

Human Rights First Tracker of Reported Attacks During the Biden Administration Against Asylum Seekers and Migrants Who Are Stranded in and/or Expelled to Mexico

Date reported	Type of Incident	No. of victims	Description	Source
2/16/2021	threats	2	A Honduran woman and her 4-year-old son, who had been returned to Mexico under MPP, were threatened by her ex-partner who is member of MS-13 in January and February 2021. He told her the gang is looking for her in Mexico. He threatened to kill her and kidnap her son. In late February 2021, CBP denied the family parole and refused to provide them an MPP fear of Mexico screening interview.	HRF communication with Margaret Cargioli, Immigrant Defenders Law Center
2/16/2021	attempted kidnapping, assault	3	In February 2021, an asylum-seeking family returned to Mexico under MPP were attacked while buying diapers by men who tried to kidnap their 2-year-old child. The father managed to hold on to the son, and the kidnapers drove off. The father went to report the kidnapping to the police, but an officer told them not be out that late at night.	HRF communication with Margaret Cargioli, Immigrant Defenders Law Center
2/26/2021	kidnapping	2	DHS expelled a Guatemalan woman and her son to Ciudad Juarez in mid-February 2021, where they had been kidnapped soon after arriving in early February. They had been held in a house for days without food or water.	HRF interview with asylum seeker
3/22/2021	kidnapping, rape	1	A woman expelled by DHS to Reynosa in February 2021, "who had tried to take a taxi to a friend's house [was] kidnapped and raped."	https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-03-22/hundreds-of-migrants-cross-this-stretch-of-the-rio-grande-nightly
3/23/2021	assault, robbery	1	A Honduran asylum seeker who has been blocked in Tijuana with his family for months unable to seek protection at the port of entry was assault and robbed in Tijuana in February 2021.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker
3/23/2021	assault	1	A Haitian asylum seeker blocked from seeking asylum due to the Title 42 policy reported that he had been assaulted by a group of Mexican men in late January 2021. The men asked him for money and when he told them that he was a migrant and had no work, they beat him.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker
3/26/2021	kidnapping	4	DHS expelled a Salvadoran asylum-seeking family with two little girls to Tijuana after they crossed the border near Reynosa to seek asylum even though the family had previously been kidnapped in Mexico in early March 2021. The kidnapers threatened to kill the children and sell their organs, if they failed to pay the ransom demanded.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker
4/2/2021	threat, robbery	1	A Haitian asylum seeker in the Tijuana tent encampment waiting for asylum processing to be restored at U.S. ports of entry reported that in late March 2021, a man threatened to hit with a rock and tried to steal a backpack of his personal belongings.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker
4/5/2021	threats	1	An African asylum seeker in the Tijuana tent encampment waiting for asylum processing to be restored at U.S. ports of entry reported that in response to the African asylum seeker speaking out about racism against Black migrants in the camp, a Mexican man took pictures of him and made threatening remarks to him on several occasions.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker

Human Rights First Tracker of Reported Attacks During the Biden Administration Against Asylum Seekers and Migrants Who Are Stranded in and/or Expelled to Mexico

Date reported	Type of Incident	No. of victims	Description	Source
4/6/2021	threats	1	A Honduran asylum seeker in the Tijuana tent encampment waiting for asylum processing to be restored at U.S. ports of entry reported that Mexican men he'd believed to be gang members threatened him multiple times; telling him they had "eyes on him," to "watch his back," and warning him not to talk to anyone outside the camp.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker
4/3/2021	assault	1	A Honduran asylum seeker in the Tijuana tent encampment waiting for asylum processing to be restored at U.S. ports of entry reported that Mexican men he'd believed to be gang members had asked him to sell drugs in the camp and had beat him up when he refused.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker
4/8/2021	rape, kidnapping, assault, extortion	423	Asylum seekers from Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela, and Yemen blocked from seeking U.S. asylum due to Title 42 reported having been the victim of an attack or attempted attack in Mexico in the last month in a survey by Al Otro Lado conducted between February 21 and April 8, 2021.	Human Rights First review of Al Otro Lado survey data
4/8/2021	kidnapping, threats	2	A Honduran asylum seeker and her 6-year-old child were expelled to Mexico by CBP in March 2021 even though the family had been kidnapped in Mexico in early March 2021. They managed to escape the kidnapers but were pursued by a man in a car after the escaped who threatened to kill them.	Human Rights First interview with asylum seeker
4/9/2021	kidnapping	2	Wilton and his mother, Meylin, 30, crossed the border into Texas last month to seek asylum after fleeing their native Nicaragua. But they were immediately sent back to Mexico under Title 42, a pandemic-era policy that expels migrants who cross the border without allowing them to apply for protection. Hours after being expelled to northern Mexico, they were kidnapped, according to Misael Obregon, Meylin's brother, who lives in Miami. Misael received a call from the kidnapers. They wanted \$10,000 to release Meylin and Wilton. "They threaten to hurt them both, or worse," Misael Obregon said. "These people are capable of anything." Misael could come up with only \$5,000. He sent the cash through a money transfer company. The kidnapers agreed to release Wilton, but not his mother. The smugglers then abandoned Wilton after leading him across the border, leaving him to wander through the arid farmland of South Texas looking for assistance, until he found the Border Patrol agent who recorded his encounter with the boy. Meylin remains in the custody of kidnapers. She called Misael Obregon on Friday morning, crying after seeing the video of her bleary-eyed son. The Nicaraguan government on Friday identified Wilton as being the boy in the video, but it did not mention the kidnapping. It said Nicaraguan police had interviewed the boy's father, who confirmed that Meylin had told him in their last conversation that she and Wilton were preparing to cross the border together because they were "in danger."	https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/04/09/migrant-boy-found-wandering-alone-texas-had-been-deported-kidnapped/

Human Rights First Tracker of Reported Attacks During the Biden Administration Against Asylum Seekers and Migrants Who Are Stranded in and/or Expelled to Mexico

Date reported	Type of Incident	No. of victims	Description	Source
4/18/2021	threats	1	In one recent case, a man who turned up at the shelter said he had been pressured by drug traffickers to carry a load across the border. "The drug cartel was trying to force him to carry drugs, and he refused," Williams said. "He wanted to give the Border Patrol information." According to Williams, the man was told that would take too much time because it involved filing a police report. He was expelled.	https://theintercept.com/2021/04/18/biden-border-patrol-asylum-title-42/
4/18/2021	assault, robbery, threats	1	Esmerelda was not a new arrival. She and her family came to Nogales in November 2019, fleeing violence and persecution in their home state of Guerrero... In the past couple months, la mafia has assaulted her husband twice, she told me, robbing him, stealing his phone, telling him that if speaks up he will be murdered.	https://theintercept.com/2021/04/18/biden-border-patrol-asylum-title-42/
4/20/2021	kidnapping	3	Nine- and fourteen-year-old Honduran children were kidnapped with their asylum-seeking mother in Monterrey in March 2021 after CBP expelled them three times since December 2020. The family had relocated to Monterrey in hope of finding assistance while they waited to be able to seek asylum in the United States. Instead, they were kidnapped, held for ransom for days with other kidnapping victims who appeared to have been drugged, and eventually released near the border. Border Patrol agents, who found the family near McAllen, detained them for four days before transferring them to California where they were expelled to danger for a fourth time.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	rape	1	In February 2021, a Guatemalan woman who had been expelled by CBP to Mexicali after attempting to seek asylum was raped in Tijuana. The woman, who was fleeing severe domestic violence with her six-year-old daughter, had relocated to Tijuana to attempt to seek asylum at the San Ysidro port of entry, which she found closed to asylum seekers due to the Trump and Biden administrations' misuse of Title 42. The woman reported to Human Rights First that Border Patrol agents told her that "the new president isn't taking anyone" and that she should present herself "legally" even though ports of entry were, and remain, closed to asylum seekers in violation of U.S. law, which guarantees access to asylum to individuals who cross the border away from a port of entry.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping	3	In late February 2021, a Guatemalan family with a six-year-old child was abducted at a bus station in Piedras Negras shortly after Border Patrol agents expelled them to Mexico. They were held by their captors for five days while their family members in Guatemala and the United States were extorted. The couple had fled Guatemala with their child after the husband was attacked and nearly killed, according to an academic researcher who spoke with Human Rights First.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum

Human Rights First Tracker of Reported Attacks During the Biden Administration Against Asylum Seekers and Migrants Who Are Stranded in and/or Expelled to Mexico

Date reported	Type of Incident	No. of victims	Description	Source
4/20/2021	kidnapping, assault	3	In February 2021, a Honduran man and two other expelled migrants were abducted at gunpoint, forced into a cemetery, and attacked immediately after the Border Patrol expelled them to Nogales at 11pm. According to Kino Border Initiative, the men were searching for shelter for the night when they were attacked. They had been expelled by the Border Patrol with a group of more than 40 people from Central America and Mexico.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping	1	Multiple asylum seekers reported that a woman flown from Texas and expelled to Mexico was kidnapped in March 2021 just outside of a shelter in Tijuana housing hundreds of expelled families. The pastor running the shelter has instructed families not to leave the shelter for their safety.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping	2	CBP expelled a 15-year-old Guatemalan boy and his asylum-seeking mother to Ciudad Juárez where they had been kidnapped in February 2021. The woman told Human Rights First researchers that when she tried to explain the danger she faced, U.S. immigration officers told her that they didn't care because "the president is not giving political asylum to anyone." CBP expelled the family to dangerous Ciudad Juárez at night during a snowstorm after they were held in CBP custody for days without food or water.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping, assault	1	A Honduran asylum seeker was expelled by CBP to Mexico in March 2021 even though he had just been kidnapped in Piedras Negras by masked men who brutally beat, drugged, and threatened him with decapitation. Two Honduran migrants were also abducted and beaten along with the man. One of them sought protection in the United States days after being released by the kidnapers, but was expelled by CBP, according to an academic researcher who spoke with Human Rights First.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping	5	In April 2021, CBP expelled a Honduran asylum-seeking family, including three children under the age of five, to Mexico even though they had been abducted in Reynosa by Mexican police officers who sold them to a cartel. While being held for ransom, a cartel member held a gun to the mother's head and demanded phone numbers of family members to pay the ransom.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping	4	In late March 2021, CBP expelled a Honduran asylum-seeking family with five- and six-year-old children to Tijuana where one of the men who kidnapped them in Reynosa has been prolling outside of their shelter. The family fears that a woman who had been kidnapped with them has been abducted again after she disappeared days after they were expelled together. They are terrified to leave the shelter.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum

Human Rights First Tracker of Reported Attacks During the Biden Administration Against Asylum Seekers and Migrants Who Are Stranded in and/or Expelled to Mexico

Date reported	Type of Incident	No. of victims	Description	Source
4/20/2021	kidnapping, robbery	1	In March 2021, Border Patrol expelled a Honduran asylum seeker at 2 a.m. even though he explained that he had been kidnapped and robbed in Mexicali after CBP turned him away from requesting asylum at the port of entry. The man had fled Honduras after authorities violently attacked him and tried to yank out his eye for filming illegal government acts. Border Patrol agents threw out the evidence he had brought with him in support of his asylum claim, according to Kino Border Initiative.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping, rape, torture	1	In February 2021, a young woman who was kidnapped in Mexico, held hostage for weeks, repeatedly raped and tortured by her captors, trafficked into the United States, and then dumped in Phoenix, was not found to have a fear of Mexico under the Title 42 torture screening. CBP expelled the woman to Mexico after she was taken to a hospital for evaluation of the sexual trauma she suffered, according to the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	assault, threats	1	A Guatemalan asylum seeker who has been blocked from requesting asylum at a U.S. port of entry was attacked while pregnant in Tijuana in January and February 2021 by the gang that threatened to kill and dismember her in Guatemala if she refused their sexual demands. The woman narrowly escaped the gang while they ransacked the place in Tijuana where she had been staying and beat her partner, who subsequently disappeared, according to Margaret Cargioli, a lawyer with the Immigrant Defenders Law Center. The woman suffered a miscarriage in March 2021 because she was too terrified to leave her home to seek prenatal care after the attack.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	assault	2	In March 2021, a group of Jamaican LGBT asylum seekers in Tijuana were attacked while being thrown out of a restaurant; one man had his face cut with a broken bottle. In addition, an LGBT Jamaican man was assaulted in Cancun in front of his 8-year-old son. Both attacks were motivated by anti-LGBTQ and anti-Black prejudice.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping	1	CBP expelled an 18-year-old Salvadoran asylum seeker, who attempted to cross into the United States after twice being kidnapped in Mexico, after he fell from the border wall and suffered a severe back injury. The young man was expelled in the middle of the night to dangerous Ciudad Juárez in a hospital nightgown, barely ambulatory, and in pain after spinal surgery. His mother and brother, who had also been kidnapped twice in Mexico, were separated from him and expelled to Mexico, leaving the young man alone in hospital, according to his lawyer Kenneth Mayeaux.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	kidnapping	8	In April 2021, multiple asylum seekers informed Human Rights First that members of a violent gang that operates throughout Central America and Mexico forcibly abducted at least 8 individuals from the encampment in recent days, including some pulled from their tents at night. They remain missing.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum

Human Rights First Tracker of Reported Attacks During the Biden Administration Against Asylum Seekers and Migrants Who Are Stranded in and/or Expelled to Mexico

Date reported	Type of Incident	No. of victims	Description	Source
4/20/2021	kidnapping	4	A Mexican asylum seeker told Human Rights First that she witnessed a group of men kidnap a Salvadoran woman and her three children near the tent encampment in mid-March 2021.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	attempted kidnapping	1	A Salvadoran asylum seeker reported that in March 2021, her daughter was nearly kidnapped from the Tijuana encampment by a man who grabbed the girl and ran several blocks before the girl’s uncle could stop him.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	assault	1	In February 2021, a man with a baton severely beat a Haitian asylum seeker in Tijuana in front of Mexican police, who did not intervene, according to a Haitian asylum seeker who witnessed the incident. She told Human Rights First: “We felt like we couldn’t say anything because we don’t have any power here and we were afraid for our own lives. Haitians are targeted here . . . the police don’t care. We have to protect ourselves and look out for one another.”	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	assault	1	In February 2021, a pregnant asylum seeker was brutally beaten by a Mexican official in retaliation for having filed a complaint against him for an immigration scam and suffered a miscarriage as a result of the attack.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
4/20/2021	threats	1	In January 2021, a Haitian asylum seeker in Tijuana who confronted a hotel owner about money stolen from his room was threatened at gunpoint by the owner’s son, a Mexican police officer.	https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum
Total victims of attacks:		492		