

Limits on Access to Asylum After Title 42: One Month of Monitoring U.S.-Mexico Border Ports of Entry

June 2023



On May 11, 2023, the U.S. public health order known as "Title 42" was lifted, marking the end of a policy that was used for three years to expel people seeking refuge at the U.S.-Mexico border without access to the U.S. asylum process. The U.S. government returned to border processing under Title 8 – the section of the U.S. code that lays out U.S. immigration law, including the legal right to apply for asylum when arriving in the United States or after crossing into the country. However, at the same time, a new <u>regulation</u>¹ took effect that renders most asylum seekers ineligible for asylum if they transited through a third country en route to the United States unless they use the (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) CBP One smartphone app to schedule one of a limited number of appointments at a border port of entry, had sought and been denied asylum in a transit country, or meet other narrow exceptions.

A working group of U.S., Mexican, and international NGOs that provide humanitarian and legal support to asylum seekers and migrants in the border region conducted targeted in-person monitoring at ports of entry to understand the impact of these policy shifts on access to asylum. Between May 11 and June 12, 2023, observations took place at six ports of entry in California (San Ysidro and Otay Mesa), Arizona (Dennis DeConcini), and Texas (Bridge of the Americas, Paso Del Norte and Ysleta) that adjoin the Mexican cities of Tijuana, Nogales, and Ciudad Juárez.²

The monitors' key findings include:

- While a limited number of asylum requests by individuals and families without prescheduled appointments were processed at most of the monitored U.S. ports of entry, practices by U.S. and Mexican authorities restricted asylum seekers without CBP One appointments from physically reaching U.S. ports of entry to make protection requests. Media reports and researchers have highlighted accessibility challenges with the CBP One app that may exclude some of the most vulnerable asylum seekers, including Black migrants, Indigenous people, and people lacking access to smartphones and strong Wi-Fi signals.³
- Limited processing or "metering" of asylum seekers without CBP One appointments resulted in lines, waitlists, and informal encampments at or near the monitored ports of entry in Mexico, even as the

¹ The U.N. Refugee Agency urged the U.S. government to reconsider the asylum ban regulation, concluding that it "would restrict the fundamental human right to seek asylum for people" and "lead to cases of refoulement – the forced return of people to situations where their lives and safety would be at risk – which is prohibited under international law." UNHCR, "UNHCR urges United States to not implement proposed barrier to asylum," March 27, 2023, <u>https://www.unhcr.org/us/news/unhcr-urges-united-states-not-implement-proposed-barrier-asylum</u>.

² Data from observations was collected using a cloud-based tool designed collaboratively by the working group to document demographic and humanitarian observations, practices by government officials, and rights violations at the observed ports. The group met three times during the monitoring to discuss observations.

US See, e.g., "The new border wall is an app," MIT Technology Review, June 16, 2023, https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/06/16/1074039/border-wall-app/amp/; Kocher A. Glitches in the Digitization of Asylum: How CBP One Turns Migrants' Smartphones into Mobile Borders. Societies. 2023; 13(6):149. https://doi.org/10.3390/soc13060149.

number of CBP One appointments increased at the start of June 2023.⁴ Families and adults were observed living in **difficult humanitarian circumstances with unmet basic needs, exposed to potentially dangerous conditions, and at risk of trafficking and exploitation**.

People waiting to request asylum at U.S. ports of entry lacked adequate and accurate information. Many
did not appear to understand the potential legal consequences of the recently implemented "asylum ban"
rule that renders most people seeking international protection without a CBP One appointment, even if at
a port of entry, ineligible for asylum.

The working group urges the U.S. government to: fully restore access to asylum; surge agency staff (not troops) and other resources to ports of entry, as needed; and rescind the asylum ban that counterproductively punishes asylum seekers who line up to request protection at official border crossing points merely because they have not been able to preschedule one of the limited CBP One appointments. U.S. <u>government reports</u> have repeatedly found that limiting asylum at ports of entry leads individuals, who would otherwise have sought, or who tried to seek, protection at a port, to instead make dangerous, irregular border crossings. These and other recommendations to establish a safe, humane, and orderly process at ports of entry are included at the end of this document along with an Annex of additional observations made at the six monitored ports of entry.

Restrictions on Seeking Asylum Seen at All Monitored Ports of Entry

At all six locations, asylum seekers were not able to freely approach the port of entry to request asylum. These "metering" practices resulted in lines and/or waitlists of asylum seekers at most observed ports of entry. At some ports on some days visited by the monitors, individuals and families without CBP One appointments were unable to seek asylum, while on other days ports were observed processing between 4 to 40 people without appointments while hundreds were observed waiting in line or in nearby informal encampments. At the three monitored ports in Ciudad Juárez asylum seekers self-organized informal waiting lists, while in Nogales and Tijuana Mexican authorities administered waitlists. Asylum seekers without prescheduled appointments reported waits outside of ports of entry of up to two weeks to be processed by CBP.

At the six monitored ports of entry, CBP officers were observed directly interacting with people attempting to seek asylum, turning them away or instructing them to join lines on the Mexican side of the border and, on other occasions, informing waiting asylum seekers on when and if they would be processed. In mid-May 2023, in the initial days of monitoring after the Title 42 policy ended, CBP officers at Otay Mesa and Paso del Norte were observed directly turning away asylum seekers without CBP One appointments, telling them they would not be processed. A CBP officer on the Paso del Norte bridge told a group of asylum seekers without CBP One appointments that asylum without a prearranged appointment "doesn't exist anymore." In early June 2023, monitors heard a CBP officer at the gate to the Dennis DeConcini port of entry turn away a man who declared himself to be seeking asylum, telling the man to "go back to the line" of asylum seekers without CBP One appointments. CBP officers were also observed directly communicating with asylum seekers without the border line in Nogales and Ciudad Juárez, informing those at the head of the line of the number of people without appointments to be processed at any given point.

Mexican authorities (including police and migration officials) and private security guards prevented some asylum seekers from approaching U.S. ports of entry either directly turning them away or by placing them on waitlists. At the Pedestrian West entry to the San Ysidro port of entry, Mexican officials did not permit individuals without CBP One appointments and corresponding identification documents to cross the pedestrian bridge leading to

⁴ @CBP, *Twitter*, June 2, 2023, <u>https://twitter.com/CBP/status/1664617975494606855</u> ("Beginning yesterday, June 1, CBP is expanding the number of [CBP One] appointments to 1,250 per day.").

the U.S. port of entry. For instance, monitors observed *Grupos Beta⁵* turn away an asylum seeker and her three minor children because the CBP One app had generated appointments for the family on different dates, and only one member of the family had a scheduled appointment that day. Monitors also observed a Tijuana police officer at the Pedestrian West side of the San Ysidro port of entry tell a family without an appointment to leave the area and stay at least one block south. A Tijuana police officer told one monitor that he communicates the message that "the only legal way to enter the U.S. is through the [CBP One] application." In June 2023, at the Pedestrian East side of the San Ysidro port of entry, Mexican authorities ordered waiting asylum seekers to clear the area stating that Mexican child protection officials would arrive, which asylum seekers understood to be a threat to remove their children, if they did not comply. In Nogales, the municipal *Bienestar Social* (Social Wellbeing) Agency established a system with QR codes to manage the line of waiting asylum seekers without CBP One appointments, assigning codes to the first 100 people in line and allowing only about 20 people to remain in line near the Dennis DeConcini port of entry. Local authorities in Nogales asserted to waiting asylum seekers that asylum can only be sought through the QR code system.

Difficult Humanitarian Circumstances and Dangerous Conditions as People Await Asylum Access

Lines and informal encampments of waiting asylum seekers arose at or near observed ports of entry in Tijuana, Nogales, and Ciudad Juárez, leaving vulnerable individuals and families in difficult humanitarian circumstances and facing potentially dangerous conditions, such as health problems, adverse weather conditions, and security risks. Yet, many asylum seekers expressed reluctance to relocate to more formal shelter facilities, where these were available, for fear of losing their place in line or being detained by Mexican migration officials if they left the port of entry area.

Many of these encampments lacked sufficient basic necessities (food, water, access to bathrooms and showers, sanitary napkins) and waiting asylum seekers were sleeping on sidewalks/pavement on pieces of cardboard.

They were exposed to rain, high heat during the day, and low temperatures at night. In Tijuana, Nogales, and Ciudad Juárez, sick children, pregnant people, and persons with disabilities were observed in the port of entry encampments. Even in cases with clear humanitarian concerns, based on monitors' observations there does not appear to be a system to submit requests to CBP for expedited consideration of asylum seekers with medical emergencies or other urgent humanitarian needs or security concerns. Refugee Health Alliance, an NGO that provides health services to migrants in Mexico, reported that CBP officers rejected requests for humanitarian parole of individuals in Tijuana for whom its staff had provided letters to document their urgent medical needs.

In May 2023, a 31-year-old Haitian asylum seeker with hypertension and a high-risk pregnancy, who indicated to monitors that she had previously been denied assistance at local hospitals in Tijuana, declined an offer by local officials for a care referral for fear that she would lose her place in the informal asylum line at the San Ysidro port of entry.

Monitors noted that waiting asylum seekers were subject to security and other risks. People in the line in Nogales, particularly women, reported feeling unsafe at night in an area where it was reported that actors involved in drug and human trafficking often operate. Monitors also noted the presence of individuals who appeared to be human traffickers near some Ciudad Juárez ports of entry. A 2022 needs <u>assessment</u> conducted by the IRC along Mexico's northern border found that half of the people surveyed reported they had directly experienced a safety issue or crime in Mexico. They identified several risks for their families, including sexual violence (23%), kidnapping (19%), and threats (16%). Asylum seekers also reported to monitors detainments by the *Instituto Nacional de Migración* (INM, National Institute of Migration), including three Tajik asylum seekers

⁵ Grupos Beta de Protección a Migrantes is an entity within the Instituto Nacional de Migración (National Institute of Migration) established to provide information and basic assistance to migrants in Mexico. See <u>https://www.gob.mx/inm/acciones-y-programas/grupos-beta-de-proteccion-a-migrantes</u>.

who said that they were taken to the Esmeralda migration station in Tijuana and asked for 1,000 pesos (about 55 USD) to avoid deportation. Because lines and informal encampments formed in public spaces, members of the media and other individuals have photographed waiting asylum seekers, raising concerns, particularly for Mexican asylum seekers, that publication of their images could result in their persecutors encountering them.

Lack of Accurate Information About Asylum Processes Widely Observed

Lack of information about the current U.S. asylum process rendered some asylum seekers vulnerable to exploitation. In May 2023, an asylum-seeking Uzbek family who appeared for a CBP One appointment at the San Ysidro port of entry were turned away by officials after a review of their documents by *Grupos Beta* indicated that they had been provided a fake appointment. The family, who spoke only Uzbek and had arrived in Tijuana four days prior, explained through an interpreter that the person who claimed to be setting up an appointment for them had charged them for this false service. Also in Tijuana, reports were received of taxi drivers charging exorbitant sums (up to 1,000 pesos or approximately \$55 USD) to take asylum seekers to the port of entry to request information on the asylum process. At observed ports of entry where monitors spoke with awaiting asylum seekers without CBP One appointments, many expressed confusion about the difference between Title 42 and the current process or were unaware of the new restrictions that make individuals requesting protection at a port of entry without a CBP One appointment, including themselves, presumptively ineligible for asylum.⁶

⁶ The asylum ban regulation has already contributed to a nearly 50 percent drop in positive credible fear screenings from an average of 83 percent in 2014 to 2019 (before the Title 42 policy was implemented) to 46 percent in the month since it was implemented. *See* Hamed Aleaziz, "U.S. is rejecting asylum seekers at much higher rates under new Biden policy," *LA Times*, June 20, 2023, https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2023-06-20/biden-asylum-seekers-turned-down-rates.

Recommendations for Safe, Humane, and Orderly Asylum Processes at U.S. Ports of Entry

1. Uphold the legal right to seek asylum: The U.S. government should <u>rescind</u> the asylum ban regulation, including its counterproductive penalization of asylum seekers who attempt to request protection at ports of entry without CBP One appointments. People seeking asylum should not be subjected to turnbacks or other limits on requests for protection at ports of entry. This practice, known as "metering," was declared by <u>illegal</u> by a U.S. federal court, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) <u>mandated</u> that its officers "may not instruct [asylum seekers] that they must return to the [port of entry] at a later time."

2. Surge resources to increase port of entry processing <u>capacity</u>: The U.S. government should maximize asylum processing at ports of entry by directing the current <u>surge in resources</u> to the border to support CBP's Office of Field Operations' staffing needs, port infrastructure gaps, and technological requirements - not for militarization of the border. Congress should ensure that appropriations are directed to swift, humane, and effective processing at ports of entry that respects the right to seek asylum.

3. Strengthen humanitarian capacity along the border in Mexico and the U.S.: Humanitarian efforts in the borderlands have historically been underfunded and surpassed by the needs of migrants, asylum seekers and hosting communities. Increased aid is needed in Mexico where people are waiting to seek asylum and in the United States for <u>sustainable, orderly and safe NGO-led humanitarian reception</u> of asylum seekers at the border after DHS processing. Congress should provide additional funding through the State Department and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to strengthen humanitarian capacities on both sides of the border. In the immediate term, DHS can shift funds away from harmful and costly migration detention to meet reception service needs.

4. Develop mechanisms for urgent processing of asylum seekers with acute medical needs, heightened security concerns, or other emergent circumstances: Resources should be dedicated, and staff equipped, within DHS to identify and swiftly process asylum seekers facing urgent medical and other protection needs – many of which arise due to the persecution the individual is fleeing. While the asylum ban regulation remains in place, CBP should provide to asylum seekers processed due to emergency circumstances without CBP One a written waiver as proof of their situation.

5. Scale up timely, actionable information to combat misinformation and enable asylum seekers to locate services: Increased information helps people on the move to make informed choices to find pathways to protection and disempowers smugglers who deploy misinformation to prey on asylum seekers. In the days leading up to the end of Title 42, visits to IRC's information platform for Mexico <u>doubled</u> compared to the prior month, with the most searched inquiries related to understanding the changes in eligibility for asylum; Title 42 and how it impacts the ability to seek protection; Title 8 and what it means; what the CBP One smartphone app is and how to use it, and how to find relatives detained by authorities on either side of the U.S.-Mexico border. People trying to seek asylum at U.S. ports of entry remain in urgent need of accurate information on the process.

6. Utilize technological solutions to expand and improve efficiency of, not restrict, asylum processing: The CBP One smartphone app and other technologies can present opportunities for gains in efficiency and scale but also exclude individuals who lack the means or know-how to use them, resulting in barriers that may violate the Refugee Convention's guarantee of non-discrimination. Requiring use of such technologies to access the asylum process, as opposed to offering an additional pathway, is yet more concerning in situations where people seeking asylum face security risks and difficult humanitarian circumstances. Hinging access to seek and enjoy asylum on whether people fleeing for their lives can book an appointment on a smartphone app is neither right nor practical. The CBP One app requires significant improvements, but even with those fixes in place, it should never be the only means to effectively request protection at a U.S. port of entry.

City	Ciudad Juárez	Nogales	Tijuana
Practices Observed at International Bridges/Ports of Entry for People Seeking Asylum in the U.S. Without CBP One Appointments	 Paso del Norte Port of Entry - As of early June 2023, monitors observed up to 4 to 5 asylum seekers without CBP One appointments permitted by CBP to approach the POE on a single day, though not every day. CBP officers encouraged individuals to use the CBP One Application rather than wait in line without an appointment and at the same time explained that it was possible to be processed without an appointment. Previously on May 13, 2023, monitors noted that individuals without CBP One appointments were not being processed and witnessed CBP tell individuals that asylum without a prearranged appointment "doesn't exist anymore." Monitors noted Ciudad Juárez local and Chihuahua state police presence, observing the POE area. Ysleta Port of Entry - As of early June 2023, there were approximately 75 people without appointments on an asylum waitlist, managed by asylum seekers themselves. CBP officers informed those at the head of the line of the number of people without appointments to be processed at any given point. Monitors observed up to 10 to 14 asylum seekers without CBP One appointments permitted by CBP to approach the port of entry on a single day, but also noted at least one day on which no asylum seekers were processed (May 14, 2023). Monitors noted Ciudad Juárez local and Chihuahua state police presence, observing the POE area. Between May 13 and approximately May 24, 2023, FIDD (a private Mexican security firm) restricted access to the Zaragoza bridge and managed the queue of asylum seekers without CBP One appointments. On some visits in May 2023, observers also noted INM officers dissuade asylum seekers from staying on the bridge and ask that they leave the bridge at night. 	NogatesDennis DeConcini Port of Entry - CBP officers had direct interactions with waiting asylum seekers. On June 9, 2023, monitors observed an asylum seeker waiting in line of individuals waiting to approach the POE. When this person was next in line a CBP officer asked for his documents, to which he responded, "I have these documents related to my case, I am seeking asylum." The CBP officer said "well, so are they [pointing to individuals without CBP One appointments], so go back to the line and we'll take you as we can, that's how we're doing things." Previously, on May 15, 2023, monitors observed CBP officers counting the number of people in line without CBP appointments and telling those in line that they would be attended to after individuals with CBP One appointments had been processed.In May and June 2023, monitors observed individuals without CBP One appointments processed in small groups (including a family of 11 people on one occasion) after those with CBP One appointments had been processed. Waiting asylum seekers reported approximately an average of 10 to 20 people without CBP One appointments were processed in the middle of the night on most nights. Monitors observed three unaccompanied children approach and access the POE for processing. As of 	 San Ysidro (Pedestrian East) Port of Entry - As of May 24, 2023, monitors observed a total of 20 to 40 individuals without CBP One appointments processed on a given day in small groups, approximately every five hours. As of early June 2023, monitors noted that 10 people had been processed in approximately 13- to 14-hour period. Some asylum seekers in the area reported being detained by officials from INM, including three asylum seekers from Tajikistan, who said that they had been taken to the Esmeralda migration station in Tijuana and asked for 1,000 pesos (about 55 USD) to avoid deportation. Monitors also noted the presence of Mexican National Guard, who intervened in a security incident witnessed by monitors. San Ysidro (Pedestrian West) Port of Entry - As of June 12, individuals without CBP One appointments had not been observed being processed through this POE. Various Mexican government authorities were observed interacting with asylum seekers reported that they were told by <i>Grupos Beta</i> to speak with CBP One appointments at this port of entry. On May 15, a family of 12 Mexican asylum seekers reported that they were told by <i>Grupos Beta</i> to speak with CBP officers, if they wished to seek asylum. The group passed through an initial screening point but were stopped by Mexican officials on the pedestrian bridge leading to the port of entry and returned without reaching the POE. Tijuana police told the group to move at least one block away from the port. On several occasions, <i>Grupos Beta</i> was observed telling asylum seekers without proof of a CBP One appointment that they would not be processed. Monitors observed a Tijuana police officer tell a family without a CBP One appointment that they had to leave the POE area and stay at least one block south, or else police would transport the family to the Reforma Sports Complex where there is a migrant camp. A Tijuana police officer told a monitor that he communicates the message that "the only legal form to enter the U.S. is

In mid-May 2023, observers witnessed an incident in which CBP officers informed FIDD that "minors are next in line." FIDD communicated this to the next two families in line who then sent their seven adolescent children to CBP at the POE with their mothers staying behind in Mexico at the Zaragoza Bridge. After two hours, the mothers approached CBP officers on the bridge asking about their children's whereabouts. CBP informed them that they had mistakenly processed the children as unaccompanied children and would return them to Mexico. Two hours later CBP allowed the mothers to pass the CBP checkpoint and reunified them with their children at the POE. Observers spoke with CBP officers who said that they had told FIDD to send unaccompanied children and had assumed that the seven adolescents were unaccompanied. Bridge of the Americas Port of Entry - As of June 13, 2023, monitors observed CBP officers at the middle of the international bridge speaking with individuals in the line, checking their documents. Observers noted that some individuals without CBP One appointments were being allowed to pass the CBP checkpoint at the middle of the bridge to approach the U.S. port of entry.	Observers also noted local Mexican police presence, monitoring the POE area.	[CBP One] Application." The same officer told a monitor: "We have orders to keep the POE block clean [of asylum seekers]. If we don't follow orders, there are consequences." Otay Mesa Port of Entry - On May 12, 2023, a group of asylum seekers without CBP One appointments attempted to access the POE just after midnight EST (when the Title 42 policy had ended). CBP officers informed them to wait. At 1:15am EST, CBP officers asked the group to leave the premises and informed them that they would not process anyone without a CBP One appointment. During that observation monitors asked CBP if they would be processing asylum seekers, CBP responded: "it is very easy to do it through the app [CBP One], there are many shelters in Tijuana and they help you fill out the app, you can get an appointment in two or three days [through the app]." Monitors noted the presence of a Baja California Norte State Migrant Affairs representative, who informed individuals waiting in line that "cases without a CBP One appointment will not be processed" and offered to refer them to shelters.

Annex: Limits on Access to Asylum After Title 42 – June 2023

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Queues of Individuals Without CBP One Appointments	 Paso del Norte Port of Entry - The line of asylum seekers was self-organized, with individuals assigned numbers to maintain the queue. CBP officers informed those at the head of the line of the number of individuals without appointments to be processed at any given point. Ysleta Port of Entry - Since approximately May 24, 2023, the queue was self-organized. Previously, between May 13 and approximately May 24, 2023, FIDD (Private Security Company), managed the list of waiting asylum seekers; CBP informed FIDD when they would be processing individuals and how many and FIDD proceeded to call that number of individuals from the list. Bridge of the Americas Port of Entry - The line of asylum seekers was self-organized. CBP officers informed those at the head of the line of the number of people without appointments to be processed at any given point. 	 Dennis DeConcini Port of Entry - Around May 20, 2023, the municipal <i>Bienestar Social</i> agency established a system with QR codes to manage the line of waiting asylum seekers without CBP One appointments. Staff from the agency asked for asylum seekers' full names and telephone numbers and issued QR codes to the first 100 waiting asylum seekers in line, these codes are recycled and distributed to the next asylum seekers in line as individuals are processed. After the establishment of the QR code system, only about 20 asylum seekers without CBP One appointments were permitted to remain in the physical line near the POE. <i>Bienestar Social</i> notifies individuals in the waitlist when their turn is up to wait in the POE area. Once in the POE line, CBP officers inform those asylum seekers at the head of the line of the number of people without CBP One appointments to be processed at any given point. As of June 12, 2023, the list maintained by <i>Bienestar Social</i> was made up of approximately 300 individuals (with new arrivals being added). Monitors observed the Social Wellbeing Agency make determinations about who to place at the top of the list, a staff member from the Agency told a monitor that "there were two Russian nationals that recently arrived that we decided to put at the top of the list." Monitors observed individuals in the "walk up" line who just recently received a CBP One Appointment. In reference to this, <i>Bienestar Social</i> staff told a monitor: "I am telling them [asylum seekers] that if they are given a CBP One appointment and try to walk up [at a different time than their scheduled appointment], CBP won't take them." 	San Ysidro (Pedestrian East) Port of Entry - In early June 2023, observers noted the presence of approximately 200 to 300 asylum seekers without CBP One appointments in a line waiting to access the Pedestrian East side of the San Ysidro port of entry. While the observers were present, Mexican authorities announced that if asylum seekers did not clear the area, the Mexican child protection service would arrive, which asylum seekers understood to be a threat to remove children from their families. These authorities noted the order of waiting asylum seekers, took down their names and phone numbers, issued them a corresponding number (per individual or family group) based on their position in the line, numbers were written on asylum seekers' arm with a marker and directed them to buses that were said to be going to shelters. It was not clear which Mexican authority was managing the list, but these authorities contacted individuals on the list to inform them to approach the POE. It was not clear to the observers how new arrivals would access this process and/or obtain information about it. Previously, between May 24 and June 2, 2023, the queue outside the port was self-organized by asylum seekers without CBP One appointments. San Ysidro (Pedestrian West) Port of Entry - Individuals without CBP One appointments were not processed at this POE. As noted above, monitors observed <i>Grupos Beta</i> tell asylum seekers without CBP One appointments that they would not be processed <i>without</i> appointments. In addition, <i>Grupos Beta</i> screened individuals with CBP One appointments by reviewing their ID documents and confirming their identity against their CBP One appointments by reviewing their ID documents and confirming their identity documents un to the grate to access the lack an appointment on that date or corresponding identity document un to the grate to access the
		queue outside the port was self-organized by asylum seekers without CBP One appointments.	identity documents up to the gate to access the Pedestrian West side of the San Ysidro port of entry.

Humanitarian Conditions Observed in Informal Encampments in Mexico of People Waiting to Access Asylum at U.S. Ports of Entry	 Puente Zaragoza (Ysleta Port of Entry) - As of early June 2023, 30 to 50 people were in an informal encampment of asylum seekers without CBP One appointments near the Zaragoza Bridge that leads to the Ysleta port of entry. Adults and families with children slept on the ground on pieces of cardboard and blankets during a period with low nighttime temperatures. Monitors noted children with apparent symptoms of anxiety and stress, as well as children sick with colds. Monitors noted National Guard and Military presence, observing at the camp site. Near the Stanton-Lerdo International Bridge (Stanton Street Port of Entry) - As of May 22, 2023, the local government in Ciudad Juárez established a camp next to the bridge leading to the Stanton Street Port of Entry where 250 to 300 people were sleeping in tents. Individuals bathed on the roadside until water was installed within the camp but there was no designated space for individuals to bathe privately. There are no separate sleeping areas for men and women. Individuals were given a water bottle and a can of tuna three times a day. Health needs were observed among the population, but I/NGOs were not permitted access to provide health and/or other services. Monitors noted Mexican National Guard and Military presence, who were monitoring the site. Parque El Chamizal (Bridge of the Americas Port of Entry) - As of early June 2023, monitors observed an encampment of individuals and families without CBP One appointments in the park, waiting to access asylum at the Bridge of the Americas Port of Entry. 	Dennis DeConcini Port of Entry - As of May 25, 2023, there were approximately 60 individuals without CBP One appointments sleeping outside the POE in Mexico. Individuals paid 10 pesos (approximately 0.60 USD) to access a bathroom in a shop nearby but did not have access to showers or other facilities to bathe. Previously, between May 14 and May 25, 200 to 250 individuals were camped outside the POE. Monitors spoke with several pregnant women as well as individuals with physical and mental disabilities. During the day individuals reported fatigue from the heat and being thirsty and hungry and reported being cold at night, especially on rainy days when they and their belongings had gotten soaked.	San Ysidro (Pedestrian East) Port of Entry - Between May 31 to June 2, 2023, an encampment of 200 to 250 asylum seekers without CBP One appointments (over 25 percent of whom were children) waited for access to asylum by the POE. Monitors noted medical needs including children with high fever and a cough given cold weather conditions and high-risk pregnancies; as well as need for basic humanitarian assistance (food, water, blankets, trash bags, sanitary napkins). A 31- year-old Haitian asylum seeker with hypertension and a high risk pregnancy, who had previously been denied assistance at local hospitals in Tijuana, declined an offer by local officials for a care referral for fear that she would lose her place in the informal asylum line at the San Ysidro port of entry. On June 2, 2023, monitors noted that Tijuana municipal authorities including the Office of Migrant Affairs referred and transported asylum seekers in the encampment near the port of entry to government run temporary shelters, including one approximately 5 miles south east of the POE in the Reforma Sports Complex as well as the newly established <i>Centro</i> <i>Integral para las Familias</i> shelter.
Nationalities of			
People Waiting to Seek Asylum Without CBP One Appointments	Afghanistan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela	Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Russia, Venezuela	Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela

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