

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak today about this important topic. I have been covering the U.S.-Mexico border since 2019. I saw firsthand how secure the southern border was during President Trump's first term. I went on to be at the southern border for the next four years to document the deliberate and horrific open border policies implemented by the Biden-Harris administration.

The numbers don't lie. The videos don't lie. What our country experienced was a deliberate invasion at the behest of the previous administration. Their efforts could not be possible without the non-governmental organizations who provided the federal government the ability to flood our country with people who brazenly crossed our borders illegally.

The NGOs located along the border were often the first place processed migrants went to after being released by Border Patrol. These organizations helped the Biden-Harris administration avoid the bad optics of released migrants having to be on the street due to the large volume of overcrowding in certain sectors. Even with those efforts, the mass overcrowding still resulted in people sleeping on the streets, sometimes during the winter.

Ultimately, the goal of these NGOs was to get people to their desired destination within the United States and get them settled in, even though their legal status was far from being secured. I would often see volunteers or staffers at the airport when I left the border guiding these processed migrants to ensure they made their flight. A few times I saw them ushering unaccompanied minors. This is haunting to think back on now knowing Biden's HHS lost track of thousands of minors once they reached their supposed final destination.

By having this guaranteed help once they reached U.S. soil, illegal aliens had greater incentive to put their lives in danger by traversing through the Darien Gap and cartel-controlled territory in Mexico. One shelter in El Paso told me in 2023 around 80% of the women who came to them had been raped, sometimes in front of their children. This highlights that despite the NGOs having the stated goal of helping these people, their "help" ends up harming the people who used their services. Yes, they made it to the U.S., but at what cost?

Congress needs to ensure taxpayer dollars can not be used to go towards enabling an invasion of our country ever again. It is a misuse of taxpayer dollars and a betrayal to the American people. Our tax money should be going towards Americans, first and foremost.

Instead, millions of dollars went to organizations such as Catholic Charities and the International Rescue Committee.

The reason why it is important to not let this happen again is because the four-year long border crisis, facilitated by these NGOs, is the reason why there are riots in sanctuary cities today. President Trump won on mass deportations and the American people want to undo the damage inflicted by the Biden-Harris administration.

NGOs have made an appearance at the recent unrest happening in Los Angeles County. A recent example of this is federal agents arresting four people for interfering with an operation by allegedly placing homemade spikes on the road with the intention to damage tires. On their person was a bag branded with the logo of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles. Congress needs to look into whether NGOs are supporting people, directly or indirectly, who are interfering with federal operations.

I can tell you that while Americans are happy the acute border crisis is over, they want to see accountability. I believe Congress can make that accountability happen should you decide to act.

Thank you again for this opportunity and I look forward to your questions.