



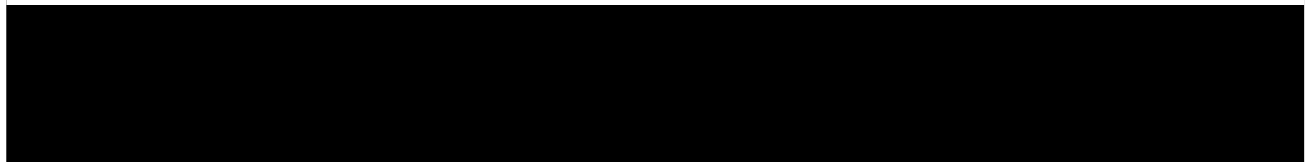
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Trump's "border czar" said he's going to Mar-a-Lago to discuss the plan.

By [Alexandra Hutzler](#)

November 18, 2024, 2:48 PM



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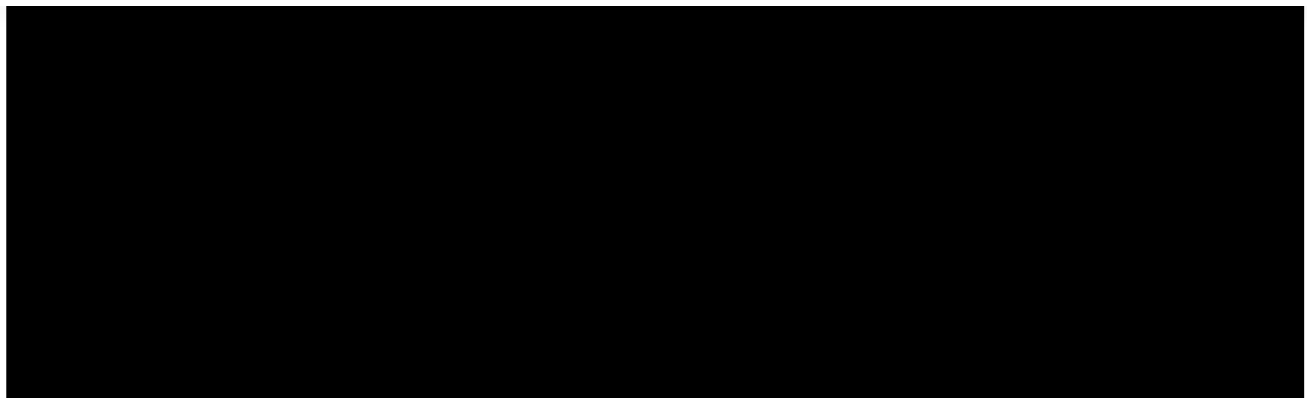
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Trump confirms plan to declare national emergency, use military for mass deportations

Leon Rodriguez, former director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under the Obama administration, reacts to President-elect Donald Trump's plan.

President-elect [Donald Trump](#) on Monday confirmed he would declare a national emergency to carry out his campaign promise of mass deportations of migrants living in the U.S. without legal permission.

Overnight, Trump responded to a social media post from Judicial Watch's Tom Fitton, who said earlier this month there are reports the incoming administration is preparing such a declaration and to use "military assets" to deport the migrants.

"TRUE!!!" Trump [wrote](#).

Trump pledged to get started on mass deportations as soon as he enters office.

"On Day 1, I will launch the largest deportation program in American history to get the criminals out," he said during a rally at Madison Square Garden in the closing days of the presidential race. "I will rescue every city and town that has been invaded and conquered, and we will put these vicious and bloodthirsty criminals in jail, then kick them the hell out of our country as fast as possible."

MORE: Trump wants a mass deportation program. How much could it cost?→

Already, he's tapped several immigration hard-liners [to serve in key Cabinet positions](#). South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem was picked to be homeland security secretary, pending Senate confirmation. Former Acting U.S. [Immigration](#) and Customs Enforcement Director Tom Homan was named "border czar."



Donald Trump takes the stage following early results from the 2024 presidential election in Palm Beach County Convention Center, in West Palm Beach, Florida, November 6, 2024.

Callaghan O'hare/Reuters

Homan previously discussed his vision for mass deportations, saying they would first concentrate on expelling criminals and national security threats. He didn't rule out deporting families together.

On Monday, Homan told Fox News "America Reports" he's heading to Mar-a-Lago "this week to put the final touches on the plan."

Homan reiterated his plan to "take the handcuffs of ICE" and ramp up arrests, though noted that he will need more resources to carry it out and said there are "a lot of what-ifs."

"So, I've been asked a thousand times, how many people can you remove the first year? Well, how many agents do I have?" he said. "Can we bring rehired agents back, the ones that are retired bring them back and rehire them. How many buses do I have? How much money do I have for airplanes? Right? Can DOD assist? Because DOD can take a lot off our plate. There's a lot of what ifs ..."

Throughout the campaign, Trump vowed to mobilize the National Guard to assist with the deportation effort. Experts [told ABC News](#) such a move would mark a fundamental shift for the military, which does not normally engage with domestic law enforcement issues.

At times, Trump went further, suggesting thousands of troops from overseas be moved to the U.S.-Mexico border.

MORE: Trump again vows to deport millions of migrants. Could he really do it?→

There are an estimated 11 million unauthorized migrants living in the U.S. without legal immigration status. Removing them could cost billions of dollars per year, according to estimates from the American Immigration Council.

Plus, mass deportations could have a broader economic impact by resulting in a loss of tax revenue and labor shortages.

ABC News Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Martha Raddatz [recently reported](#) from California on the impact Trump's immigration and mass deportations plans could have on the American agriculture industry.

"If you took away my workforce, you wouldn't eat. If you go into the San Joaquin Valley and you start doing what you're saying, it's over. The country will stop, literally stop because the food system won't move," said Manuel Cunha Jr., the president of the Nisei Farmers League.

-ABC News' Armando Garcia contributed to this report.

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