

NEWS

US flying migrants turned away by COVID protocol deep into Mexico

By Samuel Chamberlain

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A government employee escorts families deported from the US at La Aurora International airport in Guatemala City, Guatemala on August 4, 2021.

REUTERS/Luis Echeverria

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US authorities are **flying families** and single adults turned away from the southern border deep into Mexico as the Biden administration tries to deter repeated crossing attempts, according to a new report.

Reuters said Friday that 200 Mexican and Central American family members were taken away from the border region Thursday on the first of what are expected to be regular flights to southern Mexico. Once the immigrants arrive, the report added, the White House will work with shelters and non-governmental organizations to ensure they are returned to their countries of origin.

The initial expulsions have taken place under the Trump-era policy known as Title 42, which permits the rapid deportation of single adults and some immigrant families in an attempt to check the spread of COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **announced Monday** that the policy had been renewed and would remain in place "until the CDC Director determines that the danger of further introduction of COVID-19 into the United States from covered noncitizens has ceased to be a serious danger to public health."

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a separate statement Monday that it would process illegal immigrants in accordance with the order, which it called "not an immigration authority, but a public health authority, and its continued use is dictated by CDC and governed by the CDC's analysis of public health factors."



Asylum seekers line up for the COVID-19 vaccine at El Chaparral crossing port in Tijuana, Mexico on August 3, 2021.
AFP via Getty Images

Immigration officials say that once illegal immigrants are expelled under Title 42, there is no mechanism preventing them from attempting to cross the border again. US Customs and Border Protection are estimated to have stopped **more than 200,000** illegal immigrants at the southwest border last month; it is unclear how many of those had made more than one attempt.

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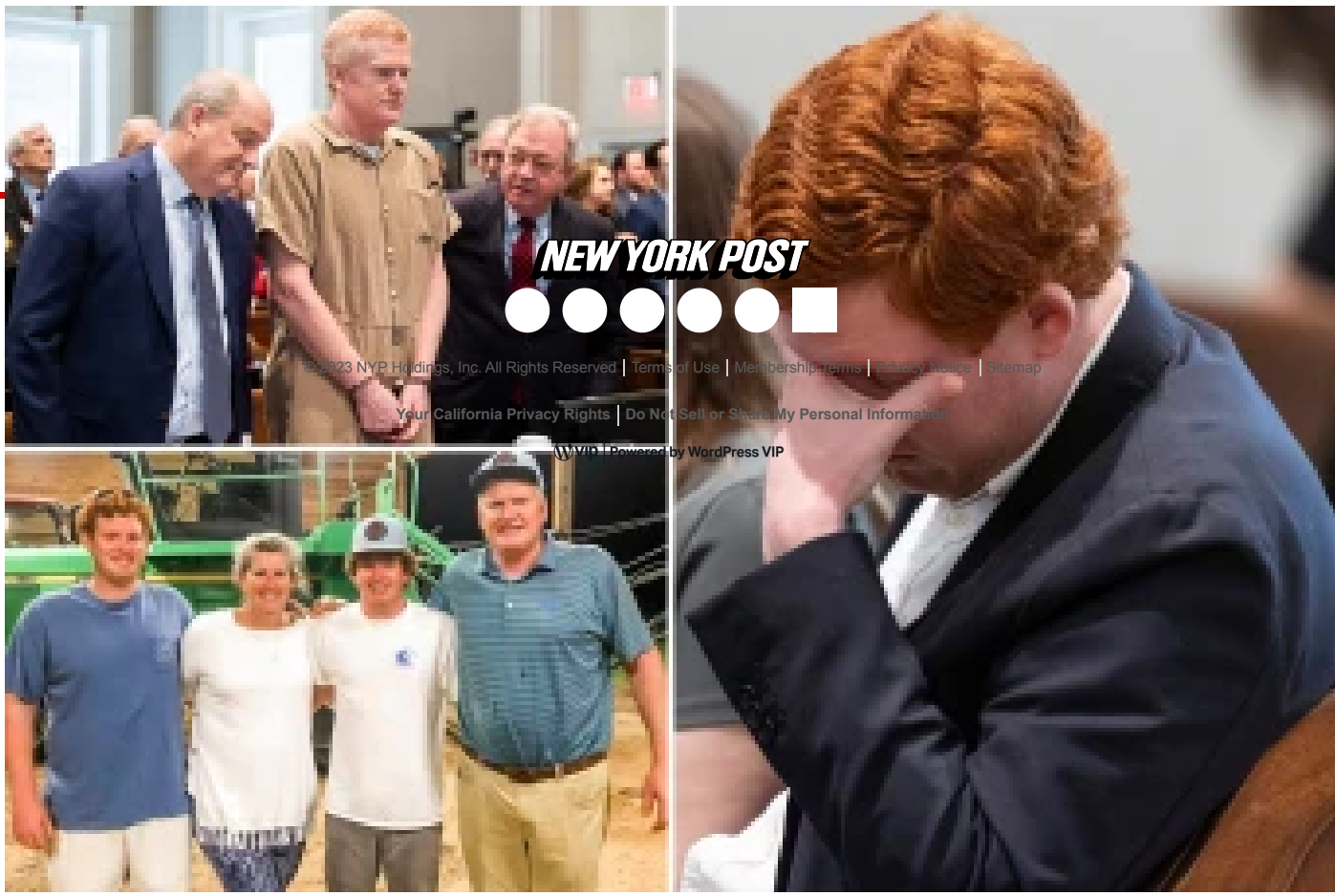
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