



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

August 16, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

The southern border is overrun, and the American people – especially Texans – are suffering as a consequence. Border officials encountered 144,571 illegal aliens along the southern border in June 2023 – mirroring record highs – because this administration has utterly failed to take the steps necessary to secure our border.¹ Worse still, recent reports indicate that this administration is using taxpayer dollars to house migrants – some of whom pose a national security threat – as they travel north through Central America.

With large numbers of foreign nationals from across the globe traversing to our southern border in hopes of being released into the U.S.,² other countries in the Western Hemisphere have also experienced a similar surge in migrants traversing across their borders to reach the U.S.³ Recent reports indicate that the U.S. federal government has been funding San Vicente Camp,⁴ a temporary shelter and processing center for U.S.-bound migrants located in Darien Province, Panama.⁵ San Vicente Camp is also reported to be a transit point for Chinese nationals,^{6,7} some of whom are suspected to be intelligence operatives or harbor ties to China's People's Liberation Army (PLA).⁸ Camps like this not only incentivize migrants to travel through Central America to our southern border, but also pose a national security risk to the United States, as they serve as waystations for U.S.-bound bad actors traveling across the Western Hemisphere to infiltrate our nation.⁹

Additionally, on April 27, 2023, the Biden Administration announced it would establish Regional Processing Centers (RPCs) in Colombia and Guatemala to allow migrants to schedule an appointment via phone to interview for expedited processing into the U.S.¹⁰ The record-breaking numbers of illegal crossings should prompt the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to not only secure our border but to ensure we do not provide incentives for U.S.-bound aliens to traverse across other nations, such as subsidizing shelters or RPCs for migrants in transit nations.

¹ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

² <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-asylum-title-42-biden-border-aed92da15e23875a8049d413ca3b4eef>

³ <https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/are-latin-americas-migration-policies-about-to-change/>

⁴ <https://dailycaller.com/2023/07/01/opinion-chinese-agents-are-slipping-across-bidens-broken-southern-border-gordon-chang/>

⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/15/americas/darien-gap-migrants-colombia-panama-whole-story-cmd-intl/index.html>

⁶ https://twitter.com/michael_yon/status/1669445253315657728?s=67&t=3OH6ipwH_FLNg5Gnkln46w

⁷ <https://twitter.com/oscarelblue/status/1664473790749851651?s=46&t=XTDONrYONQJ8larmuYjsUA>

⁸ Id. <https://dailycaller.com/2023/07/01/opinion-chinese-agents-are-slipping-across-bidens-broken-southern-border-gordon-chang/>

⁹ <https://cis.org/Bensman/Next-Influx-Entire-Worlds-Poor-and-Dispossessed>

¹⁰ <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-announces-sweeping-new-actions-to-manage-regional-migration/>

These inhumane policies encourage individuals to embark on the dangerous trek to the U.S., placing them in harm's way. In fact, in fiscal year 2022, at least 853 migrants died attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border, surpassing the previous record of 564 deaths in FY 2021.¹¹ The American people have a right to know if their tax dollars are being used for inhumane policies that facilitate illegal immigration and if those who pose a threat to our public safety, national security, and border are using these installations to facilitate their entry into the country. If they are, Congress has a duty to protect the American people and withhold those dollars.

Please provide answers to the following questions by August 30, 2023:

1. Are taxpayer dollars being used by DHS, the State Department, or any other federal agency to construct and operate RPCs or migrant shelters in Central or South American countries like San Vicente Camp?
 - a) If American taxpayer dollars are being used to subsidize these facilities or RPCs, how much is being allocated, and how are they being used? Please provide a line item for what these funds pay for.
2. Are there other camps that use U.S. taxpayer dollars to facilitate the processing of migrants in Panama or Central and South America?
3. What steps are being taken to ensure migrants with criminal backgrounds, gang affiliations, links to foreign intelligence agencies, ties with foreign terrorist organizations, or those associated with the PLA, or other hostile military groups, are not benefitting from these shelters or RPCs?
4. Please provide a detailed explanation of the application process for a migrant to apply for parole, refugee resettlement, or an existing labor pathway at an RPC or migrant shelter like San Vicente Camp.
5. Does DHS or any other agency have plans to establish new RPCs or migrant shelters in any other countries in the Western Hemisphere?
6. What measures are you taking with our partners in Latin America to reduce U.S.-bound illegal immigration and repatriate third-country nationals using countries like Panama and Costa Rica as transit points to reach the Southwest border?

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely,



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Antony Blinken, United States Secretary of State

¹¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/migrant-deaths-crossing-us-mexico-border-2022-record-high/>