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The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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# Local Politicians Ignore The Underbelly Of The Marijuana Industry

By Andy Caldwell

## Local Politicians Ignore Ugly Underbelly of the Pot Business

As the saying goes, our elected officials are entitled to their own opinions, but not their own facts. Pretty much every single South County politico, including Supervisors **Lee**, **Hartman** and **Capps**, Congressman **Salud Carbajal**, and District Attorney **John Savrnoch**, to name just a few, has expressed outlandish and irresponsible rhetorical outrage at the ICE investigation involving **Glass House Brands** pot operations in Carpinteria and Camarillo.

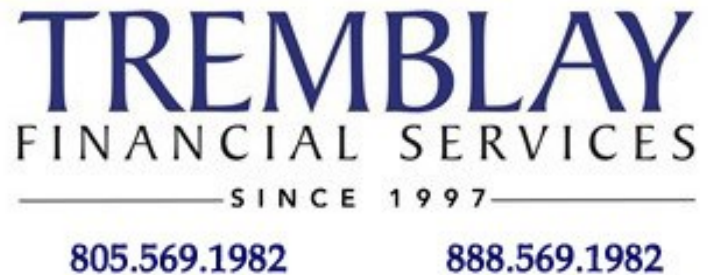
What these politicians have collectively omitted while pontificating against the evils of ICE is the fact that our federal government has three inviolate priorities as it affects deporting illegal aliens until such time that Congress and the current administration fix our broken system.

### ICE Priority Number One\*

The first priority of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) is to deport convicted criminals and others who have already received their final orders to deport. A second priority is rescuing the hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors who disappeared after having crossed the border; it is believed that most of these children are being trafficked. A third priority is shutting down cartel-related business enterprises in our country, those that appear legal, and those that are engaged in violence, illicit drug sales, and human trafficking, including prostitution of children.

Unfortunately, for all the people blasting the feds for the Glass House raid, some honest members of the media are reporting that Glass House *may* have checked all three boxes as it pertains to these priorities of ICE!

With respect to priority #1, the removal of convicted criminals and others who have already received their final orders to deport, as reported by Homeland Security, several of the people arrested at Glass House had extensive criminal records involving convictions for rape, kidnapping, serial burglary, attempted rape, attempted child molestation, DUI, and hit-and-run. It seems that local law enforcement and local politicians don't have much to say about this. However, local investigative reporter **Karen Velie** of Cal Coast News



reminds us that people with criminal records are not allowed to work in the marijuana industry per state law, and minors are not allowed on the property whatsoever, which brings us to the next priority of ICE.

### Priority Number Two

Rescuing unaccompanied minors who have most likely been trafficked is priority # 2. ICE rescued eight unaccompanied minors plus two other juveniles at Glass House. As I communicated with our District Attorney, John Savrnoch, "Whereas, I too do not want the feds to round up otherwise law-abiding farmworkers and have stated so dozens of times publicly, I do want them to rescue people, especially minors, who have been trafficked. As you well know, nobody comes across our border without paying the cartels either up-front or after the fact.

The cartels have realized that human trafficking pays more than drug trafficking because they can only sell a drug once, but they can sell a human being over and over and over again. Hence, I believe it is a disservice to ignore the fact that one of the priorities of ICE is to find the children who are being trafficked. I would not be surprised if that was the reason for the raid on Glasshouse in the first place."

All that begs the question, *if* these minors are in debt to the cartels, how is it that they were found possibly working at Glass House?

### Priority Number Three

Having to do with shutting down cartel-related business ventures, of which there are *many* throughout our country. Some are completely illegal in their origin and substance, e.g., dealing in drugs; others are "legitimate businesses" e.g., some of our local roadside taco stands are suspected of using trafficked labor as staff. The cartels have no problem making

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# Immigration Extremes Are On A Collision Course

By Andy Caldwell



## Immigration Extremes are On a Collision Course

The left in America has always frustrated any attempt to reform our immigration system, by way of their demands for amnesty (read: full citizenship rights for *all* illegal aliens). They would want us to believe this has to do with their compassion for the “powerless,” but their motivation has to do with the *Left*’s insatiable cravings for pure political power. They realize they need more voters, so their literal bread-and-butter approach to securing the same is to hand out a multitude of benefits to illegal aliens – as well as to lazy and lawless Americans – to secure their support.

What is not lost on most Americans is that this mix of immigrants that recently invaded our country – at the behest of President **Joe Biden** – included not only some hard-working people, but also terrorists, international gang members, jihadists, convicted murderers, rapists, and child molesters. “Progressives” pushed to legalize all of them, despite their dubious backgrounds. This is one of the main reasons why Democrats lost the last presidential election.

Some conservatives, on the other hand, want all people who came here without our government’s permission to be deported summarily, failing to respect the fact that some of the immigrants who broke the law did so out of desperation and aspiration. That is, they were living in a hell-hole country, and they wanted the

American dream for themselves and their children. While it is inexcusable to break the law, it is also inexcusable that our current immigration system is broken thereby precluding the ability of business owners in construction, hotel and restaurants, and agriculture to get the workers they need to serve us.

That brings us to the failure of our immigration system to consider Occam’s razor, which states that the simplest explanation for a phenomenon is likely to be the most accurate one. That is, we are in the throes of an immigration crisis because of two internal phenomena in addition to the motivations of immigrants to want to come here to better their lives or for nefarious purposes.

## The Birth Dearth

Pertaining to internal phenomena, we must first mention our birth dearth, for as the saying goes, demography is destiny. The birth dearth in America means that we are losing population and if it weren’t for immigrants coming here and multiplying as they tend to do, our ability to maintain our society and economy is doomed. The math in this statement is a historical fact proven time and time again throughout the course of human history, including in the seminal work of **Carle Zimmerman** (“Family and Civilization”), not to mention “What to Expect When No One’s Expecting” by **Jonathan Last**, and “How Civilizations Die” by **David P. Goldman**.

The second inconvenient truth is that too many Americans raised today consider it demeaning or even impossible to take on certain occupations, such as being a farmworker or a domestic. That is, the work is considered beneath their dignity, or it is too strenuous an occupation. This has been the case for decades in America, but it certainly wasn’t the case when I was growing up. Children and teenagers in rural America back then were certainly willing and expected to do field work during the summers for spending money, but no longer. My mother and father also worked in a cannery during the summers as well. In urban areas, kids cut lawns because virtually nobody had a gardener. Kids, rather than the homeless, collected recyclables for cash. It was common for children to have paper routes, while teenagers took on part-time work during the school year and full-time work in the summer.

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# EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Making Heads Explode By Repealing Obama Era Climate Policy

By Katy Grimes

## *Endangerment regulations paved the way for Electric Vehicle Mandates*

Global warming. Global cooling. Climate change. Clean air regulations. CO2. Climate regulations. Global climate fight.

Most people just call it weather – atmospheric conditions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin is proposing the largest deregulatory action in the history of the United States, by repealing the 2009 Obama EPA “Endangerment Finding,” the central basis for much of the U.S.’s climate policy, which directed all the greenhouse gas regulations on vehicles that followed, and the much despised start/stop feature.

The Endangerment Finding, is a finding under the Clean Air Act that claims greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare.

The regulation has been used to justify over \$1 trillion in regulations, including the Biden-Harris Administration’s electric vehicle (EV) mandate.

Professional climate change charlatans claim:

“The action would mean full-blown warfare against all things climate.”

“It is obvious, of course, that greenhouse gases emitted from sources regulated by the Clean Air Act endanger public health and welfare. The science could not be clearer that greenhouse gas emissions have already led the earth to warm — so much so that it now appears we have breached the 1.5 C limit the global community committed to in the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015. We are seeing the effects of climate change on the ground and across the globe in the form of hotter temperatures, more frequent drought, more intense flooding, fiercer hurricanes, and more intense wildfires.”

Zeldin said “we will claim no statutory authority beyond the plain language of the law, and we will heed the calls of Americans demanding relief from extreme economic pain.”

“In what would amount to one of the largest deregulatory actions in the history of the United States, the Trump EPA is proposing to rescind the 2009 Obama



EPA Endangerment Finding which has been used to foolishly inflict over \$1 TRILLION in economic pain on the American people,” Zeldin posted to X.

In May California Governor Gavin Newsom claimed that greenhouse gas emissions are down in California – not just down but **“down 20% since 2000.”**

“Pollution is down and the economy is up,” Newsom said. “Greenhouse gas emissions in California are down 20% since 2000 – even as the state’s GDP increased 78% in that same time period,” Newsom says, in a press statement bragging that the “State invests nearly \$33 billion in cap-and-trade dollars to make communities cleaner and healthier.”

Newsom gets this groundbreaking information from none other than the California Air Resources Board – a highly partisan board made up of Newsom appointees. And now the governor wants to extend the shady cap-and-trade program out beyond 2030 to reach the 2045 goals. The gift never ends in

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# It's Not The bias, But The Principle: No Public Funds For Media

By Steven Greenhut

**S**ACRAMENTO—I was in middle school when our English teacher asked students where we find trustworthy news. I smugly suggested “non-biased” news publications and received a well-deserved dressing down. Didn’t I know that every publication has biases? Every editorial decision—from story selection to sources to sentence structure—inevitably reflects the writer’s preference or bias, he noted.

Point taken. I remembered that lesson when I pursued a journalism career. I’ve worked on news pages, but found opinion writing more freeing than trying to suppress my own point of view. The media have since changed dramatically, as the internet, social media, talk radio and cable news have swamped Americans with alternative sources, thus bypassing traditional gatekeepers.

The new media environment seems more opinionated than ever, yet one old debate—dating to the Reagan administration—has come to the fore. That’s the battle over federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Founded in 1967, it provides tax funds to NPR, PBS and their member stations. Congress recently voted to slash that \$1.1 billion (over two years), which will go into effect after Donald Trump signs the budget. He previously called for such cuts.

Now that cuts are coming from Congress rather than executive order, I’m all for it—even if the president’s rationale is typically ill-tempered. An official White House statement said that the outlets “spread radical, woke propaganda disguised as ‘news.’” Trump was upset by NPR’s lack of coverage of the Hunter Biden laptop scandal in the run-up to the 2024 election. His statement cherry-picked examples of “trash” news segments, including a Valentine’s Day feature on “queer animals.”

Public broadcasting supporters point to myriad noteworthy, uplifting and unobjectionable programs, ranging from “All Things Considered” to “Sesame Street” to “Planet Money,” but there’s no point debating the biases of specific programming. With the exception of perhaps “Car Talk,” I’ve always found NPR and PBS acquired tastes that I never managed to acquire. Of course, those networks are biased. Everything is biased. In my opinion, they don’t spread radical viewpoints, but cater to the preferences of their affluent, culturally-liberal listeners.

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Government shouldn’t fund *any* media. It’s not a proper use of tax dollars. Taxpayers shouldn’t be forced to fund viewpoints they abhor. Any media’s funding source obviously distorts its coverage. I once spoke to a group of reporters about a donor-funded journalism outfit that I managed. They were fixated on our donors. I finally said something to this effect: “Go back to your editor and pitch an investigative story about the business practices of the largest advertisers in your newspaper and get back to me.” They broke out laughing, but understood.

The NPR and PBS subsidies aren’t huge in the context of nearly \$7 trillion in federal spending and a host of more anger-inducing subsidies, but that’s not the point. It’s hard to get too worked up about the coming funding cuts upon closer examination of the overall NPR and PBS budgets. (Ironically, NPR has published some of the most even-handed coverage of the funding-cut issue.) Its recent report notes that, “NPR receives only about 1% of its operating budget directly from the federal government. Other revenue includes donations, returns from its endowment and corporate sponsorship.”

NPR, the report adds, also receives 30% of its funding from programming fees from member stations—and they receive 13% of their funds from the federal gov-

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# A Long List Of Undesirables; Elected, Blind, And Otherwise

By Andy Caldwell

**D**o you remember in the 1977 film “Star Wars” when Obi-Wan Kenobi described the infamous saloon as a “wretched hive of scum and villainy?”

Is that not an apt description of the former convicts arrested at the Glass House pot farms in Carpinteria and Camarillo by Homeland Security to the dismay of local politicians and the media? If you missed the list of undesirables, they included people arrested for and/or convicted of rape, kidnaping, narcotics trafficking, battery, child endangerment, felony firearm possession, indecent exposure, assault with a deadly weapon and burglary. Then, there were the unaccompanied minors that may have been trafficked.

The question our politicians and media pundits are avoiding at all costs? Aren’t these the type of people you would expect to find at an illegal pot-growing operation rather than one of the largest permitted operations in the state that also runs several of our local dispensaries?

The most preposterous and dangerous rhetoric I may have ever heard in a county supervisors’ hearing occurred while County Supervisors **Laura Capps**, **Roy Lee**, and **Joan Hartmann** were completely and unequivocally condemning Homeland Security for its investigations and actions the day of the enforcement action. These supervisors would neither admit that Homeland Security is a bona fide federal law enforcement agency that has sole jurisdiction over immigration matters, nor were they burdened by the fact that, as the Heritage Foundation reported, a study back in 2011 indicated that California’s brand of egregious sanctuary legislation explains how it’s possible for 250,000 illegal aliens to have a combined total of nearly 1.7 million arrests for three million offenses committed on U.S. soil. And that report is 14 years old.

What’s worse? Capps and Lee badgered Sheriff **Bill Brown** for not sending deputies to rescue the illegal aliens and protestors from ICE. Watching the hearing gave one the impression that they would like our sheriff’s department to be transformed into some sort of militia unit to defend against the efforts of Homeland Security to arrest the illegal aliens and protect the protestors from the defensive measures employed by ICE. That is, these supervisors, along with Congressman **Salud Carbajal**, were outraged that the feds showed up in force and with the gear necessary to defend themselves if violence broke out, which it did.



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Watch (and share) this very short video that captures Lee and Capps berating and cajoling our sheriff who thankfully stood his ground making them both look like the fools they are.

## No More “Catch and Release”

Of course, what many people are upset about, while ignoring the presence of the incorrigibles and the unaccompanied minors, is the “otherwise” law-abiding illegal aliens that were caught up in the sweep as collateral damage, if you will. My take on that is that the last thing the Trump administration is going to engage in is a catch-and-release operation. In other words, I don’t believe that Glass House would have been the subject of a search warrant for simply employing illegal aliens. Unfortunately, however, for the “otherwise” law-abiding illegal aliens employed there, they were in the wrong place at the wrong time for an administration that is committed to enforcing the law as written until such a time as Congress can agree on some form of real immigration reform.

Regarding the cries for “due process” for illegal aliens, either our local leaders and the media are uninformed, or they are lying about the laws in place to deal with this situation. As immigration expert **Hans von Spakovsky** reports for the Heritage Foundation, “Some critics of the Trump Administration’s enforcement of federal immigration law, including members of the public, the media, and Congress, have made misleading claims about the due process rights that apply in immigration proceedings. Those who claim that non-citizens – referred to in our nation’s immigration laws as aliens – are entitled to the full panoply of constitutional rights enjoyed by American citizens are simply wrong and fail to differentiate between criminal prosecutions and immigration proceedings, which are civil

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# Mother Nature Is A Stone Cold Killer

*By Andy Caldwell*

## **M**other Nature is a Stone Cold Killer

I am heartbroken over the tragedy that hit the hill country in Texas. We vacationed in that exact spot last November just minutes away from the Guadalupe River. Whereas the river there had flooded before, the wall of water that swelled up within an hour's time was unprecedented. As I have stated before, Mother Nature is a stone cold killer and until we learn to respect that fact, tragedy, heartbreak will be our lot in life.

Ultimately, the problem here has to do with something that is called our worldview. Too many people view nature as benign, or worse, holy. That is, they consider any changes that affect nature, such as building dams, as a travesty. But dams can serve many purposes including controlling flood waters and preserving water during drought cycles.

The bible, for instance, doesn't consider nature benign. That is why God gave man the commandment and the moral high ground for man to "subdue the Earth." Subduing the Earth doesn't mean destroying it or abusing it. What it means is that we should use our brains to make sure the powers of nature don't destroy or abuse us as much as that is possible. Unfortunately, our ability and the moral high ground to subdue the Earth, from fires and floods, for instance, has become obtuse.

For example, our approach to minimizing the damage from both fires and floods has to do with the fact that the habitats that affect both are now protected at our collective expense. Regarding fires, overgrown dead brush and trees should be managed lest they become the fuel source for conflagrations. Similarly, brush and trees growing in rivers, streams and creeks present a dual threat. Their presence diminishes the carrying capacity of these riparian corridors, and in a flood event, the habitat will get dislodged and serve to plug culverts and take out infrastructure downstream.

### **It Can and Has Happened Here**

I have lived on the Central Coast for nearly 60 years. I have seen Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo flowing like a river from curb to curb. And before the horrible and catastrophic debris flow in Montecito – a community literally built on an ancient debris flow – we had multiple landslides in La Conchita going back over 100 years. We all certainly know it doesn't take much for Santa Barbara to flood. Furthermore, Lompoc is going to have a tough time surviving another flood like the one in 1969, because the carrying capacity of the



Santa Ynez River has been greatly diminished (the Lompoc sewer treatment plant dumps its own brand of miracle-grow effluent into the river making for some dense river-clogging brush and trees) and the town has been built up in areas that are now subject to inundation.

Yet, despite our history, on top of all that, what will surely make things worse has to do with the fact that most of our dams and reservoirs are silted up, meaning their holding capacity is severely diminished as well.

All in all, we are doing little to subdue the Earth these days from the practical reality of fires and floods, but we are spending an inordinate amount of money on the hypothetical risks associated with climate change. The climate, however, is beyond our means to control; it is a global phenomenon, and other nations are not cooperating. That is, of course, if you believe climate change is human caused. Nonetheless, we are guilty of malign neglect in controlling our environment with respect to fires and floods because it can be within our control to make a difference. The irony here – lost on the activists and decision-makers – is that wildfires are the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state.

Maybe we could get people to seriously think about our history of perennial fires and floods before the next disaster hits? It is foolish to ignore the inevitable.

*Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB*

# The Jihad Against Israel Is Genocide

*By Daniel Greenfield*

**I**srael isn't committing genocide - it's resisting genocide.

On Oct 7, 2023, thousands of Muslim Jihadis swept from Gaza into Israel, killing, torturing, raping and kidnapping anyone in their path. The victims included not only Israelis or Jews, but Americans and Europeans, Christians and Buddhists, as well as those Bedouins whom the Hamas, PLO and Islamic Jihad attackers did not consider Muslims.

Their rationale was not a "Palestinian" cause or any of the later war propaganda myths about an "open air prison", but an Islamic religious imperative to drive out infidels. That's why they named their genocidal campaign, 'Al-Aqsa Flood' after their occupation mosque planted in Jerusalem that they hoped to reclaim when they had killed or enslaved all the infidels in Israel.

In their earliest statements when they thought they were winning, Hamas leaders emphasized their religious agenda, of seizing the Al Aqsa Mosque and driving out the infidels, not a 'Palestinian' cause or the partial Israeli embargo on its limited border with Gaza.

That was the only 'genocide' that occurred in the last two years. It just isn't being called one.

The Oct 7 genocide had nothing to do with any 'national liberation' for some imaginary 'Palestinian' people. It followed over a thousand years of Islamic invasions, mass slaughters, slavery and mass rape across the region. The Jews, once a conquered people, had been the ones to rebel against Islamic rule in Israel through groups such as NILI (Netzach

Israel Lo Yishaker – The Eternal One of Israel Does Not Lie) and fight for freedom from Islamic rule.

Muslim Jihads against Jews began shortly afterward. The wars against Israel by Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Muslim countries from as far away as Iraq, Iran and Yemen were not about an imaginary 'Palestinian' nationality at a time when Gaza, Judea and Samaria were occupied by Arab Muslim nations, but about the religious and tribal genocide aimed at any 'Other' group.

No one in the international community who spreads the lie that Israel's self-defense is 'genocide' has dared to apply that label to the Turkish Islamic campaign against the Kurds, the Syrian Arab Islamic massacre of the Druze or any of the other numerous ongoing Islamic tribal ethnic cleansing campaigns that have made the region what it is. When Muslims claim that they're the 'indigenous' people, it's because they massacred and enslaved everyone else.

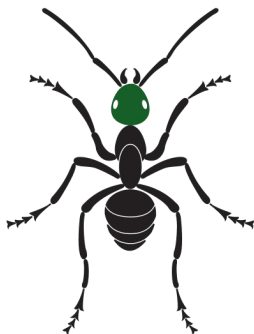
Including the Jews.

Even when ISIS openly declared that it was enslaving and killing the Yazidi people in line with the teachings of Islam, the same voices slurring 'Zionism' as genocidal, loudly declared that the Islamic scholars of the Islamic State were completely wrong about Islam. But what ISIS was doing is exactly what was done to the Druze, the Kurds, the Armenians, the Christians of the region, along with numerous other minorities, and the Jews. Jihad is Arabic for genocide.

Since Oct 7, the only tool in the Jihad propaganda playbook has been moral inversion.

Hamas accuses Israel of killing children and then pa-

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# A 5-Word Legislative Fix Could Help Quell Riots

By Charles 'Cully' Stimson

**B**revity is the soul of wit, as Polonius said in Shakespeare's classic drama "Hamlet." And while we would never, ever, compare any legislation to the Bard's creations, we commend Sen. Ted Cruz, R.-Texas, for his pithy five-word amendment to the RICO statute introduced in the Senate.

By including rioting as an activity that falls under RICO, Cruz's amendment would add a much-needed punch to the powerful statute designed to deter organized criminal enterprises and punish those who fund them.

The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, better known as RICO, is housed squarely in the middle of the federal criminal code at 18 U.S.C. Section 1961. Passed into law in 1970 as part of the Organized Crime Control Act, it is designed to give federal prosecutors the tools to go after entire criminal enterprises by targeting their structure, operation, and funding, rather than just going after individual criminal actors.

Think of mafia movies like "Donnie Brasco," "Goodfellas," or "Casino," where the feds go after crime bosses, holding them responsible for the actions of their underlings. That's RICO in action!

Over the decades, federal prosecutors have used RICO to go after all sorts of organized criminal enterprises, including the mafia. The centerpiece of the RICO statute is "racketeering activity," defined by Section 1961(1) as:

(A) any act or threat involving murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, dealing in obscene matter, or dealing in a controlled substance or listed chemical, which is chargeable under State law and punishable by imprisonment for more than one year;

(B) any act which is indictable under any of the following provisions of title 18, United States Code, including:

- Bribery
- Sports bribery
- Counterfeiting
- Theft from interstate shipment
- Embezzlement from pension or welfare funds
- Extortionate credit transactions



- Identification fraud
- Mail fraud

Wire fraud

The list of qualifying underlying criminal acts numbers almost 100.

Most civil disturbances, out-of-control gatherings, or riots are, if criminal in nature at all, local offenses rather than federal ones. But riots can also be federal criminal offenses.

Under 18 U.S.C. Section 2101, it is a federal crime if a person travels in interstate or foreign commerce, or if that person uses any facility of interstate or foreign commerce (i.e., phone, text, Signal messages, and the like) to incite, organize, promote, encourage, participate in, or carry on a riot, or to commit any act of violence in furtherance of a riot, or to aid or abet any person who incites, participates, or carries on a riot.

Notice that this definition does not criminalize speech or freedom of association—rather, it criminalizes conduct. The maximum possible penalty is five years' imprisonment and a fine, or both.

Cruz's new amendment adds to the list of predicate offenses under racketeering. The exact language is: "section 2101 (relating to riots)."

To the untrained eye, this proposed language might get lost in the already long list of criminal statutes.

So, what does this new language do?

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# Big Beautiful Bill Already Paying Big Beautiful Benefits

By Steve Milloy

**P**resident Trump took two major steps this week to end the 14-year-old Democrat war against the coal industry and cheap electricity. Although greens have promised to sue, they are unlikely to succeed as the moves have pretty much been pre-approved by the Supreme Court.

First, EPA proposed to roll back all greenhouse gas emission standards for coal plants. The Obama EPA first issued climate emissions standards for coal plants in August 2015. These rules didn't last long as they were stayed by the Supreme Court in February 2016.

Although President Trump proceeded to replace the Clean Power Plan with the much less expensive and more practical Affordable Clean Energy rule in June 2019, that effort was rejected by the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit in January 2021. But that turned out to be a Pyrrhic victory for climate activists.

In June 2022, the Supreme Court invalidated the Clean Power Plan in *West Virginia v. EPA* on the basis of a first-time used constitutional theory called the major questions doctrine. Under that doctrine, unless a regulatory agency can point to express authorization from Congress for a major regulatory program, the program is unconstitutional and cannot be implemented. The Clean Power Plan had no such authorization.

But the never-admit-defeat Biden EPA went back to the drawing board and issued a new rule that can essentially be thought of as a Clean Power Plan 2.0. It is this rule that the Trump EPA is now rolling back.

When the greens sue the Trump EPA, the agency will be able to point to *West Virginia v. EPA* and say that neither the Biden EPA nor the Trump EPA have been expressly authorized by Congress to regulate emissions from coal plants. This should be a winning argument.

The second rule to be rolled back is something called the Mercury Air Toxics Standard (MATS). As far as the war on coal is concerned, this is actually a much more important EPA rule as it was the one the Obama EPA used to wreck 50 percent of the US coal industry. Issued in 2012, the MATS rule was aimed at reducing mercury emissions from coal plants, something that sounded scarier than it really was.

When EPA did the benefit-cost analysis for the MATS rule, it could only come up with hypothetical benefits



worth \$6 million dollars, while the actual compliance costs were estimated to be on the order of \$10 billion. In the 2015 SCOTUS ruling that rejected EPA's benefit-cost analysis as unreasonable, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, "One would not say that it is even rational, never mind 'appropriate,' to impose billions of dollars in economic costs in return for a few dollars in health or environmental benefits."

Similarly to regulatory ping-pong of the Clean Power Plan, the first Trump EPA took action to defang MATS. The Biden EPA responded by defying SCOTUS and making the rule more stringent. Now the ball is back in the Trump EPA's court and MATS is once again headed to the ashbin of regulatory history,

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## Big Beautiful Bill Already Paying Big Beautiful Benefits *Cont.*

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hopefully for good. The rule's economics have only gotten worse for its advocates and a challenge to the Trump EPA's new action is unlikely to succeed.

While the good news is that these Trump EPA actions should finally put an end to the war on coal, the bad news is that severe damage to the industry and the cheap electricity it provided was done long ago.

The 2012 MATS rule was so draconian that utilities hurried to close coal plants and switch to gas plants. By the time SCOTUS got around to ruling against MATS in 2015, it was too late for the half of the coal industry that had been destroyed. Obama EPA chief Gina McCarthy mocked the tardiness of SCOTUS, responding, to the Court's decision as follows: "The majority of power plants have already decided and invested in a path to achieving compliance with those mercury and air toxic standards." Even the *West Virginia v. EPA* decision came seven years after the Clean Power Plan was first issued.

Democrats wielded the government to illegally wreck the coal industry and to pointlessly raise electricity prices. The damage done is immense and will take the government-sized help to repair it. President Trump is taking the necessary steps to revive the coal industry, but there is a very long way to go.

*Steve Milloy is a biostatistician and lawyer, publishes JunkScience.com and is on X @JunkScience.*

## A 5-Word Legislative Fix Could Help Quell Riots *Cont.*

If the amendment becomes law, it will enable the federal government to use RICO to investigate and prosecute not only those people who qualify as federal rioters but also those organizations and individuals who are funding the violent riots across the country. As opposed to charging individuals with violations of the riot act, the government will be able to charge the organizers, funders, and logistical supporters of rioters as a group for violating RICO.

This amendment not only makes common sense, it should garner bipartisan support. Federal rioting is already a crime. The Justice Department has used the RICO statute effectively against left-wing and right-wing criminal enterprises alike.

Today's organized riots against Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and Trump enforcement actions are not spontaneous unfunded actions by local actors—and they should not be treated as such. By adding rioting to the list of predicate offenses for racketeering, Cruz's amendment gives the Justice Department the ammo it needs to punish the rioters and those funding them.

Originally published by National Review

Charles 'Cully' Stimson, Deputy Director, Meese Center, Manager, National Security Law Program, Senior Legal Fellow, Senior Advisor to the President, The Heritage Foundation



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## The Jihad Against Israel Is Genocide *cont.*

rades the coffins of murdered Jewish children about. It claims genocide, cries famine and cruelty, and demands a ceasefire, even as its leaders promise that once they're ready, they'll finish the job and wipe out the Jews.

This discourse is whitewashed and laundered by the media which attributes Hamas war propaganda to "Gaza officials", "health officials", "journalists", "rescue workers", "police" and anyone else tasked by Hamas with serving as an interface between it and the outside world.

Politicians unthinkingly parrot Hamas lies, including its ceaseless campaign to reclaim control over food aid coming into Gaza by spreading the myth that Israel keeps killing civilians at Gaza Humanitarian Foundation food distribution sites, and the media builds them into towering narratives, propping up the moral inversion of genocide to cover the actual Islamic genocide.

Every accusation coming out of the Jihad propaganda machine is really a confession.

And if there were any doubts that Hamas rhetoric about wiping out Israel and its Jewish population is sincere, the Muslim Brotherhood terror group got a chance to show it on Oct 7. Apologists for Islamic terrorism previously argued that the terrorists acted out of "desperation", that they had no choice but to set off suicide bombs on buses and pizzerias, but there was no desperation in the massacres that occurred when the Jihadis found a civilian population at their mercy. They murdered women, children and the elderly, they beheaded foreign workers, and in their glee, they engaged in brutal atrocities that undermined the larger aims of their campaign.

Lazy journalists might be tempted to call them "senseless", but that's because they don't understand Islam. When the Jihadis chant "Allahu Akbar" while killing non-Muslims, they are engaged in a transcendent religious experience that allows them to feel that they are bringing the power of the murderous deity they worship into this world by defeating non-Muslims. And when they chant "Khaybar Ya Yahood" or "Remember Khaybar, O Jews", a common event at anti-Israel rallies, they are connecting Mohammed's ancient ethnic cleansing of the Jews of Arabia to their planned ethnic cleansing of the Jews of Israel and of the world in the present.

The Jihad is genocidal. But that's because the worship of Islam is fundamentally genocide.



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Unlike other religions, the primary mission of Islam is to enforce the will of Allah by destroying the power of all other religions and cultures, subjugating them to the will of an Islamic master race, enforced civilly by the codes of Sharia religious law and militarily through Jihad. Muslim Brotherhood front groups use moral inversion to denounce such statements of the historical and present day beliefs of Islam as 'Islamophobia' or hateful conspiracy theories, but they can be seen in the entire history of Islam, in the present day actions of Muslim nations and in the future plans of Islamic movements to spread across the rest of the world and subjugate all of it.

Muslims are currently in a state of religious war with not only Jews or even Christians, but also with Hindus in India and Buddhists in Burma. When a single ideol-

(Continued on page 13)

## The Jihad Against Israel Is Genocide *Cont.*

(Continued from page 12)

ogy representing a quarter of humanity has been in a state of endless war with the religions representing at least another 60% of the planet, it's pretty clear who has the problem here. And it's not the Christians, Jews, Hindus and Buddhists being bombed, beheaded, stabbed and shot at all around the world.

Israel, America, Russia, China and the rest of the world aren't saints, but there's a reason that Muslims typically enjoy more rights in non-Muslim countries than non-Muslims do in Muslim countries like Pakistan, Saudi Arabia or Iran. There's also a reason why many Muslims move to non-Muslim countries while few non-Muslims move to Muslim ones. The hate is mostly one way.

Muslim propagandists pretend that like the Arab Muslim Jihad against Israel, branded a 'special case' of a 'Palestinian' minority fighting against the Jews, all their Jihads are special cases. When Muslims massacre Hindu tourists, it's because they're fighting for Kashmir, when they randomly stab people in Europe, it's because their 'asylum seekers' are denied citizenship, and when they bomb churches in Nigeria, it's because the government insists on fighting terrorism.

There's always an excuse that positions Muslims as victims and a minority group, a 'special case' of a persecuted people desperately rising up in self-defense, but that big lie, a lie so big that Goebbels would quail at it, falls apart the moment you look at how Muslim countries treat non-Muslims, at the way that they ally together to attack non-Muslims outside their borders, and at the mission statement of Islamic terrorists to gather the 'Ummah', the collective Muslims of the world, to unite under a 'Caliphate' to rule the world. This isn't victimhood. It's genocide.

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No one dares call Jihad 'genocide'. Instead the 'genocide' label is most often applied to those courageous nations that, alone and isolated, resist the genocidal Islamic Jihad against them.

Israel is one of them.

The Jihad propaganda machine claims that its genocide is 'resistance' and that resistance to its genocide is genocide. The truth is as always the opposite. Resisting Islamic genocide is the best defense against genocide. The entire Oct 7 war was set off by an Islamic genocide plot. The closer Israel comes to destroying the genocidal Jihadis, the more they and their useful idiots across the world, shout "genocide", and traffic in the most outlandish lies and smears to save the Jihadis so that they can launch an actual genocide against the people of Israel.

A few million Jews in Israel have stood off the geno-

(Continued on page 15)



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## The Jihad Against Israel Is Genocide *Cont.*

(Continued from page 13)

cidal campaign of the 400 million Muslim majority of the region in a miraculous and heroic campaign of resistance against utter evil. They won every war, but lost every argument, and the monsters who came to wipe out every last man, woman and child in Israel shout that they are the real victims of genocide, they brandish papers full of fake numbers, they tweet AI atrocity photos and put on makeup for the cameras.

But if anyone wants to see a real genocide, look at the Middle East, a region that was once rich in religious diversity where 91% of the population is now Muslim. How did that happen? Was the prospect of being able to take four wives, marry girls as young as seven years old and bask in virgins with eternally regenerating hymens in paradise so appealing that everyone converted?

History tells us a very different and much uglier story that is still going on to this very day. It's a story written in bombed churches, captured girls and streams of refugees fleeing the region.

But where everyone else fled or submitted, the Jews of Israel are still resisting the Jihad. They're not committing genocide. They're resisting the Islamic genocide that overran the region.

Jihad is genocide. Fighting Jihad is not genocide. It's resistance.

*Daniel Greenfield, blogger (SULTAN KNISH), CEO and reporter at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, investigative journalist at FrontPageMag.com and author of the new book, "Domestic Enemies: The Founding Fathers' Fight Against the Left"*

## A Long List Of Undesirables; Elected, Blind, And Otherwise *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

matters." That is, "due process" in this case simply requires a hearing before a federal immigration judge employed by the Department of Justice as to whether an alien has a legitimate claim and proof to obtain asylum or residency.

That's it!

### Throwing Stones In and At Glass Houses

Concerning immigration proceedings, some 1.4 million illegals have already received their *final* order to deport. **Tom Homan** thereby has indicated that "the priorities [for removal] will focus on public safety threats, national security threats, and fugitives," as well as those who "got due process at great taxpayer expense and the federal judge ordered them removed, but they didn't leave, and they became a fugitive."

I find it ironic that these same politicians who had no problem shutting down schools, churches, businesses, parks, beaches, hiking trails, and pretty much anything and everything else they could think of to save us from COVID, won't lift a finger to save us from the hundreds of thousands of illegal alien criminals in this country who are committing heinous crimes against citizens and immigrants alike nor are they interested in protecting the "otherwise" law-abiding immigrants from the cartels who facilitated their passage across our border with Mexico. Everyone knows that the coyotes raped a significant number of the women who crossed the border and forced many others into employment as drug mules (or worse), but as far as our electeds and our local media is concerned, there is nothing to see here!

In conclusion, perhaps the protestors, our electeds, and local media (especially blind poodles) should refrain from throwing rocks at federal agents who are doing their job and aim instead at the people working in glass houses.

*Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB*

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## EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Making Heads Explode By Repealing Obama Era Climate Policy *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

Newsomworld.

As the Globe has been pointing out for many years, California already surpassed its original greenhouse gas emissions reductions target of 1990 levels of by 2020 – this was achieved in 2016 – even the Governor's Climate Dashboard website admits this:

"The 2006 California Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32) set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020. California surpassed this target four years early in 2016, and emissions have continued to drop since then, largely due to increasing technology. California's next climate target is to reduce emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. The Scoping Plan lays out how California will achieve this target."

This is why California Democrats have to keep moving the goals – we already are a clean state, with some of the cleanest air in the world.

Fortunately, EPA Administrator Zeldin is on to this climate grift.

Zelding continued:

If finalized, the proposal would repeal all resulting greenhouse gas emissions regulations for motor vehicles and engines, thereby reinstating consumer choice and giving Americans the ability to purchase a safe and affordable car for their family while decreasing the cost of living on all products that trucks deliver. Administrator Zeldin was joined by U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, Indiana Governor

Mike Braun, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita, U.S. Representative Jim Baird (R-IN-04), Indiana Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources Suzanne Jaworowski, and the Indiana Motor Truck Association.

Since the 2009 Endangerment Finding was issued, many have stated that the American people and auto manufacturing have suffered from significant uncertainties and massive costs related to general regulations of greenhouse gases from vehicles and trucks. Finally, EPA is proposing to provide much needed certainty and regulatory relief, so companies can plan appropriately, and the American people can have affordable choices when deciding to buy a car.

"With this proposal, the Trump EPA is proposing to end sixteen years of uncertainty for automakers and American consumers," **said EPA Administrator Zeldin.** "In our work so far, many stakeholders have told me that the Obama and Biden EPAs twisted the law, ignored precedent, and warped science to achieve their preferred ends and stick American families with hundreds of billions of dollars in hidden taxes every single year. We heard loud and clear the concern that EPA's GHG emissions standards themselves, not carbon dioxide which the Finding never assessed independently, was the real threat to Americans' livelihoods. If finalized, rescinding the Endangerment Finding and resulting regulations would end \$1 trillion or more in hidden taxes on American businesses and families."

"Thanks to President Trump's leadership,

(Continued on page 17)

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## It's Not The bias, But The Principle: No Public Funds For Media *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

ernment. No organization likes to see tighter budgets, but such relatively modest cuts don't justify the hysteria. Most traditional media operations have seen vast reductions in their advertising revenue over the past decade or more, so PBS, NPR and their member stations will just have to tighten their belts like everyone else, expand their corporate sponsorships and come up with new revenue sources.

Maybe they can widen their listenership by limiting their stories about why cannibalism is "perfectly natural." Or not. If taxpayers don't have to contribute to the networks' budgets, then it's of little concern to us—and certainly not to a presidential administration—what they broadcast or publish. Viewers can just choose one of the many privately funded disseminators of click bait, political conspiracies or other garbage. It's not even that hard to find something trustworthy and illuminating amid the plethora of modern news choices.

Ben Sheehan, who hosts a civics podcast that streams on PBS, argued in a recent Daily Beast column that the cuts are a threat to local news coverage: "In light of these cuts, consider making a donation to your local PBS or NPR affiliate. Because if the government won't take care of us, it's up to us to take care of each other." Government doesn't take care of us, of course, but he's right that it's up to public-broadcasting's supporters to pick up the slack. It might even help taxpayers and lead to better programming, which is just my biased opinion.

*Steven Greenhut is Western region director for the R Street Institute and a member of the Southern California News Group editorial board. Write to him at [sgreenhut@rstreet.org](mailto:sgreenhut@rstreet.org).*

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## EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Making Heads Explode By Repealing Obama Era Climate Policy *Cont.*

(Continued from page 16)

America is returning to free and open dialogue around climate and energy policy – driving the focus back to following the data," said **U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright**. "Today's announcement is a monumental step toward returning to commonsense policies that expand access to affordable, reliable, secure energy and improve quality of life for all Americans."

The left doesn't even try to hide their schemes any longer:

"The endangerment finding didn't just lead to greenhouse gas standards for cars and trucks. The word 'endangerment' is used in other sections of the Clean Air Act too, and, of course, greenhouse gases are pollutants under the Act. That means that almost all of EPA's major regulations to cut greenhouse gases are issued under the CAA, including regulations to cut emissions from power plants and to regulate methane from oil and gas operations in addition to rules regulating emissions from light duty vehicles (cars and SUVs) and medium and heavy duty trucks."

They lament:

"If the Administration were to reverse the endangerment finding, greenhouse gases would no longer need to be regulated under the Clean Air Act. Presumably, EPA would then simply move to revoke all of Biden's major climate rules regulating cars, trucks, power plants, and oil and gas operations."

Yep. That's the plan.

Expect another lawsuit against the Trump administration from California's eager beaver governor and obsequious parasite Attorney General.

*Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?*

## Immigration Extremes Are On A Collision Course *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

### Demography is Destiny

According to USAFacts.org, teen labor force participation was above 50% throughout most of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. It dipped below that in the early 2000s. Between 2000 and 2010, the rate fell from 52% to 35%. Moreover, the same website indicates that Hispanic or Latino teens tend to have more year-round employment with less seasonal variation compared to other racial groups.

Unfortunately, something much worse has happened among the youth in America today besides the aversion to work. That is, an astounding number of young people are baffled about some very basics in life. How bad is it? According to polling, a shocking 30% of the Gen Zs surveyed could not identify a flathead screwdriver, while 21% couldn't recognize a wrench. Moreover, in answer to the question how many Gen Zs does it take to change a light bulb, we may never know. Pollsters found that nearly 25% of Gen Zs had no idea how to change a lightbulb in a ceiling lamp, with many claiming that climbing a ladder is "too dangerous," while one in five also worry that the bulb might be "too hot."

I believe that the two extremes having to do with our immigration problem – namely, amnesty for all or deport them all – is untenable for a variety of reasons. Amnesty for all is untenable because it will simply invite more immigrants to arrive hoping for the same outcome, amnesty, in the future. President **Ronald Reagan** proved that in 1986 when he signed The Im-

migration Reform and Control Act. It is also unfair to those who have waited in line for years to come here legally. People that come here illegally should have to forfeit forever the opportunity to become a full-fledged citizen, meaning among other things, they can *never* vote. That would take the wind out of the Democrat Party's sails.

On the other hand, I believe that people who come here to neither be a menace nor a burden to society because of their willingness to work hard, play by the rules, pay their taxes, and accept no handouts, should have the opportunity to work and live here with permission by way of a thoroughly vetted guest worker program. I believe this because I have been employed for 45 years in an ag- and industry-related occupation, including four years in a hiring capacity.

But don't take my word for it.

Do your own poll.

Ask your kids and grandkids if they would pick strawberries after having been informed that they could make over \$30 per hour doing so. Or ask somebody working behind the counter at Starbucks or at a Walmart the same question.

In the battle between amnesty for all or deport them all, I don't want to lose sight of the fact that we are a nation of immigrants, and that worked well for us for centuries. Additionally, there is the inescapable fact – which has affected various empires going back for thousands of years – that demography is destiny, no matter which side of this debate you are on.

*Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB*



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## Local Politicians Ignore The Underbelly Of The Marijuana Industry *Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

money; the challenge before them is the ability to launder cash. Hence, ICE is trying to ferret out these business operations.

Karen Velie at *Cal Coast News* has long followed the illustrious career of one **Helios Dayspring** who was the local marijuana kingpin of much of the Central Coast. As a result of his going to prison for having bribed the late, former SLO county supervisor **Adam Hill**, Dayspring was forced to divest his broad holdings. To whom did he do that? Surprise! A significant portion was sold to Glass House in the form of dispensaries and stock in a company held by Dayspring's significant other.

Furthermore, as reported by Velie and **Chris Roberts** writing for *MJBizDaily*, an audacious lawsuit was filed, but ultimately dismissed, by one cannabis grower against another having to do with the unfair trade advantage of selling cannabis on the black market. The defendant in the lawsuit was Glass House. The suit *alleged* that Glass House, *among many others*, sells marijuana in the legal market via so-called "burner distributors"- licensed distributors set up to be briefly used as conduits for legally grown cannabis to enter the illicit market. The person who accused Glass House of all this was **Elliot Lewis** of Catalyst Cannabis Company. He was audacious enough to state, "The cartel is Glass House. Allegedly." Heavy emphasis apparently on the word *allegedly*.

These allegations are above my pay grade, however, let's trust the feds to sort it out since our local electeds appear to have no interest in any of this!

Of course, if our state and local electeds don't like workplace raids, then they should drop their support of our state's sanctuary policies. That is, the feds would rather pick up the convicted criminals they are looking for from our local jails and prisons rather than conduct raids in our neighborhoods and places of work. But our policies to shield people they know who are subject to deportation is serving to exacerbate this situation.

### Broken System Needs Fixing

COLAB is of the opinion that our immigration system is badly broken and that it is not working well for either immigrants or employers. Moreover, we believe the two political and economic extremes of "amnesty for all," or "deport them all," is unreasonable, untenable, and downright foolish.

(Continued on page 20)

## Andy Caldwell Thanks You!



He's a government watchdog, taxpayer, business and traditional values advocate, and the Executive Director of COLAB.

—Andy Caldwell



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## Local Politicians Ignore The Underbelly Of The Marijuana Industry *Cont.*

(Continued from page 19)

Fat chance for reform, however, when one party is set on starting a race riot as their contribution to the immigration debate. For example, *Noozhawk* ran a story quoting Salud Carbajal as stating, "brown people are targets now, but next it could be you." This from the one and same Congressman who doxxed an ICE employee in Carpinteria, thereby setting him up for an attack by the "peaceful protestors" that sent him to the hospital. Another politician from So Cal – **Cynthia Gomez**, Vice Mayor of Cudahy – tried to recruit Latino gang members, pleading with them to "help out and organize" protests against ICE.

We were once a nation of laws, including laws having to do with legal vs illegal immigration. Obviously, too many of our local leaders were glad to see those laws ignored like never before during the Biden administration. Now they are shocked beyond credulity, to grapple with the consequences of an administration intent on enforcing the law without regard to the continued consequences of non-enforcement. That is, as far as these local electeds are concerned, unaccompanied minors and victims of felonious illegal immigrants be damned.

### \* ICE and Customs Enforcement Report:

On July 10, ICE executed federal search warrants at two marijuana operations located in Camarillo and Carpinteria, California. These immigration enforcement operations resulted in the arrests of 300+ illegal aliens, including:

**Juan Duarte-Velasquez** — a Mexican criminal alien convicted of RAPE in Washington and arrested for impaired driving in California

**Roman Avalos-Izquierdo** — a previously deported Mexican criminal alien convicted of KIDNAPPING and attempted FIRST-DEGREE RAPE

**Santos Alberto Rodriguez-Jacinto** — a Salvadoran illegal alien arrested TWICE in his home country for terrorism

**Jorge Luis Anaya-Garcia** — a Mexican criminal alien convicted in California for a narcotics trafficking offense

**Jose Vasquez-Lopez** — a Mexican criminal alien with FIVE previous deportations and a Florida conviction for first-degree battery

**Fabian Fernando Antonio-Martinez** — a Mexican criminal alien who was granted voluntary return twice before and was arrested in Ventura for felony firearm possession

**Josefina Lopez-Martinez** — a previously deported Mexican criminal alien convicted of WILLFUL CHILD CRUELTY in Ventura

**Jose Alcides Orellano-Rodriguez** — A Salvadoran criminal alien with several impaired driving arrests, multiple impaired driving convictions, an arrest for hit-and-run causing property damage and an arrest for possessing a controlled substance

**Jesus Hernandez-Ramirez** — a Mexican criminal alien granted voluntary departure THREE TIMES and arrested for indecent exposure

**Miguel Mejia-Echevearia** — a Salvadoran criminal alien arrested in California for hit-and-run with property damage

(Continued on page 21)

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## Local Politicians Ignore The Underbelly Of The Marijuana Industry *Cont.*

(Continued from page 20)

**Christina Martinez-Modesto** — a Mexican criminal alien arrested in California for assault and battery of her spouse

**Cynthia Paola Cardona-Mendoza** — a Mexican criminal alien arrested for assault with a deadly weapon in California

**Adriana Gonzalez-Gonzalez** — a Mexican criminal alien arrested multiple times in California for burglary and impaired driving.

ICE also rescued several unaccompanied children. One of the kids was previously identified by the Center for Countering Human Trafficking.

They accomplished this despite over 500 rioters and protestors trying to foil the multiagency targeted immigration enforcement operation. Four U.S. citizens were arrested for assaulting or resisting federal agents.

Special agents are interviewing *all* illegal aliens arrested and each unaccompanied child. All aliens in ICE custody are screened for human trafficking.

*Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB*



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