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Directors of CIA and FBI Warn Southern Border Threatens Homeland Security

Terrorists and WMDs May Be Slipping Across Lawless Mexican Border

CIA Director Porter Goss, FBI Director Robert Mueller and Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Admiral James Loy, warned the Senate Intelligence Committee terrorist organizations are taking advantage of our poorly protected southern border to infiltrate operatives and, potentially, weapons of mass destruction to our country.

"Several al-Qaeda leaders believe operatives can pay their way into the country through Mexico and also believe illegal entry is more advantageous than legal entry for operational security reasons," Loy testified. Among the terrorists specifically cited in intelligence reports is Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian national leading the violent insurgency in Iraq. U.S. intelligence believes that al-Qaeda is working with an El Salvadoran gang, *Mara Salvatrucha* (a.k.a. MS-13), to smuggle terrorists across the Mexican border. [See MS-13 story](#). Finding sleeper cells of al-Qaeda terrorists who may have already entered the country "is the top priority of the FBI, but is also one of the most difficult challenges," Mueller told the senators. Even more chilling, Goss warned the next attack on U.S. soil may be far deadlier than the attacks of 9/11. "It may only be a matter of time before al-Qaeda or another group attempts to use chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons," said the new CIA chief.

In spite of these dire warnings from three of the nation's top intelligence and law enforcement personnel, President Bush's proposed FY 2006 budget includes funding for only 210 new Border Patrol agents, little more than 10 percent of the number authorized by Congress last December. While the United States is spending billions of dollars on a worldwide "war on terrorism," we continue to ignore what Adm. Loy describes as a "very serious situation" along our vulnerable southern border.

Threat Goes Beyond Unguarded Border

Long before the tragic attacks of September 11, FAIR publicly warned America's lax immigration policies — including our poorly enforced border — were a threat to homeland security. Moreover, the threat goes beyond the immediate border. Lack of interior immigration enforcement, an archaic documentation system, and the growing acceptance of foreign identity documents mean that terrorists who can penetrate our borders will almost certainly be undetected and undisturbed as they go about their business of killing Americans.

In a series of annual updates, FAIR laid out a comprehensive list of reforms that need to be enacted and enforced to provide a defense that meets the seriousness of the threat posed to our national security. These recommendations are the basis for testimony presented by FAIR to congressional committees, and our work with members of Congress to draft and pass legislation aimed at securing our nation against the threat of international terrorists. View a complete list of FAIR publications [here](#).

FAIR Report Shows Immigration Driving Massive U.S. Population Growth

Between 1970 and 2004, U.S. population grew from 200 million to 300 million — a 50 percent increase — driven largely by mass immigration and their U.S.-born children. According to the study, [*Immigrant Stock's Share of U.S. Population Growth 1970-2004*](#), if current immigration and fertility patterns among immigrants continues, America's population is likely to reach the half billion plateau by mid-century, with nearly all of the increase attributable to post-1970 immigration.

The early 1970s, when the current wave of mass immigration began, coincided with the release of a report of the blue ribbon Rockefeller Commission, which asserted that no national interests would be served by population growth beyond the 200 million level existing at that time. The unprecedented immigration that occurred since has benefited a small number of special interests, while causing social, economic and environmental distress for the vast majority of Americans.

The authors of the new FAIR analysis of post-1970 immigration, Joy Lee, Jack Martin and Stan Fogel, note while the impact of the past 35 years of irresponsible immigration policies cannot be undone, we need not compound our errors by perpetuating failed immigration policies. "We can reach rational decisions about where this nation is headed in the next 35 years and beyond. It all hinges on our willingness to address immigration policies, or whether we allow those policies to dictate the future to us," write the authors.

Government Sweep Nabs Hundreds of Illegal Alien Gang Members

MS-13 Believed to be Working With Islamic Terror Groups

Most Americans may not be familiar with Mara Salvatrucha, but leading Middle East terrorists know the Salvadoran crime syndicate that, among other illegal activities, smuggles illegal aliens into the U.S. Known on the street as MS-13, the largely illegal alien gang has operations in 31 states and is engaged in a variety of criminal enterprises.

The March 14 sweeps netted 103 MS-13 members in seven U.S. cities, but they represent only the tip of the iceberg. The government estimates the gang has between 8,000 and 10,000 members in this country, and most are here illegally. The gang has its roots in El Salvador, and many of its members were allowed to remain in this country under Temporary Protected Status (TPS). It now includes members from Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

FAIR urges the Federal Government to restrict the TPS provision to only foreigners who are legally in the United States at the time that an event in their home country makes it unreasonable to expect them to return home. Illegal aliens, such as most of the Salvadorans who are benefiting from TPS, were in the country illegally when they were given TPS status and have no intention of leaving when TPS no longer applies.

Recent intelligence reports warn that MS-13, which is responsible for violent crimes all across the country, have been approached by Middle Eastern terror groups, including those with ties to al-Qaeda, in order to smuggle personnel and weaponry across our poorly protected southern frontier.

REAL ID Act May Go to the Senate as Part of Military Spending Bill

The REAL ID Act, H.R. 418, the bill approved by the House in February, may be headed for the Senate as part of a supplemental appropriations measure to fund the military efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and provide relief to the victims of the tsunami. The bill would set uniform national standards for driver's licenses, curb abuses of the political asylum system, and clear the way for completion of the border fence in Southern California.

The urgent need for immediate enactment of the REAL ID Act, even if it means bypassing the normal legislative process in the Senate, was driven home by the testimony of Janice L. Kephart, counsel to the 9/11 Commission. Ms. Kephart, appearing before two Senate subcommittees on March 14, warned, "Terrorists will continue to successfully enter the United States, because we still lack adequate technologies; integrated information systems that house biometric travel histories of visitors and immigrants; and specialized training in terrorist travel tactics."

Ms. Kephart stressed the importance terrorists place on obtaining driver's licenses. "If our issuing regime had been tighter in other ways, such as demanding more secure documentation before the identification could be issued, or limiting the issuance of a driver's license to more permanent U.S. residents, more of the 9/11 terrorists would have had difficulty obtaining a driver's license or other state identification," she said. Kephart also asserts without state-issued licenses to show when they boarded the planes on the morning of 9/11, they would have had to show their Saudi or Lebanese passports and attracted greater scrutiny from screeners.

"OTMs" Surging Across the Border

The growing number of terrorists and weapons of mass destruction infiltrating our southern border is reflected in the growing numbers of third country foreign nationals being apprehended by the Border Patrol. In the past year, the number of apprehensions of "Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)" increased by 137 percent. Owing to a lack of detention space, most OTMs are released on their own recognizance. An estimated 90 percent (about 75,000 individuals) of those released fail to appear for their deportation hearing.

Among the OTMs apprehended while attempting to enter the U.S. illegally from Mexico were citizens of Afghanistan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. The Border Patrol has long estimated that for every illegal alien caught coming across the border, about three elude them. Using the 2004 OTM apprehension figure of 75,389, it is possible as many as 225,000 such individuals succeeded in entering the country, including possible terrorists.

Around the Country

Nebraska

Efforts by some members of the Nebraska Legislature to allow illegal aliens to attend state universities and colleges at taxpayer subsidized tuition rates sparked strong opposition from local residents. FAIR's Midwest field director, Susan Tully, is working to educate local groups in Nebraska who have organized to oppose the growing problem of illegal immigration in that state. Tully, along with Nebraska proponents of immigration reform, appeared before a March 15 hearing on Legislative Bill 239 to voice opposition to the proposal that will deny educational opportunities to citizens and legal residents and force the taxpayers to subsidize college educations for illegal aliens.

Maryland

FAIR staffers who live in Maryland, together with immigration reform activists working closely with FAIR, converged on the Maryland Legislature in Annapolis on March 17 to voice support for five pieces of legislation aimed at limiting state benefits to illegal aliens and enforcing laws against illegal immigration. The bills introduced by Dels. Herb McMillan (R-Anne Arundel) and Richard Impallaria (R-Baltimore) would bar illegal aliens from obtaining driver's licenses and limit taxpayer resources currently being spent on illegal aliens.

Utah

Immigration reform activists won a victory in Utah when the state legislature approved, and Gov. John Huntsman signed Senate Bill 227, a law to prevent those without valid Social Security numbers from obtaining driver's licenses. FAIR's Western field director, Rick Oltman, worked to educate and inform activists in the state about the dangers of granting licenses to illegal aliens. These activists are developing a grassroots immigration reform advocacy movement to lobby for changes in the state's licensing policy.

Georgia

Frustrated by rising state costs and the harm to American workers, Georgia legislators introduced a series of bills to limit taxpayer liability for services provided to illegal aliens and to get tough on employers who undercut American workers by hiring illegal aliens. State Sen. Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock), working with a framework of legislation developed by FAIR's staff attorney, Mike Hethmon, is the prime sponsor of most of the bills. Rogers' efforts recently attracted the attention of CNN's Lou Dobbs who had the state senator appear as a guest on his program.

Day Labor Sites Illegal Aliens Just Won't Use

The one issue that brings more new activists to FAIR and provides the impetus for the creation of local immigration reform organizations is the creation of day laborer hiring sites in communities around the country — using public money. In every region of the country, FAIR field staff work with local citizens who oppose the creation of job centers that help illegal aliens find jobs they are prohibited from holding under federal law.

In Costa Mesa, California, one of the first such hiring sites is being closed because, in the words of the town's mayor Allan Mansoor, "there are no illegal aliens using the job center." Ironically, it was opposition to this very site that got Susan Tully, now FAIR's Midwest Regional Director, involved in immigration reform activism. The site, which will close on June 30, costs local taxpayers \$103,000 a year to operate.

FAIR's field representatives travel all across the country to educate people opposed to such hiring sites taking root in their communities. These local activists prevent many cities and towns from using taxpayer money to aid illegal aliens in violating federal laws that prevent them from holding jobs in the United States.

Aside from helping educate local communities, working to prevent the construction of illegal alien hiring halls has proven to be a valuable tool in developing a stronger national immigration reform movement. People who are spurred to action by what is happening in their own communities apply their activism to the national effort to control illegal immigration and reform our immigration policies.

If your community is faced with illegal aliens soliciting jobs on street corners, or your city or town is contemplating spending your tax dollars to erect a hiring site for illegal alien laborers, please get in touch with FAIR for information on the issue so you may form a group in your community to oppose it.

A FAIR Review...The 14th Amendment Debate

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A new report by the Pew Hispanic Center indicates that there are nearly twice as many U.S.-born children of illegal aliens in U.S. schools as there are kids who are illegal aliens themselves. This information rekindles the debate about automatic birthright citizenship.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, or the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States." The amendment, ratified on July 9, 1868 — three years after the end of the Civil War — was written to ensure freed slaves and their children U.S. citizenship.

While the amendment was adopted to deal with the unique situation of former slaves, the privilege of birthright citizenship is now extended to U.S.-born children of illegal aliens, and even casual tourists. This was specifically not the intent of those who wrote the amendment nearly 140 years ago. Speaking before Congress in 1866, Senator Jacob Howard, a co-author of the 14th Amendment, laid out the clear intent of law: "Every person born within the limits of the United States, and subject to their jurisdiction, is by virtue of natural law and national law a citizen of the United States. *This will not, of course, include persons born in the United States who are foreigners, aliens, who belong to the families of ambassadors or foreign ministers accredited to the Government of the United States, but will include every other class of persons.*" [Emphasis added.]

In addition to the unambiguous intentions of framers of the 14th Amendment, lawmakers of the mid-19th century could not have envisioned the mobility of life in the 21st century that makes it possible for people anywhere on earth to easily get to the United States and give birth to a child who is instantly entitled to the full benefits of U.S. citizenship. Citizenship implies a level of commitment and identification with a nation and a society, not the geographical circumstances of one's birth. It is critical in a world in which millions of people are living outside of their countries of citizenship, that the United States adopt citizenship policies that reflect the intent of the Constitution and the realities of our times.

FAIR has worked to change the birthright citizenship policy and currently supports H.R. 698 introduced by Rep. Nathan Deal (R-GA) in February.

Together, We Are Making a Difference

March 1, 2005

Dan Stein, President
Federation for American Immigration Reform
1666 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Dan:

Going back to my days as an educator and later as a member of the Colorado legislature, I have been dealing with the disastrous impact of mass immigration — both legal and illegal for many years. I came to Congress, therefore, with a determination to get our federal government to deal with these policies that are wreaking havoc on the lives of individual Americans and communities all across the United States.

The cause of immigration reform, I am pleased to report, is gaining momentum in Congress. I am no longer just a lonely voice from the back bench, but part of a growing chorus in both houses of Congress calling for enforcement of our immigration laws and substantial reductions in legal immigration.

While I am gratified by the growing coalition for immigration reform, I cannot forget what it was like when I first arrived in Congress in 1999. Among the few places I could turn for support and responsible advocacy on behalf immigration enforcement and reductions was the Federation for American Immigration Reform. I quickly grew to respect the work that FAIR had been carrying out since 1979 and found that I could rely on them for support and sound judgment.

During my years in Congress, as I introduced legislation calling for a moratorium on immigration, I have always been able to count on FAIR for support and be certain that the organization would mobilize its members and activists in support of an immigration time out. FAIR has similarly always been there as we have fought to enhance border security, oppose amnesty for illegal aliens, protect American jobs, and countless other battles.

As one quickly discovers in Washington, there are individuals and organizations that get things done and make an impact, and there are others that just make noise. When it comes to immigration reform, FAIR must certainly be preeminent among the organizations that are making a difference. It is not by accident that FAIR is frequently called upon by members of Congress for expertise and guidance, and whose representatives are constantly called upon by the leading news media.

As we embark on the 109th Congress, I look forward to continuing to work with FAIR as we advance many important bills that will make our nation and our people more secure, and move forward with the work of ending illegal immigration and instituting substantial reductions in overall immigration.

Sincerely,

Tom Tancredo, M.C.



Feet to the Fire. . .Last Call!

LAST CALL! There is still time to join America's favorite radio talk show hosts and immigration reform activists in Washington, D.C., April 23-28 to hold Congress' Feet to the Fire on immigration reform.

Roger Hedgecock, San Diego's top-rated radio talk show host and frequent guest host of the Rush Limbaugh Show, and FAIR are organizing this year's Hold Their Feet to the Fire campaign. Roger is bringing radio talk show hosts and members of their listening audiences from around the country to the nation's capital to make sure Congress keeps its promise to reform America's immigration policies.

We have commitments from some of America's most influential talk radio personalities to bring their programs to Washington, D.C., for the Hold Their Feet to the Fire campaign.

These dynamic personalities will be discussing the need for immigration reform, interviewing congressional leaders and Bush Administration officials—making sure the voice of America is heard loud and clear. Listeners are packing their bags and coming to Capitol Hill to meet face-to-face with the key congressional leaders and state congressional delegations to Hold Their Feet to the Fire about the urgency to reform America's obsolete and dangerous immigration policies.

The week-long event will also include training sessions as well as a reception on Capitol Hill and a special dinner with addresses from FAIR President Dan Stein and Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO) as well as other distinguished guests.

If you're unable to attend in person, you can still participate from home! See FAIR's Feet to the Fire page for details or call 1 877-627-3247.

For full details and cost information, visit our [Feet to the Fire](#) page. Travel arrangements can be made through Sandy Carter Travel (West Coast) 866-929-0098/ sandra49@pacbell.net or Executive Travel (East Coast) 703-556-6561/ priscillam@megapathdsl.net.