

NBC's *Today*  
09/16/22  
7:01:03 a.m. [TEASE]  
20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Humanitarian Crisis]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Humanitarian crisis. Emergency shelters opened on Martha's Vineyard after Florida's governor sends dozens of migrants there on private jets. This morning, his message to the President.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS (R-FL): We are not a sanctuary state.

GUTHRIE: And the White House fighting back.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: What they're doing is simply wrong. It's un-American. It's reckless.

GUTHRIE: We'll have the very latest live.

(....)

7:07:50 a.m.  
3 minutes and 12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Immigration Battle Intensifies Over Moved Migrants]

HODA KOTB: Also this morning, guys, emergency shelters are up and running on Martha's Vineyard to deal with this week's unannounced arrival of dozens of Venezuelan migrants. They were flown there from Florida at the direction of its Republican governor, the latest flashpoint in the nation's border battle. NBC's Emilie Ikeda is right there at Martha's Vineyard with more. Hey, Emilie, good morning.

EMILIE IKEDA: Hoda, good morning. This community had no time to think when nearly 50 migrants touched down at a local airport, but the volunteers — they sprung into action and transformed this block into a place of refuge and unity, a sharp contrast to Capitol Hill where the debate over the number of migrant crossings reaches new levels. This morning, on the wealthy summer getaway Martha's Vineyard, dozens of migrants from Venezuela are caught in a fierce political fight over immigration that's being escalated by several Republican governors. Officials say two charter flights carrying 48 migrants, including young children, landed here Wednesday, without warning. The planes were arranged by Florida's Republican Governor, Ron DeSantis, protesting President Biden's border security policies.

DESANTIS: We are not a sanctuary state. And it's better to be able to go to a sanctuary jurisdiction and, yes, we will help facilitate that transport for you.

IKEDA: President Biden condemning the move.

BIDEN: What they're doing is simply wrong. It's un-American, it's reckless.

IKEDA: This woman, who boarded the flight in San Antonio, Texas, says she was told they were headed to Boston, adding, "we want to contribute in the United States." Local officials say they were given no notice, but sprang into action along with volunteers to provide shelter, food and medical care. [TO BELCASTRO] Have you talked to migrants? What's going through their mind?

LISA BELCASTRO: They want work, they want answers. [SCREEN WIPE] They've been lied to.

IKEDA: Democrats say these migrants and others like them have become political pawns, pointing to DeSantis's possible presidential bid in 2024.

CONGRESSMAN BILL KEATING (D-MA): This is taxpayer-funded private jets, quite an expense, for a political stunt for the blind ambition of the governor of Florida.

IKEDA: But DeSantis is not the only one. Republicans say the record-breaking influx at the southern border is straining the system and they want to push states with liberal immigration policies to shoulder the burden. Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Arizona Governor Doug Ducey have been thousands of migrants north, including Chicago and New York where Mayor Eric Adams says the city is "nearing a breaking point." In the nation's capital, these are among the more than 100 migrants sent by Abbott Wednesday to Vice President Kamala Harris' residence after she called the border secure despite a record two million illegal crossings in the last year.

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 09/11/22]: The border is secure, but we also have a broken immigration system.

IKEDA: The number of migrants crossing the U.S./Mexico border is growing, but the Department of Homeland Security and the White House are not seeing eye to eye on how to address it, according to internal documents reviewed by NBC News. Some DHS officials are pushing President Biden to fly or bus migrants from the border to other northern cities to help alleviate overcrowding near those border states. Guys, back to you.

KOTB: Alright, Emilie Ikeda for us there in Massachusetts. Emilie, thank you.

(....)

8:04:23 a.m.

1 minute and 53 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Immigration Battle Intensifies Over Moved Migrants]

KOTB: Let's now move to the battle over border crossings as another Republican governor in the south transfers migrants to an area controlled by Democrats without warning. The latest sending dozens of Venezuelans to the small island of Martha's Vineyard. NBC's Emilie Ikeda is there for us. Hey, Emilie. What's the latest there?

IKEDA: Hoda, good morning. Migrants are just waking up from their second night at St. Andrews as the scramble by officials and volunteers continues to help them establish their next steps. Many of the migrants we've heard from say they were not aware that Martha's Vineyard was their destination. They had immigration appointments in other parts of the country, but they consistently underscored their appreciation for the outpouring of help here, help with food, help with clothing, shelter, and even medical and — assistance with their health. The nearly 50 Venezuelan migrants are at the center of a fierce political debate over immigration just escalated by several Republican governors. The planes that landed here at a nearby airport were sent and arranged by Florida Governor, Republican Ron DeSantis. He follows in the footsteps of other Republicans, including Texas Governor Greg Abbott, who sent thousands of migrants, bussed them to other parts of the country, most recently to our nation's capital outside of the Vice President's residence, Kamala Harris. More than 100 people sent there just yesterday. Republicans say the record-breaking influx at the southern border is putting a strain on those states and they shouldn't be the only ones that have to shoulder the burden, but Democrats say they are using humans — these migrants, as political pawns and President Biden condemned the move as cruel and a political play. I'll add this, guys, before I send it back. Several Democratic leaders have called on the Department of Justice to investigate the legality of the governors' recent actions. Guys, back to you.

KOTB: Alright, Emilie Ikeda for us there in Martha's Vineyard. Emilie, thank you.