoulement*, and furthermore, the prohibition of torture and its accompanying *non-refoulement* principle is considered a peremptory norm of international law. For further information, see the “**Advisory Opinion on the Extraterritorial Application of Non-Refoulement Obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol**” of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

We would also like to remind your Government that, according to the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)**, which the United States ratified in 1994, “racial discrimination” is defined in article 1(1) as “any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.” In addition, article 2 of the Convention requires States to condemn racial discrimination and pursue policies to eliminate it. Further, article 5 of the Convention refers to “the right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual group or institution.” Under these provisions, the equality guarantee of the international human rights framework is substantive, and ICERD therefore requires States Parties to take action to combat both intentional or purposeful racial discrimination as well as *de facto* or unintentional racial discrimination. This interpretation is confirmed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination’s authoritative **General Recommendation No. 32 on the meaning and scope of special measures in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Racial Discrimination**.

Further, we would like to direct your Government to **General Recommendation No. 30 relating to discrimination against non-citizens**, in which the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommends that States:

- “Ensure that legislative guarantees against racial discrimination apply to noncitizens regardless of their immigration status and that the implementation of legislation does not have a discriminatory effect on non-citizens”;
- “Ensure that non-citizens enjoy equal protection and recognition before the law”;
- “Ensure that laws concerning deportation or other forms of removal of non-citizens from the jurisdiction of the State party do not discriminate in purpose or effect among non-citizens on the basis of race, colour or ethnic or national origin, and that non-citizens have equal access to effective remedies, including the right to challenge expulsion orders, and are allowed effectively to pursue such remedies”; and
- “Ensure that non-citizens are not subject to collective expulsion, in particular in situations where there are insufficient guarantees that the personal circumstances of each of the persons concerned have been taken into account.”

We would also like to direct attention to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, concerning border “pushbacks” of migrants (A/HRC/47/30, para. 40) and his report (A/76/257), which reiterates in paragraph 49 that even during states of emergency, “non-derogable rights must be respected, and ... measures need to be in conformity with other international obligations, including the principles of non-discrimination, *non-refoulement* and the prohibition of collective expulsions.”

Finally, we would like to recall paragraph 34 of the **Durban Programme of Action**, which urges States “to comply with their obligations under international

human rights, refugee and humanitarian law relating to refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons, and urges the international community to provide them with protection and assistance in an equitable manner and with due regard to their needs in different parts of the world, in keeping with principles of international solidarity, burden-sharing and international cooperation, to share responsibilities[.]”

For further detail on the intersection of the international equality framework and immigration, we encourage your Government to consult the report of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance concerning “racial discrimination in the context of immigration” (A/HRC/38/52).

From: Braden, Myesha (ODAG)
Subject: Current draft of CRT meeting briefer
To: Visser, Tim (OAG)
Sent: December 7, 2021 11:11 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Briefer-Civi RightsOrgMeeting-December2021.docx

Myesha Braden
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
United States Department of Justice

(b) (6)

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
FOR THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Myesha Braden, Associate Deputy Attorney General
SUBJECT: Meeting with Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Organizations
OBJECTIVE: Meeting Preparation
DATE: December 8, 2021

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)



Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

OVERVIEW OF ANTICIPATED TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. Policing & Law Enforcement

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

(b) (5)

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

(b) (5)

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

From: Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Subject: OPA Nightly Look Ahead October 26, 2021
To: Hornbuck e, Wyn (PAO); Co ey, Anthony D. (PAO); K apper, Matthew B. (OAG); Heinze man, Kate (OAG); Car in, John P. (ODAG); Singh, Anita M. (ODAG); Gupta, Vanita (OASG); Co ange o, Matthew (OASG); Gaeta, Joseph (OLA); Greenfe d, He aine A. (OLA)
Sent: October 26, 2021 8:45 PM (UTC-04:00)

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**OPA Nightly Look Ahead
October 26**

Stories of Note:

- **ABC News reporting on CBP horse patrol investigation**

ABC News is planning on reporting tonight that the CBP horse patrol agents on duty have not been interviewed as part of the DHS investigation yet because the matter was referred to a U.S. Attorney for potential criminal charges. DHS did not confirm and DOJ has yet to be contacted. (Blevins)

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

From: Cochran, Shay yn (CRT)
Subject: Agenda: ODAG-CRT Meeting
To: Carke, Kristen (CRT); Kar an, Pame a (CRT); Moossy, Robert (CRT); Frie , Gregory B (CRT); Smith, Johnathan (CRT); Ca deron, Tovah R (CRT); Visser, Tim (OAG); Co ange o, Matthew (OASG); Sooknanan, Spark e (OASG)
Cc: Braden, Myesha (ODAG)
Sent: October 18, 2021 8:53 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: ODAG-CRT Agenda (October 18, 2021).docx

Good Morning All,

Please find attached the agenda for this afternoon's ODAG-CRT meeting.

Best,
Shaylyn

Shaylyn Cochran
Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel
Office of the Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
(b) (6) (work cell)
(b) (6)

ODAG-CRT Meeting Agenda
October 18, 2021

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

Policy, Programming, and Enforcement Strategy

- *Criminal*

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

- Del Rio Border Incident: (b)(5), (b)(7)(A) per CRT [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

From: U.S. Department of State
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Secretary Antony J. Blinken And Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard At a Joint Press Availability
To: Goodander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: October 8, 2021 7:39 PM (UTC-04:00)

You are subscribed to Press Releases for U.S. Department of State. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

[Secretary Antony J. Blinken And Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard At a Joint Press Availability](#)

10/08/2021 07:25 PM EDT

Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State

Mexico City, Mexico

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FOREIGN SECRETARY EBRARD: (Via interpreter) Thank you. We are here today wrapping up a process that has gone on for several months and that allows us to first affirm that we are leaving the Merida Initiative behind, and that starting today, we start with the Bicentennial Agreement. Why bicentennial? Because we will be celebrating 200 years of relations between Mexico and the United States. As you know, they were the first country that recognized us, so that is why we have given it this name.

What is this agreement based on? You will have a declaration with the details; however, it is based on the incorporation of the visions of President Biden as well as President Lopez Obrador's and having a more comprehensive approach regarding security, health, and safe communities.

This morning, the President Lopez Obrador was saying that we are inspired and that we coincide in terms of the concepts of freedoms and liberties of President Roosevelt. So there is an ideological and political affinity between both our presidents, Biden and Lopez Obrador. What you will see in this document is the translation in terms of security, public health, and safe communities of those points that we agree on, which are crucial.

The second thing I need to say is that we have found from the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and from the Secretary on all representatives of the U.S. Government that we have a relation in which Mexico's priorities are the same – have the same level of priority as the ones from the United States. Today is something – this is something that we can say, something that we did not have before.

For Mexico, we must prioritize violence, homicides, providing opportunity for development for young people. We are addressing the root causes of all of the issues that we are facing, and these priorities have been taken into account. In this document, we see a translation of a system, an institutional system, to follow up on this agreement. This agreement is not a declaration; it's a path to be taken that is verifiable and that will provide results.

We have to present on December 1st our yearly plan – what are we going to do from December 1st, 2021 to December 1st, 2022. At the end of January by next year, we have to lay down on paper – write down on paper what we're going to do in the next three years, so verifiable, transparent towards our citizens.

To summarize, this is not a limited cooperation; this is a partnership that is superior, qualitatively speaking, a partnership with people that you trust and respect. Partnerships cannot be done otherwise. So respect, co-responsibility, and reciprocity – these are the basis for this partnership between Mexico and the United States in matters of security, public health, and safe communities.

You will see that there are three broad objectives to protect our people, to prevent crime in the border region, to dismantle criminal organizations, to create immediate memorandums, MOUs to reduce addiction to drugs and the harm related to them. This is the first time that we do something like this in our history. An MOU to launch the program for control for control of port containers, a binational working group on chemical precursors, joint work in terms of supporting what Mexico is doing in forensics to locate people who have disappeared.

So this is an agreement that will be memorable due to its content and due to the fact that it translates for our peoples, for our societies, the coincidences that both administrations, both governments have. Thank you so much to the U.S. delegation, and especially the Secretary of State, Mr. Anthony Blinken, who will now have the floor.

SECRETARY BLINKEN: *Gracias, Marcelo, y buenas tardes a todas y a todos.* It's a pleasure to be here with you and with your entire delegation and ours. I think the spirit of collaboration, of teamwork and partnership was as strong as I've ever felt it in working with the United States and Mexico. And it's wonderful for me to be back in Mexico. My last visit was actually a virtual one – one of the first visits I did when we first took office. But I think even a brief time here is a demonstration that there is no substitute for being together in person.

Our two countries, Mexico and the United States, share so much more than a border. We share a history, parts of which I had the opportunity to see this morning in the incredibly evocative murals of Diego Rivera at the *Palacio Nacional*. And I had something I will never forget, which was a personal commentary on the murals and on the history of Mexico by President López Obrador. It was for me a truly extraordinary moment. I am so grateful to him for taking the time and sharing so much about his knowledge of Mexico's history and the history that unites our countries – cultural, economic ties, deep bonds, of course, between our communities and families.

The relationship between our governments is wide-ranging and complex. Every single day, we are working together on an incredibly broad range of issues, from Congress to climate, from public health to public education, tourism, to regional diplomacy; maintaining that relationship, and strengthening it demands constant, candid dialogue at every level. It requires seizing opportunities and adapting to new challenges, and that's exactly what we did today with high-level dialogue.

And I am tempted to say I agree with everything Marcelo said, because I do. It was a very accurate and important description of what we – of the work we did today. And I have to say the relationship that we demonstrated today, the trust that is there between us, I'd like to say if I can, Marcelo, I think that's the kind of relationship we have been able to build these past nine months and for which I am really, really grateful.

So as you all know, this morning, together with Attorney General Garland, Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas, Deputy Treasury Secretary Adeyemo, and other senior officials from our administration, we started the day with the chance to meet with President López Obrador. We touched on, again, a very broad range of issues that are so crucial to our relationship, including security, including migration, the economy, COVID-19, the climate crisis. And after that, with Foreign Secretary Ebrard and our colleagues, we had a very productive first meeting at the High-Level Security Dialogue, where we launched the U.S.-Mexico Bicentennial Framework on Security, Public Health, and Communities.

Now, that might sound like a mouthful, and it is, but it is rooted in the idea that we have a shared responsibility, as neighbors and as partners, to improve security for the people of our nations. That is what it boils down to. And it marks the beginning of a new chapter in Mexico-U.S. security cooperation, one that will see us working as equal partners in defining and tackling shared priorities, one that seeks to address the root causes of the security challenges that we face, including inequity, corruption, impunity, and one that does that not only by modernizing law enforcement, but also strengthening public health, the rule of law, and broader-based economic opportunity.

There are three pillars to this framework which I just want to very briefly describe. The first is protecting the health and safety of the people of our nations. Often in the past, we tried to do this by relying too much on security forces and too little on other tools in our kit. Of course, law enforcement has a critical role to play in reducing homicides and other serious crimes. But its efforts have to be matched by investments in growing economic opportunity, particularly for underserved communities and regions. That happens to be a central focus of the high-level economic dialogue that we launched a few weeks ago in Washington, and it is crucial to giving Mexican and American workers the tools they need to compete in the 21st century economy.

Our efforts also have to include substance abuse prevention, treatment, recovery support to help those struggling with addiction, to reduce the profound harm that illicit drugs inflict on our communities, and to reduce demand. And our governments agreed that protecting our people means protecting human rights.

And that means establishing effective mechanisms to ensure that abusers are held accountable, which is critical to earning the trust of communities, shoring up again the rule of law, and giving victims the justice they deserve. As Marcelo noted, we are expanding through our partnership efforts for resolving tens of thousands of cases of disappearances and missing persons in Mexico. That is one example of how we can work toward this broader goal together. It could help bring closure to families as they search for their loved ones and end impunity for offenders.

The second pillar is on preventing trafficking across borders. We know that reducing arms trafficking is a priority for Mexico, as many of the illicit weapons in this country come from the United States. And we're committed to deepening our collaboration on arms tracing, on investigations, on prosecutions to disrupt the supply. We're also collaborating on fighting human smuggling and trafficking organizations as well as drug trafficking organizations, which perpetuate cycles of violence and human suffering.

Finally, the third pillar of the framework focuses on pursuing transnational criminal networks. We will deepen our collaboration to combat money laundering and other forms of corruption. Particularly as these illicit organizations are growing more nimble in exploiting financial systems, we'll be making our justice systems more effective at investigating and prosecuting organized crime and increasing cooperation on extraditions.

We agreed to build better metrics as well so that we can track all of these goals and hold ourselves accountable to them. The delegation that represented the United States Government in today's High-Level Dialogue, including the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, in and of itself reflects how seriously we take our shared responsibility to deliver security for our people and the comprehensive tools that we are bringing to bear to do that.

But crucial as this new framework is, we want the Mexico-U.S. relationship to be about more, much more, than migration and security. Instead, it has to reflect the full range of issues where we share interests and we share values, including the environment, agriculture, technology, energy, trade, supply chains, and the innovative ideas that we came up with at the first High-Level Economic Dialogue.

The next months and years could be transformational in realizing the full potential of the Mexico-U.S. relationship and delivering in concrete ways for our people. We're committed to working with our Mexican partners to make that happen.

Thank you very, very much.

MODERATOR: (Via interpreter) We have time for two questions from members of the Mexican press and two from the U.S. press.

Sarahí Méndez from Televisa.

QUESTION: (Via interpreter) Secretary Blinken, as a part of this bicentennial understanding, I wanted to know if border security will be reinforced on behalf of the United States, if it will be harder for migrants and criminal organizations to cross over. Will more resources be sent to Central America to apply in programs such as *Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro*, Youth Building the Future, from a program of López Obrador? And will the MPP program be applied in Mexico?

For Secretary Ebrard, we know that for Mexico arms trafficking is very important. Secretary Blinken has talked about this issue. Have you foreseen this topic on tracing weapons in Mexico that came from the United States?

SECRETARY BLINKEN: Thank you, I'm happy to start. We are determined to have a border that is vibrant, that is a connector between our countries, between our people, commerce – a truly living thing – because these connections are so important to both of us. But it also has to be safe, orderly, humane in terms of the way we deal with illegal migration.

We're doing a lot of things together and also on our part to move more effectively in that direction, including working to strengthen our own asylum system so that we can deal much more effectively, rapidly, and humanely with those who have – are putting forward asylum claims. We're also working to expand legal pathways which are so critical to migration, and of course, we will uphold the rule of law.

So much of what we've been doing as well has been in collaboration and cooperation with Mexico, and I have to tell you how grateful we are for that, because we face a challenge that in many ways is, I think, unique with tremendous pressure from illegal migratory flows coming in different ways, different parts of the hemisphere, irregular migration, again, for very – for understandable reasons, which I'll come to in a minute. We see not only in the Northern Triangle but also, of course, recently Haiti, countries in the region that have had large Haitian-origin populations, Venezuela, and potentially other challenges to come, so much of this driven by economic challenges which have been exacerbated by COVID-19 as well as security challenges and other challenges.

I think as we've been working so closely together on this, one of the understandings that we have that we share – two things. Even as we're making sure that we have an approach that ensures that it's safe, it's orderly, it's humane, that we uphold the law, we have to do two things. And this is what the United States and Mexico are working on together.

One, we have to tackle the root causes of irregular migration. Even as we're dealing with the immediate challenges, ultimately the only solution is to deal with the root causes, because, again, it is not as if most people from wherever they are wake up one morning and say, "Wouldn't it be a great thing to leave everything I know behind – my family, my community, my culture, my language, everything – and make this incredibly hazardous journey and come to – try to come to the United States, and also, by the way, not be able to get there." There are very powerful drivers that give people a sense that they have no choice. We have to be able to address that.

I think fundamentally it's about economic opportunity and demonstrating to people that they can have a livelihood, that they can have the possibility of providing for themselves, for their families, for their futures at home. And we are working on that together.

The second thing I'll say is that I think Mexico and the United States also believe strongly that we have to have a stronger regional approach to this challenge, that there has to be a greater sense and a greater practical application of the notion of shared responsibility. And there too, our countries are working together to do that.

FOREIGN SECRETARY EBRARD: (Via interpreter) As we have commented, President Lopez Obrador during our breakfast mentioned the importance of launching an immediate employment program in Central America that has the shape of Sowing Lives or Youth Building the Future. The president mentioned that part of this was done by President Roosevelt with the so-called New Deal.

And so there is a great impact that the pandemic has had in Central America and in countries and in other regions, and as Secretary Blinken pointed out, there are critical situations going on around the world, such as in Haiti, for example. And we believe that short-term we could carry out joint action, especially in Central America, inspired on employment opportunities. That could be the most relevant kind of response.

Mexico is doing so to the best of our abilities. We could have possibly in these three countries 40,000 people working by the month of January. And we think it's a good path to take, and we hope to do so with the United States as well. They have been very receptive to this proposal, and hopefully we would soon be stating what steps we will be taking and how far they range.

Regarding arms trafficking, tracking – when you talk about these weapons – means that you can know the serial number, know where that weapon was sold, know the manufacturer. It doesn't refer to us tracking physically these weapons on behalf of the United States. It means that among both countries we decide to track where it was sold, how it was transported into Mexico, et cetera, and how it was used. That is what we're going to do, and that is what we're going to work on as a priority because, for us, reducing the number of weapons in Mexico implies reducing the level of violence. You cannot reduce one without reducing the other. It's like a rule of thumb.

So we have found that they have been receptive. There is interest within the delegation. Today the Attorney General was here, CBP, and representatives from several authorities in DHS that have to do with these matters. And on December 1st when we present the plan, you will see clearly the actions that will be taken. Because there is a common denominator here: to reduce the arms trafficking as much as possible and as soon as possible.

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

INTERPRETER: The interpreter apologizes; that microphone was not used.

FOREIGN SECRETARY EBRARD: (Via interpreter) Today we did not deal with this topic, or we have not fixed a date for that. We will inform on that as soon as we can.

MODERATOR: The next question comes from Courtney McBride of *The Wall Street Journal*.

QUESTION: Thank you. A question for each secretary.

To Secretary Ebrard, what is your government seeking from the United States in exchange for the resumption of the MPP or the "Remain in Mexico" policy? And you described this agreement, the bicentennial agreement, as a path to be taken, and you said it shared visions for the future of the

relationship. What specifically is Mexico seeking from the United States as part of this framework?

And to Secretary Blinken, how does the Biden administration expect migrants to remain in Mexico when the Mexican Government is issuing fewer visas to migrants, leaving a mass of people with nowhere to go? And if you could also share what the U.S. Government's key asks are of Mexico as part of the framework, I would appreciate it.

FOREIGN SECRETARY EBRARD: (Via interpreter) Today we did not discuss the MPP or Title 42. It was not a meeting about the border. It was a meeting about a common vision that implies many topics. We do have direct contact with CBP, DHS, et cetera with regards to – I'll repeat so that you can hear the interpretation. Is it working?

Once again, I was saying that today's meeting did not include a session on Title 42 or the MPP. It was not done this way. We have direct contact with DHS on this issue. When it comes to migration, let's say that this has its own space for discussions with the United States. And border security includes, of course, people smuggling, but today we did not meet to that end. The U.S. will communicate what they're going to propose in their own time. We work every day because when it comes to Title 42, we have thousands of people repatriated, and we have been able to work jointly along these last few months. So whenever we have something to inform, I'll be able to comment on that specific question regarding MPP.

SECRETARY BLINKEN: Thank you, Marcelo. And I don't have much to add because, as Marcelo said, this is not something that came up today. I would just simply say that U.S. immigration law, of course, remains in effect. We continue to work very closely with Mexico to promote a safe, orderly, and humane process along the shared border and to address the myriad challenges of irregular migration. DHS will have more on the specifics, but as I said earlier, just broadly speaking, I think the collaboration we have on working this incredibly challenging issue together – at least in my experience – has never been stronger.

But we both recognize that even as we're dealing with the immediate challenge and pressures, which we're in almost daily contact across our governments to do that, we also have to focus on some of the – again, the long-term drivers and – more to come on this – fostering greater regional collaboration and cooperation. And that's what – that is what we talked a little bit about today.

MODERATOR: *Gracias.* (Via interpreter) Arturo Páramo from Grupo Imagen.

QUESTION: (Via interpreter) Thank you, and good afternoon, everyone. Secretary Ebrard, I would like to ask if there is already a set date or a schedule for this investment project for development in Central America and southern Mexico. You talk about measuring, things being able to be quantifiable. Does this project have a chronogram that has been established? And has some investment been made, given the fact that during the Trump administration an amount had been offered but nothing became concrete? For this time around, do we have the commitment of the Government of the United States for that kind of investment?

And on the other hand, what differences are there? We're talking about ending the Merida Initiative and a new era in our bilateral relations. In this sense, how can we see the difference between both agreements, meaning on behalf of the U.S. Government, will there no longer be ease of access to weapons, or will there be further exchange between agencies, between our countries to work in one country or another? Is this modified? Is this going to continue? Are there going to be new rules? How has the situation changed?

And you said that you did not talk about reopening the border or dates for anything about – regarding reopening the borders between Mexico and the United States.

FOREIGN SECRETARY EBRARD: (Via interpreter) I would say the following: The border is an everyday topic. I – when I gave the floor to Secretary Mayorkas, I called him Alejandro because he has been here twice or thrice already, and I think that we speak every day about this. Secretary Blinken and I only speak on Sundays. (Laughter.)

And so I think it's very clear that for Mexico, it is a priority to reopen activities at the border. We had the health issue regarding the Delta variant at some point in the United States and in Mexico as well, and that's why it was delayed. As soon as the United States makes its decision, they will communicate that to us. They know it's a priority. It was already mentioned this morning. However, it was not the objective of today's meeting.

What would be the difference with the Merida Initiative? Now, let me explain: The first substantial difference would be that the Merida Initiative was based, from the Mexican perspective, on the fact that we had to capture drug lords and with that it would be enough. That was the essence of it saying, "Please, the United States, send helicopters, send equipment. Please, provide assistance so that I can detain these drug lords and solve these issue." In the essence, that's what Mexico thought at that time.

Today, what we have on our hands is a joint strategy which is much more complex. We know that it's not going to be enough to just detain or capture some drug lords. We have to be concerned with addiction, with providing youths with employment opportunities, because if not they resort to crime activities. We want to avoid the proliferation of consumption of cheaper drugs that is on the rise in both our nations.

So we have agreed on a joint strategy with the three components that we have already explained in which Mexico's and the U.S.'s priorities are established. It's much more complex. It's broader. It's not only about just one straightforward action. The success of this agreement is not going to be measured by how many drug lords we put in jail and how many press conferences we hold. It will be seen through the reduction of the homicide rates in Mexico and the reduction of drug consumption. And there is also reciprocity and co-responsibility, so it's more egalitarian, it's more balanced. That is, in essence, what we mean. It's not little. It's very much – it's a lot, because we had not had something like this.

Regarding investments in Central America, you might ask, "Why don't we have that yet?" Because the U.S. is going through their budgetary process. I think I'm answering something that – maybe I am stealing that answer. But that question that you made, we posed that same question to our colleagues from the United States, and they said, "We're in the middle of decision-making processes when it comes to our budgets." So the United States cannot but wait until that process is over to determine what they can invest so that we can achieve the objectives that we are proposing.

And we are also going through budgetary processes, but we were talking about the U.S.'s participation. So when they are done with that, we will know. Remember that it's different, because on that occasion we talked about private sector investment, and here we're talking about a more – an investment of a more social nature with government resources.

SECRETARY BLINKEN: And just to add very, very quickly, first, Marcelo is right. I know that when the phone rings in his house on a Sunday, he thinks, "Oh, it must be Tony," because we have a track record for some reason of speaking on Sundays.

And yes, to your – to your point or question, Marcel is exactly right: We're in our budgetary process. But just to be very clear, President Biden has made a commitment to budget significant assistance for Central America, and in particular for Honduras and El Salvador and Guatemala, in order to address the drivers of irregular migration and to hopefully have an impact on people's lives so that they feel

that they can remain in their own countries. And we have talked about investing \$4 billion over the four years of our administration, and the budget proposals that we are making reflect that commitment.

MODERATOR: The last question from Nike Ching of *Voice of America*.

QUESTION: Good afternoon. Secretary Blinken. Several U.S. senators today wrote you a letter to express disappointment over the inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. If I may, a question for you: Is the U.S. providing Mexico assistance to fly those migrants back to their homeland? What specific assurances has the Government of Mexico has given you that they are treating those Haitian migrants humanely, as you have asked? And – or have they – will they help to facilitate Haiti's long-term stability?

Good afternoon, Mr. Foreign Secretary. What assurances are you giving the Haitian migrants in Mexico that they are – they will be treated humanely? And how is Mexico working with the U.S. to discourage people from heading to the border? And if they do make it to the border, should they expect the same treatment that sparked criticism worldwide? Thank you very much, both gentlemen.

SECRETARY BLINKEN: Thank you. We are determined that as we enforce our laws, we do so fully respecting the human rights and the dignity of all people, including those who may be seeking to enter the United States as irregular migrants. That is the fundamental basis upon which we're proceeding, and we are determined to do that. We're in very close daily contact with our colleagues in Mexico on the question of the irregular Haitian migration, some of which is coming from Haiti itself, some of which is coming from other countries in our hemisphere where Haitians have resided for some time and now seek to come to the United States.

We also are trying to be very clear that if they seek to make that journey in an irregular manner, they put themselves at tremendous risk along the entire route, and they will not be able to enter the United States. So we're working to make sure that we're communicating that effectively. Unfortunately, one of the things that's happened is various groups are spreading false information about what possibilities exist for those coming to the United States irregularly, and trying to misinform people that they will be able to enter the United States. The danger – the journey is profoundly dangerous and it will not succeed, and we are working to make sure that people understand that.

But we're also working closely together and working ourselves to make sure that people are treated with dignity, with decency, and that their rights are fully protected.

FOREIGN SECRETARY EBRARD: (Via interpreter) Yes, thank you. I can tell you that we have not transported people coming in this case not from Haiti but from Brazil and Chile who started migrating up north. We have not provided transportation of those people or origins that go to the United States back to Haiti. That has not happened.

What are we doing? What is Mexico doing? First, those who – for those who it applies, we have offered refuge. Why? Because approximately 90 percent of those people already have that in other countries, in Brazil or in Chile. However, those who do not, we can provide them with it. Not all of them ask for it for many reasons.

How many people coming from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, or other countries are in Mexico right now? Approximately 14,000. What are we doing with these people? Most of them even speak Spanish. And we are trying to provide them with employment opportunities with the help of the private sector. We have already started that; it has not been easy either.

And what have we realized? That many people lie to them. Usually they're told that if they get to the U.S. in time, they can apply for TPS, which is a program designed for Haitians who live in the United

States, not for people living outside the United States. So starting August 3rd with an announcement of broadening the dates – the date limit for that program, they thought that they needed to get to the United States faster and they thought that they would be able to remain there. That is what – the information we have gotten from those people that we have made contact with. Obviously right now we're getting information that we did not have before. The National Migration Institute has now hired people who speak not only French but also Creole so that they can communicate better.

So what are we doing? In half a year, we have received that number of people. We estimate that there are another 14,000 at least out there in different situations within our country that have not requested refugee status. So what is Mexico's position? Those are the facts.

What I find reproachable is that they are lied to. That is a really serious situation because those people have already suffered so much. Can you imagine coming from Brazil and Chile, and going through the entire continent, and getting to the United States thinking that you are going to get a residency just by getting there? And that's why this movement was generated recently.

So thank you for that question, because it allows us to clarify these things. This doesn't happen that easily. The people who come to Mexico invariably will be offered the same status. We have the – that capability. We are a country of over 120 million people. If 15,000 people from Haiti come to Mexico and want to work and want to remain here, it's not a problem for Mexico. What is a problem is to tell these people that if they get to the United States, they're going to get a residency. So we're working very hard for them to get trustworthy information.

MODERATOR: (Via interpreter) Thank you very much. That will be all. Thank you, Secretary Ebrard, Secretary Blinken.

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From: Pratt, Khadijah (CRS)
Subject: CRS Weekly Report to the Attorney General
To:
Sent: September 28, 2021 4:48 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: CRS Weekly Report to the Attorney General 09.28.2021.docx, CRS Weekly Report to the Attorney General 09.28.2021.pdf

Dear Colleague,

Attached to this email, please find the submission of the CRS Weekly Report to the Attorney General.

Best,
Khadijah Pratt

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September 28, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Gerri Ratliff, Acting Director
Community Relations Service (CRS)

SUBJECT: CRS Weekly Report to the Attorney General

A. CRS Headquarters Update

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5)

CRS continues to assess the situation in Del Rio, Texas, regarding the treatment of Haitian migrants attempting to enter the United States. Recent media coverage included images of Haitians carrying their belongings above their heads while making their way from Ciudad Acuña in Mexico to the shores of Del Rio, Texas. Border Patrol agents on horseback were shown using reins lashing out at Haitian migrants who were wading across the Rio Grande River. Thousands of others who had assembled under Del Rio International Bridge in a makeshift camp had been moved to other locations as of Friday, September 24, 2021.

Scoped Out Per Agreement - Also (b)(5), (b)(3) per CRS

From: Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Subject: RE: De Rio/ Tensions around Border Patro encounter with Haitians
To: Visser, Tim (OAG); Heinze man, Kate (OAG)
Sent: September 23, 2021 10:30 PM (UTC-04:00)

Thanks good to hear.

From: Visser, Tim (OAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) (b) (6) Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Del Rio/ Tensions around Border Patrol encounter with Haitians

FYI, CRS looks to be heading to Del Rio.

From: Ratliff, Gerri L (JMD) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:21 PM
To: Rossi, Rachel (OASG) (b) (6) Visser, Tim (OAG) (b) (6) Harris, Stacie B.
(ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Segovia, Theresa (CRS) (b) (6) Barksdale, Antoinette (CRS)
(b) (6)
Subject: Del Rio/ Tensions around Border Patrol encounter with Haitians

FYI, Theresa will travel to Texas on Saturday (hopefully with a conciliator and with Synthia Taylor, our Regional Director in Dallas) joining her to assess the tensions relating to the Border Patrol treatment of the Haitian migrants in Del Rio. More to come....Gerri

Gerri Ratliff
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From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" (b) (6)
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Figures, Shomari (OAG)" (b) (6), "Berger, Christine (OAG)" (b) (6), "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b) (6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b) (6), "Dickerson, Julie (OAG)" (b) (6), "Schedule, DAG (SMO)" <DAG.Schedule@usdoj.gov>, "Carlin, John P. (ODAG)" (b) (6), "Miller, Marshall (ODAG)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" (b) (6)
Subject: Abbreviated AM Clips [delayed due to JMD VPN issues]
Date: Fri, 17 Jun 2022 12:55:15 +0000
Importance: Normal

MORNING HEADLINES

- "European Commission Recommends E.U. Candidacy for Ukraine" [WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#)
- "Capitol Rioters Came Within 40 Feet of Vice President Pence" [NYT](#)
- "Trump aides told him that using Pence to overturn election was illegal" [WaPo](#)

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

WaPo: Justice Dept. secures first guilty plea for threats to election workers, David Nakamura, June 16, 2022, 6:08 PM

A Nebraska man pleaded guilty Thursday on charges that he threatened an election official over social media last year, marking the first conviction for a Justice Department task force charged with protecting poll workers. Federal authorities said Travis Ford, 42, of Lincoln, Neb., posted multiple hostile messages on an Instagram page associated with the official, who was not named in a Justice Department news release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Axios](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [Colorado Sun](#), [Daily Beast](#), [Durango Herald](#), [KCNC-CBS \(Denver, CO\)](#), [KETV-ABC \(Omaha, NB\)](#), [KMGH-ABC \(Denver, CO\)](#), [KUSA-NBC \(Denver, CO\)](#), [Lincoln Journal Star \(Lincoln, NB\)](#), [NBC](#)

Reuters: U.S. must decide if it seeks death penalty for Buffalo shooting, judge says, Sarah N. Lynch and Jonathan Allen, June 16, 2022, 12:29 PM

A federal judge on Thursday urged the Justice Department to decide promptly whether to seek the death penalty for a white man accused in the racially motivated shooting death of 10 Black people in Buffalo, New York last month. Payton Gendron, 18, is facing 26 counts of hate crimes and firearms offenses in a criminal complaint by the U.S. Justice Department stemming from the May 14 attack. A grand jury has not yet returned an indictment, and he has not yet entered a plea on the charges. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [ABC](#), [Fox](#), [KTTV-Fox \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#), [NBC](#), [NY Daily News](#), [USA Today](#), [WSJ](#)

NYT: Justice Department accuses Jan. 6 committee of refusing to share transcripts., Katie Benner, June 16, 2022, 3:30 PM

The Justice Department accused the House committee investigating Jan. 6 of hampering the federal criminal investigation into the attack by refusing to share interview transcripts with prosecutors, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said the Justice Department sent a two-page letter to the committee on Wednesday that renewed its request for transcripts of the committee's more than 1,000 witness interviews related to actions undertaken by former President Donald J. Trump and his allies to unlawfully overturn the 2020 election results as well as the attack on Congress by a pro-Trump mob. The letter was earlier reported

by Insider. The committee conducted the interviews for this month's public hearings on the matter, but it has no authority to charge anyone involved in the attack on Congress. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [Guardian](#), [The Hill](#), [Insider](#), [NBC](#), [NPR](#), [Politico](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

CBS: Russian superyacht seized by U.S. docks in Hawaii, flying American flag, Graham Kates, June 16, 2022, 12:11 PM

A Russian-owned superyacht seized in Fiji by American law enforcement — which has been cracking down on sanctioned oligarchs — docked in Honolulu Thursday. The Amadea was seized on June 7, following weeks of legal and administrative hurdles that had stalled American efforts to seize the \$300 million vessel. The U.S. government says the luxe ship, which is nearly the length of a football field, is owned by sanctioned gold mining billionaire Suleiman Kerimov. An attorney for the ship's holding company says it belongs to a Russian oil executive who the U.S. has not sanctioned. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [KHON-Fox/CW- \(Honolulu, HI\)](#)

AP: UK gov't approves extradition of Assange; appeal possible, Unattributed, June 17, 2022, 6:30 AM

The British government has approved the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the United States to face spying charges. The government said Friday that Home Secretary Priti Patel had signed the extradition order. It follows a British court ruling that he could be sent to the U.S. Home Secretary Priti Patel signed the order authorizing Assange's extradition to the U.S., where he faces charges over WikiLeaks' publication of a huge trove of classified documents. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [NYT](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#)

Fox: DOJ defended actions to protect justices in letter sent same day man arrested for trying to kill Kavanaugh, Tyler Olson, June 16, 2022, 3:58 PM

The Justice Department defended its actions to protect Supreme Court justices' safety in a letter to the governors of Maryland and Virginia the same day an armed man was arrested near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's home. The letter, dated June 8, is from Acting Assistant Attorney General Peter Hyun. It responds to a May 11 letter GOP Govs. Larry Hogan and Glenn Youngkin sent to Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding the Justice Department (DOJ) do more to protect the justices. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: US and partners dismantle Russian hacking botnet: Justice Dept, Unattributed, June 16, 2022, 6:09 PM

Law enforcement in the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and Britain dismantled a global network of internet-connected devices that had been hacked by Russian cyber criminals and used for malicious purposes, the US Justice Department said on Thursday. The network, known as the RSOCKS botnet, comprised millions of hacked computers and devices worldwide, including "Internet of Things" gadgets such as routers and smart garage openers, the department said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KAIT-ABC/NBC/CW (Jonesboro, AR): Former professor sentenced for 1 year in federal prison for lying to FBI agent, Alexandra Alper, June 16, 2022, 9:28 PM

A former University of Arkansas professor was met with a one-year sentence in federal prison after being accused of lying to an FBI special agent. On Thursday, June 16, Dr. Simon Saw-Teong Ang, 65, was given the sentence in the Western District of Arkansas Federal Court in Fayetteville. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KFSM-CBS \(Fort Smith, AR\)](#), [KAIT-ABC \(Jonesboro, AR\)](#)

JAN. 6 HEARINGS

NYT: A Justice Department inquiry into alternate electors is focusing on Trump lawyers., Alan Feuer, Katie Benner and Luke Broadwater, June 16, 2022, 3:30 PM

The Justice Department has been pursuing a criminal investigation into the creation of alternate slates of pro-Trump electors seeking to overturn Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s victory in the 2020 election, with a particular focus on a team of lawyers that worked on behalf of President Donald J. Trump, according to people familiar with the matter. A federal grand jury in Washington issued subpoenas this year to people linked to the alternate elector plan, requesting information about several lawyers including Mr. Trump's personal lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani and one of his chief legal advisers, John Eastman, one of the people said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [Politico](#)

Bloomberg: Proud Boys Case Stalled Without Jan. 6 Panel Records, DOJ Says, Chris Strohm, June 16, 2022, 9:29 PM

The Congressional Jan. 6 select committee's failure to share transcripts of its interviews has led the Justice Department to delay prosecuting two members of the Proud Boys who stormed the Capitol. In a court filing Thursday, federal prosecutors in Washington agreed to put on hold the cases against Proud Boys Joseph Biggs and Dominic Pezzola, who have both pleaded not guilty. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [WaPo](#)

LAT: Jan. 6 committee will cooperate with Justice Department 'in due time,' chairman says, Anumita Kaur, June 16, 2022, 6:36 PM

The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol received a formal request by the Department of Justice to share copies of its witness interviews, which the committee will do "in due time," chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) said Thursday. "We can't stop our work because someone writes us a letter," Thompson said following the panel's third hearing on the Capitol insurrection. "Now, we will cooperate with them, but the committee has its own timetable."

[[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Jan. 6 panel sends letter asking Ginni Thomas to testify, Mary Clare Jalonick and Farnoush Amiri, June 16, 2022, 1:00 PM

The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol has asked Virginia Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, for an interview, the panel's chairman said Thursday afternoon. Thomas, a conservative activist, communicated with people in President Donald Trump's orbit ahead of the attack and also on the day of the insurrection, when hundreds of Trump's supporters violently stormed the Capitol and interrupted the certification of Joe Biden's victory.

[[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WaPo](#)

WaPo: John Eastman says Ginni Thomas invited him to speak on 'election litigation', Emma Brown, Jacqueline Alemany and Josh Dawsey, June 16, 2022, 7:39 PM

John Eastman, the lawyer who played a key role in efforts to pressure Vice President Mike Pence to overturn the 2020 election, confirmed Thursday that the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas invited him a month after the election to speak at a meeting she was helping to organize. Eastman's disclosure came a day after The Washington Post reported that the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol had obtained email correspondence between him and Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, a conservative activist and staunch supporter of former president Donald Trump [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [NYT](#)

NYT: For Mike Pence, Jan. 6 Began Like Many Days. It Ended Like No Other, Annie Karni and Maggie Haberman, June 16, 2022, 9:00 PM

He started the day with a prayer. Vice President Mike Pence, preparing to withstand the final stage of a relentless campaign by President Donald J. Trump to force him to illegally try to overturn the results of the 2020 election, began Jan. 6, 2021, surrounded by aides at his official residence at the Naval Observatory, asking God for guidance. The group was expecting a difficult day. But what followed over the next 12 hours was more harrowing than they imagined. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Charging Trump for fundraising off election lies would face high bar, experts say, Katelyn Polantz and Kara Scannell, June 16, 2022, 11:30 AM

While the House January 6 committee is making its case to the American public that then-President Donald Trump ripped off donors with false fundraising pitches after the 2020 election, prosecutors would face higher hurdles if they were to pursue a criminal fraud case in court. "Is it a grift? Yeah, it's a grift. But is a grift always illegal? Not necessarily," said Paul Pelletier, a former federal prosecutor who previously led the Justice Department's fraud section. One state attorney general, New York's Letitia James, has already said she will investigate the committee's allegations of fraud and potential misconduct. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Post-Watergate reforms may frame DOJ decision over prosecuting Trump, John Kruzell, June 17, 2022, 6:00 AM

The break-in at the Watergate complex 50 years ago this week led to a sweeping government ethics overhaul that included a push to insulate the Department of Justice (DOJ) from politics. In a historical twist, this nearly half-century-old corrective may help frame the DOJ's fraught decision over whether to criminally charge former President Trump for his effort to overturn the 2020 election results. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: [EDITORIAL] The existential threat to the Jan. 6 committee's credibility, Luis Barrio, June 17, 2022, 12:01 AM

"January 6th and the lies that led to insurrection have put 2 1/2 centuries of constitutional democracy at risk," House Jan. 6 committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) said in his opening statement last Thursday. "In this moment, when the dangers to our Constitution and our democracy loom large, nothing could be more important." Well, nothing except trying to improve the chance of Democrats maintaining control of Congress, apparently. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Avenatti pleads guilty to fraud, tax charges in California, Amy Taxin, June 16, 2022, 5:00 PM
Incarcerated lawyer Michael Avenatti pleaded guilty Thursday to four counts of wire fraud and a tax-related charge in a federal court case in Southern California accusing him of cheating his clients out of millions of dollars. Avenatti, who is in federal custody and representing himself in the case, made the plea during a court hearing in Santa Ana where he acknowledged cheating his clients but disagreed with federal prosecutors on how much. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [NBC](#), [Reuters](#), [UPI](#)

NYT: A Businessman Is Acquitted in a Georgetown Admissions Trial, Anemona Hartocollis, June 16, 2022, 7:03 PM

A wealthy businessman accused of bribing his daughter's way into Georgetown University as a tennis player was acquitted on all counts Thursday by a federal jury in Boston, the first not-guilty verdict related to the government's Varsity Blues investigation into corrupt college admissions. The businessman, Amin Houry, was accused of giving \$180,000 in cash to Gordon Ernst, Georgetown's tennis coach, to facilitate his daughter's recruitment to the team and admission to the university, even though she was not a Georgetown-caliber player. The cash went through a middleman, delivered in a paper bag, according to prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: A New Policy Is Making Corporate Compliance Chiefs Uneasy, Dylan Tokar, June 16, 2022, 2:34 PM

Compliance officers are worried that a new Justice Department policy, aimed at raising their stature within companies, will actually make their jobs harder—and even leave them open to criminal prosecution. The policy, previewed by a senior Justice Department official in March, is meant to give compliance officers a voice and provide them with access to information and resources needed to guarantee that their company's compliance program is effective. It was applied for the first time last month in a settlement agreement with commodities giant Glencore PLC. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Pioneer Press (Saint Paul, MN): **Former Stillwater prison guard, inmate indicted on meth distribution scheme**, Nick Ferraro, June 16, 2022, 6:28 PM

A guard at Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater was in a romantic relationship with an inmate serving a murder sentence and together they ran a methamphetamine operation inside the prison for at least the first three months of this year, according to federal charges. A grand jury this week indicted former corrections officer Faith Rose Gratz, 24, of St. Paul, and inmate Axel Rene Kramer, 35, on federal charges for their alleged roles in a drug distribution scheme that was carried out at the state's largest high-security prison from at least January until early April. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KMSP-Fox \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [Star Tribune \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#)

Wyoming Tribune Eagle (Laramie County, WY): **Wyoming man accused of trafficking fentanyl within 1,000 feet of a school**, Unattributed, June 16, 2022, 5:00 PM

A federal grand jury has indicted a Cheyenne man suspected of trafficking fentanyl within 1,000 feet of a school, the U.S. Attorney's Office for Wyoming said Thursday. Robert Butler has been charged with possession with intent to distribute fentanyl within 1,000 feet of an elementary school and possession with intent to distribute cocaine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KAYS (Hays, KS): **20 Mexican nationals accused in Kansas City heroin, meth conspiracy**, Unattributed, June 16, 2022, 4:00 PM

Twenty Mexican nationals are among 39 defendants indicted by a federal grand jury for their roles in a \$4.7 million conspiracy to distribute more than 335 kilograms of methamphetamine and 22 kilograms of heroin over the past two years, according to the United State's Attorney. "This operation took a significant amount of illegal drugs off the street, and disrupted a large Mexican drug-trafficking organization in the Kansas City metropolitan area," said U.S. Attorney Teresa Moore. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KSHB-NBC \(Kansas City, MO\)](#), [WDAF-Fox \(Kansas City, MO\)](#)

WSMV-NBC (Nashville, TN): **Columbia man faces federal charges after running over Franklin officer**, Unattributed, June 16, 2022, 9:03 PM

A Columbia man accused of running over a Franklin Police officer during a traffic stop now faces federal charges, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. A federal indictment unsealed on Wednesday charges Roy Gene Nicholson III, 26, with drug distribution and firearm charges, U.S. Attorney Mark H. Wildasin said. Nicholson was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He was arrested Wednesday by the United States Marshals Service and is in federal custody. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

WaPo: **[EDITORIAL] Impunity for unwarranted police killings is still a default**, Editorial Board, June 16, 2022, 1:03 PM

After a legal odyssey of nearly five years, the Justice Department decided last week not to reopen the federal criminal civil rights investigation of two hotheaded U.S. Park Police officers who shot to death Bijan Ghaisar, an unarmed 25-year-old accountant. By declining to prosecute them for a killing that stemmed from a fender bender in suburban Virginia, Attorney General Merrick Garland's department has effectively shrugged at an apparently unjustified killing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Guardian: **Outrage at pay hike for Phoenix police under investigation over use of force**, Ian Lopez, Allie Reed, June 17, 2022, 4:35 AM

A bumper pay hike for Phoenix police has been condemned by community advocates who argue the money should be spent tackling the city's extreme heat, homelessness and mental health crises. At a heated city council meeting on Wednesday, several public speakers questioned the \$19.8m salary windfall given the continuing Department of Justice investigation into the city police department over allegations of excessive use of force, retaliation against Black Lives Matter protesters, discriminatory policing and inappropriate treatment of homeless and disabled people. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

NYT: Homeland Security Department Will Make Changes to Its Disciplinary Process, Chris Cameron, June 16, 2022, 10:00 PM

The Department of Homeland Security announced on Thursday that it would overhaul the disciplinary process for its employees after The New York Times reported that the agency's inspector general removed damaging findings from investigative reports about domestic violence and sexual misconduct committed by employees. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: Coins depicting Border Patrol agent grabbing Haitian migrant trigger investigation, Hamed Aleaziz, June 16, 2022, 4:56 PM

The photograph encapsulates the intensity of the clashes between Border Patrol agents and Haitian immigrants desperate to get into the United States. An agent on horseback leans over, grabbing a man by the shirt as a rein dangles. Now an image mirroring the Sept. 19 photo by Paul Ratje of AFP has appeared on a "challenge coin" typically collected by agents, law enforcement officials and aficionados. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Bloomberg: White House Weighs Fuel-Export Limits as Pump Prices Surge, Jennifer A Dlouhy and Ari Natter, June 16, 2022, 4:48 PM

Top Biden administration officials are weighing limits on exports of fuel as the White House struggles to contain gasoline prices that have topped \$5 per gallon. Discussions around capping gasoline and diesel exports have picked up in recent days, as President Joe Biden intensified his criticism of soaring oil company profits, said people familiar with the matter who asked for anonymity to describe private conversations. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [USA Today](#).

Law360: DOJ Calls Baseball's Antitrust Exemption 'An Aberration', Matthew Perlman, June 16, 2022, 6:33 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice has waded into a suit from minor league teams that lost their affiliations with Major League Baseball clubs, urging a New York federal court to view baseball's antitrust exemption narrowly and noting that the exemption is based on a rationale that has already been discredited by the U.S. Supreme Court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: Police: 2 Dead, 1 Hurt in Church Shooting; Suspect Detained, Unattributed, June 17, 2022, 12:30 AM

A lone suspect fired on a small group meeting at a suburban church near one of Alabama's major cities Thursday evening, fatally wounding two people and injuring a third before being taken into custody, authorities said. The attack occurred at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in the Birmingham suburb of Vestavia Hills, Police Capt. Shane Ware said. He said officers rushed to the church after dispatchers got a call reporting an active shooter at the church at 6:22 p.m. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [NYT](#), [USA Today](#).

CBS: 140 pounds of meth seized, 4 arrests made in Sonoma County drug investigation, Maggie Fusek, June 16, 2022, 5:37 PM

Four people were arrested and more than 140 pounds of methamphetamine were seized in connection with a drug trafficking operation in Sonoma County, authorities said. According to the San Francisco office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, law enforcement served search warrants in Cloverdale and Santa Rosa starting Wednesday night. The warrants were served following a 16-month joint investigation by the DEA, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and the Marin County Sheriff's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: **FBI investigating 'series of attacks and threats' against pregnancy centers and faith-based groups**, Jerry Dunleavy, June 16, 2022, 9:47 PM

The FBI is investigating the rash of attacks and vandalism targeting anti-abortion activist groups and pregnancy centers across the country. The bureau told the Washington Examiner on Thursday that it did not have a comment on any specific groups carrying out the violence but acknowledged an inquiry is underway. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KVRR-Fox (Fargo, ND): **CAIR wants FBI to investigate EGF mosque fire as a hate crime**, Hami Arain, June 16, 2022, 8:00 PM

The Council on American-Islamic Relations wants FBI involvement nearly two weeks after a possible hate crime where a woman attacked an East Grand Forks Mosque during morning prayer. Fifty-seven-year-old Suzette Gay Thompson of Thief River Falls is arrested on an arson charge and could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJW-Fox (Cleveland, OH): **FBI investigated Deshaun Watson, one accuser, detective says**, Peggy Gallek, Ed Gallek, June 16, 2022, 7:31 PM

A Houston police detective has testified FBI officials told her they were investigating Deshaun Watson and one of the 24 women who have filed lawsuits against the quarterback. Houston Police Detective Kamesha Baker made the statement during a deposition taken earlier this month in Houston. Baker, who investigated 10 criminal complaints made against Watson, revealed during the deposition that she had communicated with the FBI. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFTX-Fox (Naples, FL): **FBI and Fort Myers Police investigating social media threats against local NAACP chapter**, Briana Brownlee, June 16, 2022, 6:15 PM

The Lee County NAACP has the Fort Myers Police Department along with the FBI in Tampa looking into recent posts that escalated into serious threats of violence. President of the Lee County NAACP Jame Muwakkil says the threats started on June 10, 2022. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Reuters: **Liberal Justice Sotomayor says U.S. Supreme Court 'mistakes' can be fixed**, Lawrence Hurley, June 16, 2022, 8:17 PM

Liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor said on Thursday the U.S. Supreme Court's "mistakes" in high-profile cases can be corrected over time as she adopted a positive tone ahead of a decision in which its conservative majority is expected to curtail abortion rights. Sotomayor, speaking in Washington at the annual meeting of a liberal legal group, did not directly address last month's publication of a leaked draft opinion in the abortion case or any of the court's other current cases. But Sotomayor said she believes the court can help people "regain the public's confidence" in government institutions.

[[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [Guardian](#), [NYT](#)

ADMINISTRATION

AP: **Biden signs bill to protect Supreme Court justices into law**, Unattributed, June 16, 2022, 10:00 PM

President Joe Biden signed a bill Thursday that will give around-the-clock security protection to the families of Supreme Court justices. The new law, which passed the House this week and the Senate last month, comes eight days after a man carrying a gun, knife and zip ties was arrested near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's house after threatening to kill the justice. The bill calling for the expansion of security protections was approved unanimously by the Senate and passed shortly after the leak of a draft court opinion that would overrule *Roe v. Wade* and sharply curtail abortion rights in roughly half the states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: **VP Harris launches task force on online harassment after shootings**, Alexandra Alper, June 16, 2022, 3:38 PM

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris inaugurated a task force on Thursday to curb online harassment, fulfilling one of the Biden campaign's promises in the wake of a mass shooting that highlights a link between online abuse and violence. [...] Harris was joined on Thursday by Attorney General Merrick Garland, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and tennis star Sloane Stephens, who publicized a torrent of angry messages she received on social media, including racist and sexist abuse, following her loss at the U.S. Open. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#), [UPI](#), [Washington Times](#)

CONGRESS

WSJ: Gun Talks Stall on Red-Flag Laws, Domestic Abuser Rules, Natalie Andrews, Lindsay Wise and Teresa Mettela, June 16, 2022, 6:03 PM

Senators drafting gun-control legislation failed to overcome sticking points before breaking for the weekend, putting in jeopardy a historic bipartisan deal to reduce gun violence. Negotiators said they were stuck on language for two provisions. One would provide federal grants to states to enforce red-flag laws that allow authorities to remove guns temporarily from people threatening violence. The other would close the "boyfriend loophole" that allows convicted domestic abusers to buy guns if they aren't married to their partner. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#), [WaPo](#)

Washington Times: House Republicans plan probe of jail conditions, Justice Department treatment of Jan. 6 defendants, Mica Soellner, June 16, 2022, 7:00 PM

House Republicans plan to launch an investigation, if they win a majority in November, into the jail conditions of those being held on charges related to the Jan. 6 riot. Lawmakers have said there is a double standard in how inmates charged in connection to the riot are being treated and alleging a political motivation for the treatment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: Cotton: Garland must resign over DOJ inaction on Jane's Revenge, more than 50 attacks on pro-life groups, Danielle Wallace, Kelly Laco, June 16, 2022, 4:25 PM

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Arkansas, said Thursday that U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland should resign over the Biden administration Justice Department's inaction on more than 50 attacks on pro-life pregnancy centers and churches in recent weeks purportedly carried out by Jane's Revenge. In a letter sent to Garland, Cotton, who is the ranking member for the subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism, the Intelligence Committee, and the Armed Services Committee, also called on the DOJ to investigate Jane's Revenge as a "domestic terrorist organization." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: JUNE 16, 2022

- On the third day of hearings investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, new video was released detailing former Pres. Trump's pressure campaign on then Vice President Pence to block the electoral vote count and overturn the 2020 election. The committee is now looking to speak with the wife of Justice Clarence Thomas and her role in efforts to overturn the election. [[ABC](#), [ABC-2](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden says a recession is "not inevitable" as the Federal Reserve works to bring inflation under control. Meanwhile, mortgage rates are hitting their highest level since 2008. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The State Department is investigating reports that a third American has gone missing in Ukraine. This comes as the families of two other Americans are desperate for any information, with fears the Russians may be holding them. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Federal assistance is on the way to Montana after the unprecedented flooding at Yellowstone National Park. For local businesses, the natural disaster could trigger an economic catastrophe. In Wisconsin, residents spent the day picking up the pieces following a night of severe storms, including several tornadoes. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Louisville is one of the most racially segregated cities in America, but ahead of Juneteenth, the community is trying to change its future by understanding its past. [[CBS](#)]
- US led coalition forces seized a man described by officials as a senior leader of Islamic State in an operation in northeast Syria late Wednesday. Military forces detained Hani Ahmed al-Kurdi, assessed to be a bomb maker and facilitator who had become one of Islamic State's senior leaders in Syria, U.S. military officials said. [[ABC](#)]