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Testimony Before the  
U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement

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Dear Chairman Guest, Ranking Member Correa, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to testify before you.

My name is Ammon Blair, and I am a Senior Fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. I bring 22 years of military service and extensive border security experience through my time in the U.S. Army and U.S. Border Patrol.

I have witnessed firsthand the consequences of failed federal policy and how the Biden administration deliberately dismantled the legal, structural, and operational defenses necessary to secure our sovereignty and protect our citizens.

Texas and other border states have long faced persistent security threats emanating from the southern border—including illegal immigration, human and drug smuggling, insurgent activity, and foreign terrorist infiltration—often with minimal federal support ([McCaffrey & Scales, 2011](#)). However, under the Biden administration, these threats intensified dramatically, culminating in a full-scale security crisis that demanded immediate and decisive action.

President Biden's policies—including facilitating the invasion, releasing millions of illegal aliens into the interior, the halting of critical border security infrastructure projects, the dismantling of both border and interior enforcement mechanisms, and the refusal to confront the threat posed by cartel-controlled Mexico—directly fueled the collapse of law and order along our border ([House Judiciary Committee, 2024](#)). In doing so, the Biden administration ceded operational control of U.S. territory to foreign terrorist organizations ([Allen, 2023](#); [Office of the Texas Governor, 2023](#)).

### **The Mexican State–Cartel Alliance: A Hostile Bilateral Reality**

Mexico is not a distant concern—it is the most strategically consequential nation to U.S. homeland security, and yet it remains one of the most underestimated and politically ignored threats in the American national security apparatus. While our defense establishment focused on the borders and sovereignty of foreign nations across the globe,

Mexico devolved into a narco-insurgent state on our doorstep—exporting violence, criminal governance, and destabilization directly into U.S. territory.

Yet despite the clear and expanding threat, the Biden Administration ignored Mexico as a national security priority, treating the crisis as a humanitarian management challenge rather than the gray zone conflict it has become. This deliberate misframing paralyzed the federal response and allowed Mexico to become a sanctuary state for enemies of the United States ([Fernández, 2024](#)).

Mexico today is more accurately described as a state where federal, state and local governance has collapsed in key regions and foreign terrorist organizations dominate political and economic life, much like Afghanistan ([Kaminski, 2024](#)). These cartels function as hybrid threats, closely resembling their Middle Eastern counterparts, they employ terror as a political weapon, control territory, corrupt or co-opt institutions, and use violence strategically to shape governance outcomes ([Maya, 2021](#)). Their war is not against a rival state—it is against the very concept of law, sovereignty, and national borders.

Therefore, the security environment along the U.S.–Mexico border cannot be understood through the outdated framework of narco-criminality alone. What exists is an intolerable strategic alliance between the Mexican state, at the national and sub-national level, and the cartels—a relationship that has evolved into a coordinated, ideologically aligned partnership with direct consequences for U.S. national security ([Treviño, 2025a](#)).

As President Trump declared on February 1, 2025, *“The Mexican DTOs have an intolerable alliance with the government of Mexico. This alliance endangers the national security of the United States, and we must eradicate the influence of these dangerous cartels from the bilateral environment”* ([White House, 2025](#)).

This was not political rhetoric—it was a necessary recognition of a hostile, coordinated, and ideologically aligned threat. Mexican cartel organizations, including the Sinaloa Cartel and CJNG, now operate in at least 65 countries, rivaling foreign terrorist organizations in reach, capability, and lethality ([Fitzgerald, 2025](#)). These networks are not merely trafficking narcotics—they are engaged in narcoterrorism, human trafficking, arms smuggling, money laundering, and political subversion. In many areas, they out-govern the Mexican state, exercising de facto control and offering services the government no longer can—or will ([Georgetown Americas Institute, 2024](#)).

As Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Josh Treviño warns:

*“The Mexican state is now essentially a single-party, left-populist regime, aligned ideologically and operationally with comparable regimes in Cuba and Venezuela. Like those regimes, it regards its nation’s trafficking cartels as vehicles for profit and control and also agents of national policy abroad — especially but not only in the United States.”* ([Treviño, 2025b](#)).

The alliance between the Mexican government and the Mexican cartels is no longer speculative—it is openly acknowledged by leading policy experts and institutions ([Golden, 2024](#)). As the Conservative U.S.-Mexico Policy Coalition declares unequivocally that, “The Mexican government is not an ally to the United States, and can no longer properly be described as a partner” ([Conservative U.S.-Mexico Policy Coalition, 2023, p. 1](#)).

The Coalition further warns that, “The Mexican government and Mexican criminal cartels exist in conscious and willing symbiosis, at multiple levels, up to and including the Mexican presidency,” and that Mexico is now “a willing partner in a regional authoritarian leftist alliance that is fundamentally anti-American, actively interventionist, and increasingly an arena and base for hostile powers from outside the Western Hemisphere” ([Conservative U.S.-Mexico Policy Coalition, 2023, p. 1](#)).

The Biden Administration’s failure to acknowledge or confront Mexico’s authoritarian backsliding has effectively greenlit a regime that tolerates narco-terrorism as a cost of doing business. By continuing to treat Mexico as a diplomatic peer rather than a strategic liability, the Biden administration insulated a failing state from accountability while exposing American communities to escalating violence.

In national security terms, democratic collapse in a neighboring state is not a foreign policy concern—it is a homeland security emergency. The United States cannot afford to ignore the consequences of political decay when it fuels the operational capabilities of cartels that already control swaths of American U.S. territory along the southern border.

### ***U.S.-Mexico Border***

In May 2019, the Mexican investigative journal *Contralínea* published a leaked map from President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s (AMLO) administration showing that over 80% of Mexico’s population centers prioritized for enforcement were either controlled (57.5%) or contested (23.3%) by Mexican cartels. Only 19.9% of those areas were under undisputed government control. The report, citing internal Mexican government data, exposed the ground truth: the Mexican state had effectively lost governance over nearly all key urban corridors, particularly those along the U.S. border ([Horowitz, 2019](#)).

This loss of territorial control does not stop at Mexico’s border. The same cartel networks that dominate key Mexican population centers have projected their power into Texas and other U.S. states, exploiting the permissive environment created by both federal inaction and fragmented state-level coordination. What began as cross-border trafficking has evolved into a full-spectrum, multi-domain campaign, establishing operational control over critical areas within the United States itself.

Mexican cartels have systematically established operational control along the U.S. side of the border, employing sophisticated gray zone activities that remain below the threshold of

conventional armed conflict ([Luna, 2024](#); [House Committee on Homeland Security, 2023](#)). Their operations now extend across multiple domains—land, air, maritime, subterranean, cyber, and the electromagnetic spectrum—enabling them to conduct surveillance, communication disruption, and logistical coordination with precision and impunity ([Sanchez, 2025](#); [Hackers Arise, 2025](#); [Paz, 2024](#)).

This multi-domain dominance has allowed cartels to seize and maintain operational control over territory in Texas and other border states, creating corridors of strategic access that allow the unimpeded movement of people, narcotics, weapons, and information deep into the interior of the United States. ([McCaffrey & Scales, 2011, pp. 8-9, 17](#); [Allen, 2023](#)). What began as a smuggling operation has evolved into a functioning logistical architecture—a transnational ‘silk road’ that is now the cartels’ most valuable asset. It is this infrastructure of access and movement that adversarial nations and foreign terrorist organizations increasingly exploit ([Warren, 2019](#)).

Through deliberate infiltration of every major city and many suburban and rural areas, cartels have constructed a logistical supply chain or ‘pipeline’ that provides our adversaries - from adversarial Nations like the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) to foreign terrorist organizations - with direct pathways into the heart of our society ([House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 2024, pp. 59-61](#)). Their ability to simultaneously employ political corruption, economic coercion, social, and information warfare methods has transformed the border states into critical terrain and operational ground zero for hostile state and non-state actors seeking to exploit these established networks of access ([McCaffrey & Scales, 2011, pp. 9, 18](#); [Maya, 2021](#)).

### ***Weaponized Mass Migration***

This vast and deeply embedded logistics infrastructure has not only enabled the movement of illicit goods and narcotics—it has also set the stage for a more insidious tactic of hybrid warfare: mass migration as a weapon. With the supply chain and access networks already in place, hostile state and non-state actors have shifted strategies to exploit humanitarian channels, using population flows to overwhelm American institutions, dilute law enforcement effectiveness, and penetrate communities under the guise of asylum or refugee resettlement. This evolution represents a strategic escalation—from trafficking and infiltration to full-spectrum demographic destabilization—coordinated, funded, and executed with the tacit consent of a complicit federal apparatus.

Over the last four years, the United States has endured a deliberately orchestrated invasion through weaponized mass migration. Millions of illegal aliens from over 170 countries have been funneled—often with cartel facilitation—into Texas and other border states, overwhelming state and local resources ([Humire, 2025](#); [Sanchez, 2024](#)).

These mass population movements were not merely tolerated by the prior federal administration—they were facilitated. Federal agencies and NGOs were repurposed to serve an ideological agenda of “safe, orderly, and humane migration,” creating an extralegal immigration regime in violation of longstanding federal law ([Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, 2024](#); [Bensman, 2024](#)).

This has not only compromised public safety but created systemic national security vulnerabilities by serving as a force multiplier for hostile state and non-state actors. The sheer scale of these movements overwhelmed federal, state, and local law enforcement resources, degrading operational effectiveness and diverting attention away from known threats.

Simultaneously, these mass migrations provided concealment and cover for infiltration by foreign intelligence operatives (CCP), cartel enforcers, and members of transnational criminal and terrorist organizations—including MS-13, Tren de Aragua, and other violent networks with direct ties to adversarial regimes. The precise whereabouts and identities of many of these illegal entrants remain unknown, creating blind spots in national security coverage and opening the door to catastrophic risk across American communities ([Exec. Order No. 14165, 2025](#)).

This weaponized migration strategy has imposed billions of dollars in financial burdens at the federal, state, and local levels, while simultaneously enabling hostile state and non-state actors to establish operational footholds deep within Texas territory, like Colony ridge ([Lindquist, 2025](#); [Federation for American Immigration Reform, 2023](#)). These movements are not organic or accidental; they are deliberate in design and execution, forming the backbone of a modern form of hybrid warfare—one that weaponizes civilians to overwhelm infrastructure, erode public trust, and create opportunities for adversarial penetration ([Łubiński, 2022](#); [North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 2024](#)).

In recognition of this existential threat, officials in nearly 100 Texas counties have issued disaster declarations or formally declared an invasion ([Blankley, 2024](#)). The sheer scale, coordination, and sustained impact of this crisis have transformed every county in Texas and the U.S. into a de facto border county, subject to the cascading effects of federal failure and adversarial exploitation.

### **The Consequences of Federal Abdication and the Imperative of State Action**

The evidence is overwhelming. The United States is under an invasion—not by a conventional army, but by a networked system of foreign terrorist organizations, corrupt political actors, and hostile state actors. These adversaries exploit gaps in our legal framework and operate with impunity in the gray zones created by deliberate federal inaction.

This is not a just border crisis—it is a full-spectrum national security failure, manufactured by the Biden Administration through the active subversion of U.S. immigration law, the construction of an illegal parallel immigration regime, and the forcible repurposing of our homeland security apparatus to serve foreign nationals rather than the American people.

Federal agencies once tasked with homeland security were repurposed into logistical arms for mass migration, tasked with processing and releasing millions of unvetted foreign nationals into U.S. communities. At the same time, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), funded by federal grants, have become the ground logistics network—transporting, housing, and resettling illegal aliens with no accountability ([Vaughan, 2024](#)).

The United States now faces the most sophisticated gray zone infiltration campaign in the Western Hemisphere. This is not bureaucratic incompetence—it is calculated policy.

The result has been catastrophic: strategic infiltration by hostile state and non-state actors, collapse of strategic deterrence, cartel territorial expansion inside U.S. borders, and a national posture of surrender disguised as humanitarianism.

The Biden administration did not merely abdicate its constitutional responsibilities—it actively realigned its mission away from defending American sovereignty. As a result, Texas and other border states were forced to shoulder the consequences of this betrayal. The burden of homeland defense shifted—not by choice, but by necessity—to the states and the citizens themselves.

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