

FNC's *America's Newsroom*

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5 minutes and 54 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Fox News Exclusive; Border Crisis Spirals Out of Control as WH Denies]

JULIE BANDERAS: So, the border crisis is spiraling out of control. Arrests are at historic levels. But the White House is singing a very different tune for almost two years now.

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 09/11/22]: We have a secure border.

DHS SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS [on 07/19/22]: The border is secure.

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE [on 09/15/22]: We have taken unprecedented action over the past year and a half to secure our border.

JEN PSAKI [on *Fox News Sunday*, 03/28/21]: The border remains closed. It is not open. We're turning away the majority of adults.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN [on 09/16/22]: We have a process in place to manage migrants at the border.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Fox News Exclusive; CBP: Nearly 1 Million Border "Gotaways" Since 2021]

BILL HEMMER: So, arrests are surging and so are the number of so-called gotaways. New numbers show nearly a million evaded detection since President Biden took office, allowing so many to disappear into the U.S. and this is nothing new.

BANDERAS: No, you're right. Fox's Bill Melugin has spent years covering this crisis. Take a look.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Fox News Exclusive; Border Crisis Spirals Out of Control as WH Denies]

BILL MELUGIN [on 07/13/22]: Hundreds upon hundreds upon hundreds of these migrants crossing the Rio Grande in broad daylight. [SCREEN WIPE] [on 09/19/21] Border patrol doesn't have enough agents to process the folks. [SCREEN WIPE] And this situation is completely deteriorating. [SCREEN WIPE] [on 08/18/22] Fox News cameras witnessed migrants using a rope to cross the river. Some carrying infants with them. [SCREEN WIPE] [on 12/17/21] Essentially a free for all. If people can get across the river, they can just walk in. [SCREEN WIPE] [on 11/15/21] I want to show this bus, which is pulling out now, is full of unaccompanied

children and young teenagers.

BANDERAS: Melugin's relentless coverage at the southern border finally catching the attention of the White House.

HEMMER: You may have seen this in *Politico*, reporting "several current and former White House and administration officials expressed...their increasing frustration with his on-air coverage."

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Fox News Exclusive; Fox Confronts Democrats on Border Crisis]

MELUGIN [TO CONGRESSWOMAN AYANNA PRESSLEY]: 250,000 unaccompanied migrant children —

HEMMER: So from the southern border some 1,700 miles to Capitol Hill, our colleague went to Washington to ask questions of those in charge of policy.

BANDERAS: Bill Melugin joins us now with the very latest on your in-depth investigation here. So, what did you learn, Bill?

MELUGIN: Well, Julie, good morning to you. Since President Biden first took office, the number of illegal crossings, migrant deaths and known gotaways at our southern border have surged to record levels. And we've been down there for a better part of a year and a half witnessing much of this chaos in person. So, now we're here in D.C. and we're pushing for some answers. [TO PRESSLEY] 250,000 unaccompanied migrant children arrived at the border since President Biden took office. Some of them trafficked, some of them drowning in the river. Any issue with that?

PRESSLEY AIDE: She's got to votes, man. You can shoot me a note right there.

MELUGIN [TO PRESSLEY]: Last question, ma'am. Is the border secure? Do you agree with the administration that the border is secure? We'll let you go. [TO CONGRESSMAN BENNY THOMPSON] Chairman, one question: In your opinion, is the border secure?

CONGRESSMAN BENNY THOMPSON (D-MS): I have to go give a speech. Didn't you hear me?

MELUGIN [TO THOMPSON]: I heard you.

THOMPSON: Okay.

MELUGIN [TO THOMPSON]: It's a quick question. Is the border secure? [VOICE-OVER] Answers about the border few and far between from some Democrats on Capitol Hill, including the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas. [TO MAYORKAS] I'm Bill Melugin with Fox News. Do you have a few moments to talk about the border?

MAYORKAS: I'm sorry. I don't.

MELUGIN: A week before this, we sent this email to DHS notifying them we would be in D.C. and we were requesting an interview with the secretary. We received no response. So we went to him. [TO MAYORKAS] A few moments of your time is all we're asking for and we'll let you go. We reached out to your office and asked to talk to you last week. They — they blew us off.

MAYORKAS: I appreciate it.

MELUGIN [TO MAYORKAS]: Is 900,000 gotaways a secure border?

MAYORKAS: Have a good day, thank you.

MELUGIN [TO MAYORKAS]: No comment, sir? [VOICE-OVER] Only Democrats from the state of Texas, the front line of the border crisis, ended up talking to us and they expressed concern about the border.

CONGRESSWOMAN VERONICA ESCOBAR (D-TX): This is unsustainable. It has been unsustainable for years.

CONGRESSMAN COLIN ALLRED (D-TX): We have resources down there but we clearly need to be doing more.

CONGRESSMAN HENRY CUELLAR (D-TX): This is our administration. I'm a Democrat. And, you know, they need to understand they own it now. They own it now and they have to take the steps to correct this. Otherwise, you know, when are we going to see an end to this?

MELUGIN: We also put questions to Democratic leadership. [TO PELOSI] Do you believe the border is secure?

HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI (D-CA): I believe that we have to have a secure border and I think that we are trying to address — the President is — has a plan to address that.

MELUGIN: Democrats have had majority control here in D.C. for almost two years and still, there has been no significant progress on any immigration legislation in the Senate. I asked Chuck Schumer why that's the case.

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER CHUCK SCHUMER (D-NY): Republicans don't want to do immigration reform. [SCREEN WIPE] Even on something as simple as DACA, which has the overwhelming support of the American people, Republicans are blocking it.

MELUGIN [TO KEVIN MCCARTHY]: Under Republicans, would amnesty of any kind for any group of migrants who came across ever be on the table?

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER KEVIN MCCARTHY (R-CA): No amnesty. I know if Nancy

Pelosi was no longer here, there would be a lot of Democrats feel free to do exactly what they know is best: to vote for a secure border and work with us to have a real immigration reform.

MELUGIN: And Minority Leader McCarthy went on to tell me that, if Republicans do end up retaking the majority after the midterms and he becomes speaker, they would not move to immediately try to impeach Secretary Mayorkas. He says a Republican priority would be legislating first, securing the border first. And he told me, on day one, they would push to repeal the hiring of 87,000 I.R.S. agents and instead focus —

HEMMER: Huh.

MELUGIN: — on serving resources down to our southern border.

HEMMER: Wow. So —

MELUGIN: We'll send it back to you.

HEMMER: — then what is next on that, Bill? Did that give you the impression that the current policy would change?

MELUGIN: Well, both parties, though, are obviously drawing their lines in the sand and are standing behind them, right? You hear Chuck Schumer talking about, well, Republicans don't want to work with us. You hear Kevin McCarthy saying, well, if Nancy Pelosi was gone, we might be able to get something done. What McCarthy told me is if Americans want a change at the southern border, they got to make a change politically. He says a Republican priority would be to secure that border. The Democrats say, though, Republicans just don't want to work with them, even on something like DACA. So, we'll have to see what happens.

HEMMER: Great reporting. Nice to see you in Washington, D.C. A bit of a different back drop for you, Bill. Bill Melugin there.