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Special Report

Illegals From Terror-Sponsoring Nations at Large in US

By Kevin Mooney

CNSNews.com Staff Writer

August 08, 2006

(CNSNews.com) - Almost half of the illegal aliens arriving in the U.S. from terrorist-sponsoring or "special interest" nations in the past few years have been released into the American population following their apprehension. This key finding is published in an internal audit of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) obtained by **Cybercast News Service**.

The so-called "catch and release" policies have allowed more than 45,000 illegal aliens from countries that are well known for their anti-American views or considered "hotbeds of Islamic fundamentalism" to be freed.

U.S. Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas), in conversations with sheriffs operating along the Texas-Mexico border, learned that illegal aliens of Middle Eastern descent have been able to blend into the culture south of the U.S. border and pass themselves off as Mexicans.

"They learn Spanish and assimilate into the population," Poe said. "Coming across the Canadian border they would be more conspicuous."

The U.S. State Department's list of [State Sponsors of Terrorism](#) (SSTs), currently includes five countries -- Syria, Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Sudan. However, the DHS audit lists another category called Special Interest Countries (SICs).

At the moment there is no public list of SICs, however, information made available through the office of U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) indicates that countries with large Islamic fundamentalist populations such as the U.S.-liberated Afghanistan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, are included on the State Department's SIC list.

Between the beginning of Fiscal Year 2001 and the mid-way point of Fiscal Year 2005, the [DHS audit](#) revealed that 605,210 individuals from countries "other than Mexico" (OTMs) were apprehended and 309,733 of that total were eventually released.

A [total of 91,516 illegal aliens](#) from SST and SIC countries were apprehended over the same time period and 45,008 were released, the audit showed.

The audit was produced by the DHS Office of Inspector General and

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focuses on the Detention and Removal Program, which is operated by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau (ICE). The audit was produced in April, but when completed in May, it "was made public on a Friday night with no press release," said Connie Hair, a spokeswoman for the group of citizen volunteers committed to fighting illegal immigration known as the [Minuteman Civil Defense Corps](#).

The audit report, Hair said "was buried in an obscure corner of the DHS website," and discovered only as a result of her group's research.

The Detention and Removal Program (DRO) anticipates over 600,000 foreign-born individuals will be incarcerated in state correctional facilities during Fiscal Year 2007. Current estimates show that at least half of these criminal aliens - 300,000 - will be released or removed due to a lack of resources, according to the DHS audit.

Jamie Zueback, a spokeswoman for ICE, advised against making "radical assumptions" about the individuals involved in the DRO simply because they come from a certain country. She also said that as a result of new programs, ICE is "making rapid progress" toward ending the practice of "catch and release."

During the month of July ICE added 1,500 inmate beds nationwide, Zueback said. She also pointed out that over 90 percent of the non-Mexican illegal aliens being apprehended are being detained. "No aliens are being released because of a lack of bed space," she said.

Zueback cited statistics that show ICE fugitive teams are averaging 1,000 arrests a week. But agency officials admit that the available data only points to illegal aliens who have been detected. The DHS audit does not address the influx of illegal aliens who elude apprehension.

"The data is incomplete," cautions T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council, the union representing over 10,000 "front line" border agents and part of the American Federation of Government employees. "We only know of the ones we apprehend. For every person caught there are two or three that slip by."

Bonner said he believes front line border control agents apprehend roughly 25 percent of the aliens entering the U.S. illegally. He also expects that "catch and release" policies will continue as long as there is insufficient funding.

Poe pointed to "a lack of will" on the part of the federal government, which he said translates into a paucity of "inner heartland enforcement."

The Texas congressman has some specific proposals. He would like to see abandoned military bases and Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers used for the purposes of detention. Poe is also calling for more federal funding for the hiring of immigration judges so the legal hearings of illegal aliens can be better managed.

The DIIS audit pointed to a number of factors, in addition to funding shortages that are responsible for "catch and release."

It cites the "propensity of illegal aliens to disobey court orders to appear in immigration court" and "the penchant of released illegal aliens with final orders to abscond."

Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions also mandate the release of criminal aliens and even "high risk aliens" 180 days after the issuance of

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the final removal order. Finally, the report states that some countries "block" the repatriation of their citizens.

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 from the March 22, 2005 edition



THE BOUNDARY: A US border patrol vehicle rolls down the road in Douglas, Ariz. Border issues will be a central subject during Bush's summit Wednesday in Texas.
 MATT YORK/AP/FILE

US-MEXICAN BORDER AS A TERROR RISK

Recent intelligence gives the most evidence yet of terrorist plans. Lawmakers push for tighter security.

By Faye Bowers | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON — Concern is growing at the top levels of government about the US-Mexican border becoming a back door for terrorists entering the United States. While Al Qaeda infiltration across the nation's southern border has been a constant concern since 9/11, US officials cite recent intelligence giving the most definitive evidence yet that terrorists are planning to use it as an entry point - if they haven't already.

As a result, a number of Republican and Democratic lawmakers - mainly from border states - are pushing to tighten checkpoints and other ways of monitoring the porous 1,400-mile boundary. The subject will also be central to President Bush's summit in Texas Wednesday with Mexican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

"I'm worried about our border," Sen. John McCain (R) of Arizona said at a March 17 Senate hearing on threats facing the US. "We have now hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people who are crossing illegally every year. And we are now seeing a larger number of people cross our southern border who are from countries of interest as opposed to just Latin American [countries]."

The "countries of interest" that Senator McCain refers to are those so designated by the US government as known to house radical, if not terrorist, groups.

One of the biggest concerns is that terrorists may exploit the current crossing procedures to make their way into the US. One way they might do this - and members of Congress say evidence is mounting that terrorists are trying this - is by paying smuggling networks, especially organized gangs.

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The other is through a loophole in the system to separate the large number of illegal Mexican migrants, who are automatically turned back at the borders, from citizens of other countries who are allowed in, pending immigration hearings. These others are referred to as "other than Mexicans," or OTMs, by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). They come from other Latin American countries as well as other parts of the world, many of them designated by the government as countries of "special interest." In 2004, some 44,000 OTMs were allowed into the US.

It's not clear how many terrorists or people having connections to terror groups may have entered the US as OTMs. But FBI Director Robert Mueller, in a House Appropriations Committee hearing March 9, said he was aware that individuals from countries with known Al Qaeda ties had entered the US under false identities.

Furthermore, in a Feb. 16 Senate hearing, Mr. Mueller cited the case of Mahmoud Youssef Kourani, who paid to be smuggled across the US-Mexico border in 2001. He pleaded guilty on March 1 to providing material support to Hizbullah and was sentenced to no more than five years in prison.

The most recent sign, though, that terrorists may be thinking of entering the US from the south came from the mastermind of many of the terror attacks in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Last week, US officials revealed that Mr. Zarqawi may be planning to broaden his campaign to include strikes in the US - and suggested it would be easy to infiltrate the US through the southern border.

Of the 44,000 OTMs who entered the US last year, it is not known how many were detained and how many remain free. Members of Congress are continuing to lean on government officials, asking for clear assessments of numbers as well as policies intended to thwart the entry of those who would harm the US.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) of California asked the DHS's Adm. James Loy at a hearing last month about the numbers of OTMs detained and those set free. He replied that he didn't have the numbers, and as of the end of last week, the senator's office said the DHS still hadn't provided her those numbers.

But in response to a request from Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D) of Texas, the DHS supplied numbers of OTMs registered, by country of origin, who had been released on their own recognizance for fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004. The totals were 5,775, 9,139, and 30,756 respectively.

Some countries, such as those known to export gang members, showed dramatic increases in numbers entering the US. The DHS document, for instance, shows 1,463 OTMs entering the US from El Salvador in 2002. That number increased to 7,963 in 2004. Some 2,539 OTMs entered the US from Honduras in 2002, and that number increased to 12,549 in 2004.

Representative Ortiz, though, disputes many of the DHS numbers. He says he regularly hears reports of much higher figures from border patrol officials from his district in Texas, which includes the border-crossing area of Brownsville.

"In the Brownsville sector alone, border patrol officials reported they caught 23,178 OTMs crossing through August 2004," Mr. Ortiz says. "Of those, 18,818 were released."

Ortiz also points out that another loophole is entering Mexico through Brazil, where a visa is not required to travel to Mexico.

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"We believe there is an international Salafist jihadi movement with a goal to attack the near enemy and far enemy - the US," says Richard Shultz, an international security expert at Tufts University's Fletcher School in Medford, Mass. "These terrorists are smart. They study these issues and learn from one other. And one way in is right through the southern security perimeter."

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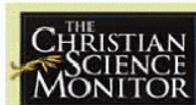
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Tuesday, April 15, 2008

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Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Last modified Wednesday, April 9, 2008 1:17 PM PDT

REGION: Edison initiative adds twist to power-line debate

By DAVE DOWNEY - Staff Writer



SAN DIEGO ---- *UC San Diego's Russell Thackston sits next to photovoltaic solar panels on the roof of the Powell Structure Lab on the La Jolla campus. Thackston, the university's director of facility management, says UCSD is planning to install more solar panels atop its buildings, a move solar energy supporters say is should be done on large rooftops throughout the county. / HAYNE PALMOUR IV Staff Photographer*

When Southern California's largest utility said it was going to generate 250 megawatts of electricity from solar panels on warehouse rooftops, it injected a new element into the debate over a proposed power line in San Diego County.

Southern California Edison's recent announcement has implications for San Diego Gas & Electric Co.'s proposed \$1.5 billion Sunrise Powerlink transmission line.

A power line opponent has proposed a similar project in place of wires to power the county's future: solar panels on the roofs of large commercial buildings and over sprawling parking lots.

That opponent, engineer and activist Bill Powers of San Diego, took the stand briefly Tuesday during the courtlike proceeding examining the merits and environmental impacts of the power line.

Powers may be questioned again Wednesday afternoon.

The California Public Utilities Commission says it intends to rely on mountains of reports, as well as testimony from hearings this week in San Diego and next week in San Francisco, to decide whether to license the project.

A decision is anticipated by August.

The third day of hearings is scheduled for Wednesday at the California Center for Sustainable Energy.

SDG&E is proposing to string a 150-mile high-voltage line from El Centro to Carmel Valley by 2011, if given the green light by either state or regulators.

If denied by the state, the utility could appeal, as early as October, to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The line would pass through Anza-Borrego Desert Park, Santa Ysabel, Ramona and Rancho Penasquitos. Many residents of the communities and environmentalists oppose the project; business leaders and a number of prominent politicians support it.

In previously filed testimony, SDG&E dismissed Powers' vision for 920 megawatts of rooftop solar energy as "hypothetical and not feasible," saying nowhere near that amount could be developed.

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The company expressed strong skepticism of Powers' suggestion that solar panels could be installed at a cost of approximately \$5 per watt, saying more than \$7 was more realistic.

But Powers maintained in a recent interview that Edison's March 27 announcement lends credence to his vision.

"To have the biggest utility in Southern California embrace this changes the dynamic of the discussion," Powers said last week in a telephone interview. "What it does is, it shifts the discussion of major photovoltaic deployment into the mainstream. Until (March 27), it could be categorized by our local utility as an unworkable pipe dream."

During cross-examination Tuesday, SDG&E attorney Richard Raushenbush, in an exchange that turned testy at times, repeatedly asked Powers to state how much it would cost to build solar panels that generate 920 megawatts.

Powers did not provide a figure, saying overall cost was not an issue because it would be borne by entrepreneurs who would be entitled to state solar rebates.

In proposing to build its own 250-megawatt network of solar panels, Edison said it was preparing to spend \$875 million. And company officials said they would expand the system to 500 megawatts if the first phase is successful.

Powers said Edison is showing that rooftop sun power can be used on a large and affordable scale to meet the San Diego area's needs. SDG&E is seeking to increase its supply by 1,000 megawatts, about 20 percent of its current supply.

Gil Alexander, a spokesman for Edison in the Los Angeles area, said his company had found a way to install the solar panels for \$3.50 per watt.

Edison's first solar installment will be on a warehouse in San Bernardino County and it is expected to be operating by August, Alexander said.

SDG&E spokeswoman Jennifer Briscoe said the San Diego-based utility was "intrigued" by the project. "It is a new model," she said.

However, Briscoe said it would be hard to replicate the Edison example because there are fewer warehouses in San Diego County.

Powers dismissed Briscoe's conclusion.

"What's a Wal-Mart? What's a Costco? They are big and flat," Powers said. "And they are ready to go."

Starting with a 600,000-square-foot distribution center owned by ProLogis in Fontana, Edison proposes to pave rooftops throughout its service territory, which spans northern Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and several other counties.

Edison estimates the project will cost \$875 million, a figure that includes charges for leasing rooftop space from building owners.

When completed in 2013, the rooftop network will negate the need for a new power plant, Alexander said in an interview last week.

"What we are doing essentially is building a 2-square-mile solar utility power plant," he said. "And the wires that come off these roofs will go right into neighborhood distribution circuits."

Because panels produce the most electricity when the sun is high in the sky, this project will help keep air conditioners humming on hot August and September afternoons.

"It's a type of generation that matches almost exactly the peak needs of our customers," Alexander said.

In other testimony Tuesday morning addressing fire threat, Ramona's Joseph Mitchell said San Diego County has had more fires sparked by power lines in recent years than other Southern California counties.

He acknowledged, however, that precise causes for the October 2007 fires have not been determined.

Still, Mitchell said he found through his own analysis of SDG&E data that on three occasions between February 2004 and November 2007, 230-kilovolt lines caused fires in San Diego County. Between Warner Springs and Carmel Valley, Sunrise would be a 230-kilovolt line.

Mitchell surmised there would be a 10 percent chance of Sunrise sparking a fire in its first 40 years of operation, a point SDG&E vigorously disputed.

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Contact staff writer Dave Downey at (760) 745-6611, Ext. 2623, or dldowney@nctimes.com.

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March 28, 2008

SCE Launches 250-MW Solar Project

California, United States [RenewableEnergyWorld.com]

Southern California Edison (SCE) has launched one of the largest solar installations in the U.S. SCE plans to install up to 250 megawatts (MW) of advanced solar photovoltaic (PV) generating technology on 65 million square feet of roofs on Southern California commercial buildings.

This project was prompted by recent reductions in the cost of installed PV generation, according to SCE. When combined with the size of [SCE's](#) investment, the resulting costs per unit are projected to be half that of common photovoltaic installations in California. SCE asked the CPUC for approval to install the solar cell technology during the next five years. The request estimates the total project cost will be US \$875 million.

“This project will turn two square miles of unused commercial rooftops into advanced solar generating stations,” said John Bryson, Edison International's CEO. “We hope to have the first solar rooftops in service by August. The sunlight power will be available to meet our largest challenge – peak load demands on the hottest days.”

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Wind Farm Oil Taints West Martinsburg Well

December 29, 2007 by Steve Virkler in Watertown Daily Times

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A mineral oil spill caused by an Independence Day transformer explosion at the Maple Ridge Wind Farm has apparently contaminated a residential well. However, it doesn't appear to have affected neighboring wells according to state Department of Environmental Conservation officials.

The July 4 explosion at the wind farm substation up the hill from the hamlet on Rector Road – which caused a temporary shutdown of the facility – led to 491 gallons of oil leaking from the damaged transformer said DEC spokesman Steven W. Litwhiler. “They reported the spill and they were quick-acting at commencing the cleanup” Mr. Litwhiler said.

However, a West Martinsburg resident in late November reported the presence of oil in his well water and tests ultimately determined that contaminant had the characteristics of oil used in the electrical transformers, he said. Wind farm officials have been notified of the findings which suggest the contaminants are remnants of the July 4 spill.

Neighboring wells were also tested for contaminants, with negative results, Mr. Litwhiler said.

Future testing is planned, he said.

DEC provided all residents with bottled water until confirming their wells were not contaminated, Mr. Litwhiler said. Agency officials are also working with the state Department of Health to determine potential long-term solutions like installation of a filtering system for the affected home he said.

DEC has taken no action against the wind farm, but the file on the spill hasn't yet been closed. Wind farm officials have been cooperating thus far, Mr. Litwhiler said.

Tod W. Nash, the wind farm's operations manager was unavailable for comment Friday afternoon.

Wind farm officials were planning soon to change the transformer that malfunctioned and had a replacement part on hand, PPM Atlantic Renewable's William M. Moore who developed the 195-turbine wind farm in the towns of Martinsburg and Lowville said in July.

The transformers' insulation system consists of insulating oil and cellulous materials and that mixture generates small amounts of combustible and non-combustible gases under normal use, Mr. Nash said last month in an e-mail.

According to Mr. Nash, wind farm officials – as part of their routine maintenance schedule – in August and September took oil samples from randomly selected transformers and found that some had higher-than-normal levels of gases and subsequently tested the rest of them. Less than one-third were identified as having above-normal levels.

While the July 4 explosion was caused by equipment failure, not gas build-up, wind farm officials still decided to implement a 17-day around-the-clock “de-gassing effort” to avoid any potential incidents, Mr. Nash said. Two tractor trailers were used to filter gases from oil in the targeted transformers.

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COMMON WIND TURBINE ACCIDENTS

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**Who would ever think those huge towers
could crinkle and fall?**

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Or catch on fire!

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Do the companies provide appropriate ladders for local fire departments?



Nur noch eine rauchende Ruine blieb gestern von dieser Windkraftanlage in Tüttendorf bei Rendsburg übrig. Durch Blitzschlag hatte sich die Gondel in 60 Meter Höhe entzündet und brannte aus. Foto: dpa

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posted: March 28, 2008 • [Minnesota](#)

Wind turbine fire

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Smoke pours from the top and bottom of one of the wind turbines at the Ewington Wind Farm near the Heron Lake exit north of Interstate 90 Wednesday morning. The Brewster and Okabena Fire Departments responded to the scene, but upon the advice of Suzlon Wind Energy officials, the fire was allowed to burn itself out. (Brian Korthals/Daily Globe)

[Worthington Daily Globe](#)

27 March 2008



Blog it:

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Or come apart.



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**Blades twist,
fold, and
fall off.**

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But I bet those cattle
often pictured in
industry shots
under the turbines,
wouldn't even notice!

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And then there are the bigger, heavier parts that hit the ground.



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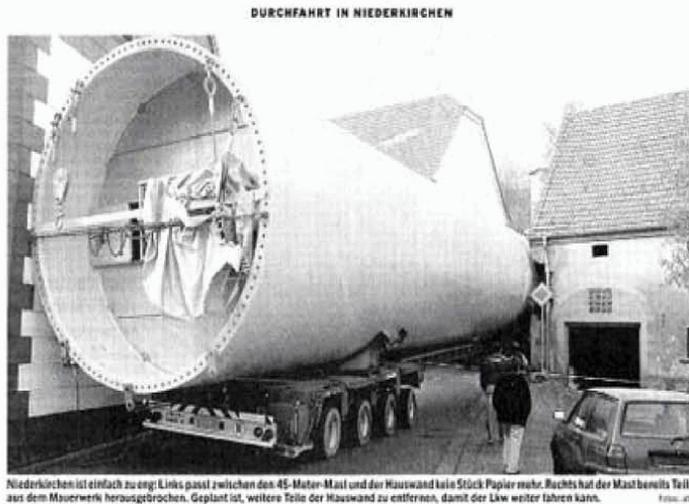


Bet they'd even heard that thud in town!

Comment Set B0002, cont.
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B0002-109 cont.

What about transporting those huge parts...



Niederkirchen ist einfach zu eng: Links passt zwischen dem 45-Meter-Mast und der Hauswand kein Stück Papier mehr. Rechts hat der Mast bereits Teile aus dem Mauerwerk herausgerammt. Geplant ist, weitere Teile der Hauswand zu entfernen, damit der Lkw weiter fahren kann.

45-Meter-Mast rammt Haus

Saarbrücker Zeitung
St. Wendeler Zeitung
26. Nov. 2004



Das zerstörte Mauerwerk. Vor dem Straßenschild erkennt man die rausgebrochenen Steine. Der Vorderteil des dänischen Lkw der sich gestern in Niederkirchen verkeilte.

Guess those homes have to go!

For actual pictures and more information visit:
<http://ventdubocage.net/accident.htm>
<http://ventdubocage.net/accident2.htm>
<http://ventdubocage.net/accident3.htm>
<http://ventdubocage.net/accident5.htm>
<http://ventdubocage.net/accident-allemaagne1.htm>
<http://ventdubocage.net/accident4.htm>
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