

NewsNation's *Morning in America* with *Adrienne Bankert*

10/25/21

7:06:05 a.m.

3 minutes and 35 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Migrant Caravan; Group of 2,000 Begin Trek from Southern Mexico to U.S.]

ADRIENNE BANKERT: Now, a group of about 2,000 migrants, mostly from Central America, have started their journey from southern Mexico to the U.S. border with hopes of gaining entry, though, that crowd has grown, according to a lot of the reporters there on the ground. Some managed to push past a line of police officers trying to stop them, but they were able to continue on with their track and Joe Khalil is live in Washington with more on this caravan. Again, Joe, I'm hearing that there is as many as 5 or 6,000 migrants there journeying in, but this group seems to be different than others and it's getting even more attention.

JOE KHALIL: That's right, Adrienne. And we can put this in a historical context here. You know, typically, what we see are surges like this that happened in the cooler months. Still in the spring or in the fall and the White House is actually saying that this goes right on track with some of those historical trends. The problem with that is that we've already seen about 1.7 million migrants come to the U.S. southern border just this year alone. That is a record and actually the highest months that we've reported were in July and August when we had close to 200,000 in each month in the sweltering heat, so that certainly doesn't track historically — makes this a little bit different of a situation. Now, take a look at what we're seeing just over the weekend. This group basically blew right through a border of Mexican police and security forces in riot gear. And as you mention, the numbers — there's different reporting. Some estimates are 2,000. Some are even higher than that — a larger group. Now, the leaders of this migrant caravan have said that their ultimate goal is to get to Mexico City, not to the United States and they want to get humanitarian assistance there. Of course, there are some reporters on the ground that are talking to some of these migrants who say that they do, ultimately, want to make it to the United States. These people are coming from Central America, South America, some even from Haiti, so what we know is that if they do end up reaching the U.S. border, the Biden administration is actually set to reimplement a Trump era policy — the remain in Mexico policy and that is expected to happen at some point in November. So, anybody who does make it to the U.S. border this time and tries to apply for asylum, legally is going to have to remain on the Mexico side of the border, but another group adding to these record totals, we've seen this year, certainly something to keep an eye on, Adrienne.

BANKERT: Joe, I think the biggest thing here is that noticing the tone, the attitude of those who are here, making their way to the U.S./Mexico border in a previous instances, it seems as though it's this very desperate group just looking for safety and there are some of those in that group. But this is much more well organized, as you were mentioning and they were shouting things such as Libertad — liberty and freedom — as they marched through Mexico. Thank you so much, Joe. We appreciate your reporting. Now as those immigrants make that long track. We want to know exactly where they're planning to enter the U.S. Nick is at our NewsNation smart board. What

did you learn?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: NewsNation Smart Board; Where Are Immigrants Entering the Country?]

NICK SMITH: The perception is that the caravan members intend to eventually make their way into the United States and earlier, a group did do that. You remember a group of Haitians as many as 12,000 by some reports made their way to Del Rio, Texas had this location. The distance from one nation to the next is a matter of feet, so a narrow stretch of water, it's easier to cross here. So this is why the cross. Now, encounters at the U.S. Mexico border are at a 21-year high. We're talking about migrants making their way through Central Mexico into the United States. Just in the last year, the border patrol has carried out more than one million expulsions of migrants back to Mexico or to their home nations.

BANKERT: [NO AUDIO] much, Nick Smith for us, reporting from our NewsNation smart board.

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7:41:42 a.m.  
36 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Top Stories; Migrants Push Pass Police Line in Southern Mexico]

BANKERT: Several thousand migrants marching north through Mexico. Most migrants in the caravan, which could be as many as 5 or 6,000 people, are from Honduras and El Salvador. They clashed with Mexico's police force over the weekend. Really, they just pushed their way through. The group still far from the U.S. border. It's going to take about two weeks or more for them to reach the border. Crossing into Mexico from Guatemala here, some are hoping to reach the U.S., others in the caravan say they're heading to Mexico City to protest Mexico's treatment of migrants. We've been hearing that from a few people marching.

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7:59:53 a.m. [TEASE]  
13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Border Crisis]

BANKERT: Coming up, thousands of migrants march en masse headed to the United States as border crossings continue to surge. Some even clashing with law enforcement in Mexico. What makes this group different.

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8:07:57 a.m.

2 minutes and 13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Migrant Caravan; Thousands Begin Trek From Southern Mexico to U.S.]

BANKERT: Well, thousands of migrants mostly from Central America have started their journey from southern Mexico to the U.S. border, pushing past a line of police officers. Joe Khalil is live with more on this and how this group is different than other surges of migrants. Joe?

KHALIL: Yeah, Adrienne. What makes this one different and unique is that it follows a summer where we saw record numbers of migrants approaching the U.S. southern border. Year so far to date, we've seen more than 1.7 million migrants and again, we do see ebbs and flows of this kind of migration. But typically it slows down in the summer months. That's historically what we've seen. That didn't happen this year and we're going to get into the numbers in just a minute. But first, take a look at what we saw over the weekend because this video basically tells the story here. A group of about 2 to 5,000 migrants, depending on the reporting and accounting there, coming from Central and South America, basically blowing right through this Mexican patrol line that they had here and what we're hearing, what reporters are hearing down on the ground from some of these migrants is after heading toward Mexico City. They say that they're not looking to go all the way to the United States, although it's likely that many of them end up trying to make that journey, trying to get humanitarian assistance. But that's what we're hearing there. Now, again, we talked about the numbers. Let's go ahead and get into that because over the past couple of months, July and August, more than 200,000 in each of those months in the sweltering heat came and approached the U.S. southern border were either processed or turned away again, those all records. And one more thing. Adrienne, before we toss it back to you. The Biden administration is expected to implement what's called the Remain in Mexico policy. This is a — an immigration policy that was started under the Trump administration that a court has ordered the Biden administration to reimplement, so we're expecting to see that at some point in November. And that's going to be interesting to see how that impacts the flow of migrants to the U.S. southern border, but certainly a situation that we haven't seen in the past when you put it in historical context, Adrienne.

BANKERT: Yes, all right, Joe, thank you so much. We appreciate you joining us this morning on a Monday.

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8:30:25 p.m.

44 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Top Stories; Migrants Push Pass Police Line in Southern Mexico]

BANKERT: And several thousand migrants marching north through Mexico towards the U.S. border. Most migrants in the caravan are from Honduras and El Salvador. They clashed with

Mexico's police force over the weekend. Now, this is a lot different than anything we've seen historically. Typically, we're seeing surges like this in the summer months. This being fall, it is unseasonable to some experts, but also it is a very well organized group with rally cries and group organizers. Word that people had to register to be in this caravan. Some are hoping again to reach the United States in the next couple of weeks — next few weeks. Others are heading to Mexico City to protest Mexico's treatment of migrants there.

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8:59:57 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Border Crisis]

BANKERT: Coming up, thousands of migrants march en masse headed to the United States as border crossings continue to surge. Some even clashing with law enforcement in Mexico. What makes this group different.

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9:06:12 p.m.

3 minutes and 29 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Migrant Caravan; Group of 2,000 Begin Trek from Southern Mexico to U.S.]

BANKERT: On to the news from South and Central America. A group of about 2,000, as many as 5 or 6,000 migrants, mostly from Central America, have started their journey from southern Mexico to the U.S. border with the hopes of gaining entry there. Some managed to push past a line of police officers trying to stop them, but they were able to continue on with their truck. Our Joe Khalil live in Washington with a little more on exactly what this caravan is doing. And, Joe, these migrants differ from other groups and surges that we've seen approaching the U.S.-Mexico border.

KHALIL: Yeah. For a few different reasons, Adrienne, and one being that this group seems to have a bit of organization. There leaders at the head of this surge. They've been talking to reporters and even commenting on American immigration policy. So, certainly, one way that's different. But another is just the fact that, over the summer, we have seen record numbers of migrants coming to the southern border. Typically in the summer, we get a lull in this kind of migration. Not the case this year. We're going to dig into that. But first, take a look at the video that you just referenced as this group came forward. Anywhere from 2000 to 5,000 depending on the reporting on the ground and they basically went right through this Mexican security and Mexican police line. Now, we know this group is coming from Central and South America. Also, it seems there are maybe some people from Haiti in this group as well moving forward. And, again, we talked about the numbers that just came over the summer. Let's go ahead and put that

up on the screen because it gives you full context here. In July and in August, you had more than 200,000 migrants making contact with border agents at the U.S. southern border. You can see, from just a year ago, how significantly different that is. So, right now, it appears that just in the last month, those numbers seem to have dropped a little bit. But given this new surge coming in, Adrienne, the border agents are certainly are keeping an eye on, it's not clear whether the numbers are going to continue to spike in, go up or whether we do see draw down to a lower number but, clearly, a situation that us border patrols going to be have to — have to be monitoring as it continues.

BANKERT: Yeah, Joe, you know, you make a good point and I've seen reports for this particular surge of migrants that people are joining them along the way, so their numbers are actually increasing as they march closer and closer to the U.S. border. Some saying that they are going to Mexico City to actually protest —

KHALIL: Yeah.

BANKERT: — conditions for migrants there as well. So a very different a group than we've seen before. Thank you so much, Joe K. Appreciate it. Now as those immigrants make the long track, we wanted to know exactly where they're planning to enter the United States. And our nic Smith is at the NewsNation smart board. So, Nick, what have you learned?

SMITH: It looks like it's the easiest point of entry, right? The deception is that caravan members intend to eventually make their way to the United States. And one of the reasons that is — that's happening is because they're looking for easier points of entry like Del Rio there. An earlier group of Haitians, as many as 12,000 by some reports, made their way to Del Rio, Texas because it is easier to enter at this location. The distance from one nation to the next is a matter of feet separated by a shallow, narrow stretch of the Rio Grande river. Now. Now, migrant encounters at the U.S. Mexico border are at a 21-year high. Just in the last year, the border patrol has carried out more than one million expulsions of migrants back to Mexico or to the migrant's home country.

BANKERT: All right. Thank you so much, Nick Smith reporting for us there.