

TESTIMONY OF

J.J. Carrell  
Retired Deputy Patrol Agent in Charge U.S. Border Patrol,  
Author, Documentary Filmmaker

For a Hearing

BEFORE

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability

ON

“Trafficked, Exploited, and Missing: Migrant Children Victims  
of the Biden-Harris Administration”

November 19, 2024  
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Trafficked, Exploited and Missing Migrant Children  
Victims of the Biden-Harris Administration  
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Chairman Higgins, Ranking Member Correa, Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Ivey, and Members of the Subcommittees, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about the evil of child trafficking caused by the open border policies under President Joe Biden and his administration.

I served in the United States Border Patrol for 24 years until I retired as a Deputy Patrol Agent in Charge in San Diego Sector. I worked under five presidential administrations and only one President secured the border, President Donald Trump. Border Patrol Agents went from working and being supported by the greatest border President in American history to the worst, President Joe Biden.

My last year in the Border Patrol was Joe Biden's first year in office. On his first day in office, I watched in horror as ninety-four Executive Orders cascaded down from Washington, D.C. obliterating every immigration policy that had provided the most secure border in America's history. Border Patrol Agents were forced to carry out unconstitutional orders that violated every law in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

By the action of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, President Biden was able to create policy out of thin air, ignoring federal immigration law, and facilitating the largest mass invasion into America that the world has ever seen.

By the end of the Biden Administration, approximately 12,000,000 illegal aliens will have been arrested and, essentially, every one of those illegal aliens will have been released onto the streets of America.<sup>1</sup> In 2023 and 2024, DHS was forced to admit that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) used both commercial and private airlines to fly hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens into America. DHS also openly admits to losing 3,000,000 illegal aliens as they absconded through the unprotected and open borders. These illegal aliens are classified as "get-aways". DHS admits to arresting, releasing, flying into America, and losing between fifteen and sixteen million illegal aliens in four years.

The data used by DHS and CBP are misleading and false. For the record, immigration experts believe that the flights into America carried millions of illegal aliens. The true number of "get-aways" who crossed the border is, actually, between 15,000,000 and 18,000,000 illegal aliens. The total and true number of illegal aliens entering America in four years is 30,000,000.

After serving in the Border Patrol for 24 years, spending a year researching and writing a best-selling book entitled *INVADED: The Intentional Destruction of the American Immigration System*,<sup>2</sup> and filming two documentaries: *WHAT IS TREASON? #TRAFFICKED*<sup>3</sup> and *WHAT IS TREASON? #INVADED*.<sup>4</sup> I state, with complete certainty, that Biden, Harris and Mayorkas intentionally, strategically, and purposely weaponized illegal immigration and used it as a tool to fundamentally transform America.

Biden, Harris and Mayorkas have committed the crime of treason against the United States of America.

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From the first day of Joe Biden's Presidency to the present, there are anywhere from 5,000 to 20,000 illegal aliens entering the United States of America each day. By the end of Biden's term in office, he will have accomplished the following:

- 30,000,000 illegal aliens will have entered America unlawfully
- Approximately 11,000,000 – 12,000,000 illegal aliens will have been arrested and released into America
- Over 180 nations will be reported in the United States Border Patrol arrest data
- Approximately 60-70 percent of all illegal aliens are single-adult military-aged males
- Over 932,000 Venezuelans will have illegally entered America
- Over 500,000 Haitians will have illegally entered America
- Over 131,000 Russians will have illegally entered America
- Over 326,000 Chinese will have illegally entered America – and of these, there are tens of thousands that are soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA)
- Over 250,000 Special Interest Aliens/Terrorists will have illegally entered America
- 60-80 percent of every woman and child will have been raped or sexually assaulted making their journey to America
- Over 550,000 Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) will have illegally entered America
- The vast majority of the 550,000 UACs will have been lost into labor and sex trafficking

The destruction of America is visible in every facet of American life from the biggest metropolitan cities to the smallest towns across America. The United States of America will have spent over one trillion dollars in four years to fund the needs of the over 50,000,000 illegal aliens that populate our nation. Between one in six and one in seven residents in America is an illegal alien. America has suffered the greatest demographic shift in modern history. The fundamental transformation of America has begun.

This invasion of 30,000,000 illegal aliens entering America in four years was created and facilitated by Democrat representatives in office but it was funded by Republican representatives in office. This act of treason is a uni-party effort.

Inside this invasion, the unspoken evil of child trafficking and, more specifically, child sex trafficking, has flourished. At the end of this current administration, the number of children trafficked will have grown to over 550,000 UACs. This horrific number of children will have been arrested, released into America and then lost. To put this into context: during President Trump's last year in office, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) arrested 30,557 UACs who were accounted for and not lost. Conversely, in the first year of Biden's presidency, the CBP arrested over 147,975 UACs, most of which are unaccounted for and lost.

In a 2023 Congressional Hearing, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra denied knowing that over 85,000 UACs had been lost. In another Congressional Hearing that same year, Director of Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Robin Marcos was forced to concede that her department had no contact with over 85,000 UACs. They were lost.

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What did the DHS, HHS, and ORR do to correct this humanitarian disaster? Nothing. In fact, all three agencies created further policies and procedures to increase the efficiency of moving UACs, their ages ranging from newborn infants to 17-year-olds, from the border to the interior of the United States to unknown and unvetted sponsors. Unaccompanied alien children were being handed off to total strangers. They then disappeared into the darkness of labor and sex trafficking.

What was the result of this criminal negligence?

A year later, the Inspector General with oversight of DHS stated in a 2024 report that the number of UACs lost had surpassed 320,000. When you understand the policies and procedures of what constitutes a “welfare check” on UACs establishing them as accounted for and protected, you would then know the horrific truth that every one of the 550,000 or more UACs in America are lost.

These children are being labor-trafficked, sex trafficked, barbarically harvested for their organs and, quoting President Trump, “A lot of them are already dead.”

My business partner, Ryan Matta, and I spent eight months traveling across America while filming our documentary entitled, *WHAT IS TREASON? #TRAFFICKED*.<sup>3</sup> What we discovered, through numerous interviews with Border Patrol Agents, CBP Officers, DHS employees, FBI Agents, former CIA Officers, HHS whistleblowers, FBI whistleblowers, organizations that combat child sex trafficking and individuals that worked inside the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that traffic children, were the grotesque evils of child sex trafficking and criminal acts committed by our own government.

The current federal government knew, in the first few months of the Biden-Harris Administration, that the number of UACs entering the country was spiking to never-before seen statistics. However, they did nothing to stop it. Instead, the conveyor belt of child-trafficking production was more heavily funded and procedures were put in place to ensure the maximum output of these innocent and most vulnerable children.

The Biden-Harris government knows that transnational criminal organizations from across the globe have discovered and are exploiting loopholes in the child sponsorship program. Human smuggling cartels specializing in children are smuggling the children over the border. They then wait for the Border Patrol to arrest these children. Because of the Flores Settlement Agreement, the Border Patrol’s internal procedures are to release these children to NGOs within 72 hours. The NGOs then have a total of 20 days from the date of arrest to release the children. These NGOs then coordinate with HHS and ORR to reunite these children as quickly as possible with the same cartels that reside within the United States. There are no background checks or DNA tests on the sponsors who receive these children. There are no site visits to ensure the child’s safety or to confirm the child has been taken to a home that actually exists.

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The probability that thousands of these UACs are being raped at this very moment is 100 percent.

After several exhaustive months filming, interviewing and then editing this documentary, I state, without reservation, that the United States federal government is the world's largest child sex trafficking organization in modern history. This is not just my belief, it is the adamant belief of every person we interviewed for this documentary.

The call to action has three parts. All three parts are to happen simultaneously:

1. Every necessary measure is to be taken to ensure all four borders of the United States of America is sealed shut.
2. A national law enforcement emergency shall be declared in order to locate and rescue every single one of the missing 550,000 unaccompanied alien children.
3. A full-scale investigation of every U.S. department, agency and every Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) participating in this criminal act shall be launched. Every person involved shall be arrested.

The intentional opening of our borders is an act of treason. I encourage questions so I may further articulate this allegation.

1. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters>
2. Carrell, J.J.. *INVADED: The Intentional Destruction of the American Immigration System*. Unites States of America: Carrell, 2023.
3. Matta, Ryan, director. *WHAT IS TREASON? #TRAFFICKED*. Carrell Entertainment, LLC & Ryan Matta Media, 2024, 1 hr., 46 min. <https://rumble.com/v5ewdmy-what-is-treason-trafficked-vip-only-do-not-share-private-screening.html>, <https://www.thisistreason.com>
4. Matta, Ryan, director. *WHAT IS TREASON? #INVADED*. Carrell Entertainment, LLC & Ryan Matta Media, 2024, 1 hr., 44 min. <https://rumble.com/v5k0tr8-what-is-treason-inaved-released-101024-by-jj-carrell-and-ryan-matta.html> , <https://www.thisistreason.com>

**Alicia Hopper**

**Consultant on Human Trafficking, Sadulski Enterprises, LLC.**

**Written Statement of Proposed Testimony**

Chairman Higgins, Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Correa, Ranking Member Ivey, and distinguished members of the committees, thank you for prioritizing this urgent issue. We are facing one of the most significant humanitarian crises of our time. In the five minutes I have to deliver this testimony, women and children here in the United States will be sold into trafficking and disappear. Unaccompanied migrant children will continue to be exploited, extorted, abused, and neglected—tragically, a direct consequence of the federal government's failure to meaningfully vet their sponsors.

This is not a political issue, this is a humanitarian crisis, one that is costing the lives of countless children. I've witnessed this devastation firsthand. I have been on the front lines at the border, in Mexico, and throughout Central America, and what I've seen is gut-wrenching. The disastrous effects of the current administration's immigration policies are fueling child trafficking, and I have seen cartel members, with children in their grasp, operating with impunity at our borders.

In my efforts to further grasp the depth of this crisis, including the trafficking of children, I have taken steps to understand the inner workings of these operations. I've interviewed former sex traffickers and cartel members, both in the U.S. and abroad, who are currently or were previously incarcerated. These conversations have given me critical insights into the realities at our Southwest Border.

Cartels bring trafficking victims to the border and rely on a vast network of gangs to facilitate the trafficking operations within the U.S. This activity has surged under the Biden Administration. My research has uncovered the complex system of stash houses on both sides of the Southwest Border, where gangs and cartels hold and exploit their victims. I've personally seen stash houses used by the Jalisco New Generation Cartel as lookout points, and I've encountered cartel members both at the border and in Mexico, continuing their operations with alarming boldness.

**Jacumba, CA / Mexico Border**

Recently, I returned from the border with my research partner, Dr. Jarrod Sadulski. During our time there, we interviewed a property manager overseeing a large, unfenced border property in the Jacumba, CA area – a site frequently exploited by cartels and traffickers for migrant smuggling. What we uncovered was deeply disturbing.

On this property, migrants are led down one of two paths, depending on their ability to pay. Higher-paying migrants from Asia, the Middle East, and Turkey are funneled through a route that shows little evidence of exploitation. However, the second path, designated for poorer migrants from Central and South America, reveals a much darker reality. The property manager told us of the

consistent screams of migrant women and children being sexually assaulted - screams that are heard regularly along this path. Just two nights before our arrival, those horrifying cries echoed once again, but the property manager, out of fear for his own safety, didn't dare investigate. He knows all too well that neither law enforcement nor Border Patrol can protect him. This area, like many others, is controlled by the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, operating with impunity right on U.S. soil.

In one instance, a young, bloodied girl being chased ran up to him on the property. I walked both paths, and evidence of sexual assault was apparent on the second path. I found torn clothing indicative of exploitation, particularly of young female teenagers. I examined the sizes of clothing that reflected sexual assault. Some were children. I examined different parts of the trail where the sexual assault routinely occurs, which included a brush area that provides concealment if Border Patrol aircraft fly through the area.

Following my exploration of the alarming realities of human trafficking and exploitation, I ventured to another path in Jacumba, CA, notorious for the smuggling and trafficking of migrants. This route, like many others, is tightly controlled by the cartels—no one passes through without their approval or involvement. As I walked along the pathway near the border, discarded identifications littered the ground, many belonging to children. Initially, we wondered why so many were left behind—some valid, many forged, often burned, torn, or buried. Among the debris, I found the passport of a five-year-old Colombian girl, hauntingly staring back at me from the photo. In that moment, I was struck by the harrowing realities children like her face at the hands of these cartels.

Delving deeper into this crisis, we uncovered a chilling reality: individuals are deliberately erasing their identities to enter the U.S. under false names. Our host, Cory Gautereaux, who lives on the border and has offered invaluable insights into this situation, has collected hundreds of IDs issued from various countries around the world. This collection underscores the global scope of this tragic phenomenon. The discarded identifications highlight a disturbing truth—those smuggled through this area effectively lose their original identities. This issue extends beyond immigration; it poses a significant national security threat. Some individuals are concealing criminal histories or their countries of origin, but when children's identities are erased, even darker questions emerge: Where are they coming from? Are they being exploited? What horrors have they endured to reach this point?

To gain a more comprehensive understanding, I interviewed a former Sinaloa Cartel affiliate who had previously worked as a sex trafficker in Southern California before his incarceration. His extensive knowledge of trafficking in this region revealed that cartels routinely discard IDs to create new identities just before crossing the border. He detailed how scanners are utilized in vans to produce these new documents. At one point along the border, we even observed a van on the Mexican side that matched his description, reinforcing the alarming reality of how these operations

are executed. This ongoing crisis demands urgent attention and action to protect vulnerable lives caught in this web of exploitation.

### **Live & In-Person Migrant Border Crossing**

While conducting human trafficking research at the border last month, I witnessed a shocking scene: a child being handed through the border wall panels by a masked cartel member to an adult on the other side. Two cartel members in ski masks were present during this exchange. With Border Patrol nearby, we approached the area, and from about 15 feet away, I captured this photo as one of the cartel members flashed a peace sign (introduce picture as evidence). They utilized a black rope ladder to smuggle over two adults connected to the child. One cartel member even took a photo to document the successful crossing, referred to as “proof of life.”

### **Staging Sexual Violence**

A disturbing aspect of cartel operations is the sexual exploitation that occurs at specific points along the smuggling route. Scholarly research spanning over a decade has documented what cartels refer to as "rape trees" - designated spots along the route where such exploitation takes place. These trees are marked by hanging undergarments as a grim symbol of the violence endured by victims ([The Performative Speech and Silence of Rape Trees: Staging Sexual Violence Against Migrant Women in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands](#)). Tragically, during our time on the border, we discovered a rape tree, and our host informed us that since our visit, additional undergarments have been found on that same tree. We also observed a van used for smuggling people to the border, which contained a large amount of undergarments that further, further reflecting the pervasive sexual exploitation in this area.

### **Office of Refugee Resettlement**

Under the current presidential administration, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has processed and sent [329,457 unaccompanied children](#) to sponsors between Oct. 2021 and July 2024. In contrast, only 124,627 children were sent to sponsors during the period from Oct. 2017 to Sep. 2020. This represents a staggering 164% increase, highlighting a significant rise in the number of children who are at grave risk while being smuggled and trafficked to the border. This alarming trend underscored the urgent need for effective policies and protections to safeguard these vulnerable children.

Cartels are actively targeting migrant children for exploitation in the U.S. through the Unaccompanied Children (UC) program, and this alarming trend has intensified under the Biden Administration. The cartels have taken advantage of the fact that the administration no longer requires DNA testing to verify familial relationships with child sponsors. It is essential for you to understand the dire circumstances faced by these innocent unaccompanied children. One heartbreaking case involved a little girl who crossed the border in Arizona with individuals claiming to be her family, though they were not. This situation is tragically common. When she

arrived, she had bruises covering her legs and complained of stomach pain, prompting her to be taken to the hospital as a precaution. There, it was discovered that this little girl had been raped. Even more distressingly, despite the trauma she endured, she was returned to those who falsely claimed to be her family due to the discontinuation of DNA testing. This is a horrifying reality that is happening right here in the United States.

Children in migrant groups are often sold to traffickers when it becomes apparent that their families cannot afford the unexpected expenses imposed by the coyotes embedded within these smuggling networks. In a migrant shelter in McAllen, Texas, a mother who had traveled to Texas from Reynosa, Mexico, refused to let her child out of her arms. She shared with staff that she had been robbed not only of her belongings but also of the two other children she had started the journey with in Mexico, all because she lacked the money for bribes. This heart-wrenching situation underscores the desperation that families often endure in their impossible struggle to find safety.

The strategies employed by cartels are constantly evolving and rapidly improving, as they increasingly leverage cloud technology to monitor the finances and demographic information of child trafficking victims. This creates a digital trail that is often completely overlooked. Cartels provide unaccompanied migrant children with the names and contact information of individuals designated as potential sponsors once the children are processed by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Post-placement protections for migrant children are alarmingly inadequate. In one instance, law enforcement conducted a welfare check on 25 unaccompanied migrant children but could only locate two of them. Disturbingly, some sponsors reported that the children never arrived at their intended destinations. In another troubling instance, a sponsor provided an address in Delaware that turned out to be nothing more than an open field, raising serious concerns about the safety and legitimacy of such sponsorships.

Based on my research, ORR has failed to adequately protect unaccompanied children in several critical areas:

- **Vetting Sponsors:** There is a significant absence of thorough background checks, leading to children being placed with sponsors who in some cases have turned out to be gang members, individuals on terror watch lists, known pedophiles, or those who ultimately abuse or traffic them.
- **Home Studies:** ORR has not conducted home studies to ensure that children are being placed into suitable environments.
- **Information Sharing:** The agency does not share sponsor information with state child protective services or law enforcement, hindering efforts to ensure child safety.
- **Well-Being Checks:** After a child is placed with a sponsor, ORR makes only a single phone call to check on their well-being. If neither the child nor the sponsor answers, no further follow-up is conducted.

- **Tracking Unaccompanied Children:** The failure to track unaccompanied children once they are delivered to sponsors has resulted in ICE being unable to issue Notices to Appear (NTAs), exacerbating the risks these children face.

## NGOS

This lack of oversight extends beyond sponsor vetting; through my research, I've discovered that the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) relies on NGO contractors to manage influx facilities. This raises critical concerns about the need for greater accountability within these facilities to ensure the safety of migrant children. Additionally, NGOs often use staffing agencies to provide personnel, which has resulted in inadequately vetted staff having unsupervised access to children, without the necessary background checks or security clearances.

## Endeavors

I conducted interviews with auditors tasked with inspecting the NGO Endeavors in Pecos, Texas. One auditor explained that while ORR has an onsite monitor, they often receive “filtered information” from Endeavors regarding what is actually happening at the facility. This lack of transparency can hinder ORR’s ability to be aware of incidents and ensure compliance with their policies. A former supervisor at the Endeavors facility detailed how, during a surge of unaccompanied children, the facility was grossly unprepared. Staff arrived with little to no experience or training, and background checks, including fingerprinting, were sometimes completed a year after hiring.

Case managers on site reported that the same addresses were frequently used to sponsor children, raising further red flags about the vetting process. Although the facility is designed to accommodate children aged 13 to 17, the former supervisor explained that Endeavors sometimes knowingly allowed adults to remain, opting not to process the paperwork that would alert ICE to their status and prevent deportation. The third-party auditor and compliance supervisor also shared that Endeavors leadership discouraged her from documenting concerns in writing, further obstructing transparency regarding sponsor vetting.

The dysfunction in the Unaccompanied Children (UC) system is so pronounced that during a recent flight from San Diego to Florida, I encountered several unaccompanied children onboard. When I inquired with the flight attendant about how common it is for unaccompanied minors to travel without escorts, she confirmed it is a frequent occurrence. She also mentioned that UC migrant children are often taken to the wrong airport or dropped off at gates with no waiting sponsors, highlighting the systemic issues at play.

The ongoing crisis involving the exploitation of children through the UC program underscores the urgent need for reform in how we manage this system to mitigate further risks of exploitation and trafficking.

## **Human Trafficking Involving Juvenile Organs**

Building on the systemic issues highlighted earlier, it's crucial to address one of the more insidious aspects of human trafficking: organ harvesting. Recently, I conducted research in a prison in Central America, where I spoke with a former sex trafficker and a member of a Mexican cartel incarcerated for arms trafficking. Through these discussions, I learned that organ harvesting thrives due to the desperate demand from buyers. When families face the anguish of having a dying loved one and can't find the needed organ, they often resort to traveling to Mexico in search of a solution.

The trafficker recounted chilling details of witnessing multiple organs harvested in Merida, Mexico, noting that such practices are alarmingly common in both veterinary clinics and hospitals in the region. He emphasized that American buyers frequently seek out these illicit organ trades. Disturbingly, news reports from August 2024 surfaced about two American college girls who may have been drugged with the intent of having their organs stolen while on the Yucatan Peninsula.

In my conversation with the former sex trafficker and ex-Sinaloa cartel member, he revealed the lengths family members will go to for a dying relative, illustrating how organ traffickers exploit this vulnerability. These traffickers often take what he described as a “custom order” for specific organs and then target areas where migrants congregate on their way to the U.S. border. Migrant camps, in particular, serve as hotspots for exploitation, leaving individuals especially susceptible to these heinous acts.

The former sex trafficker also pointed out that under the Biden Administration, human trafficking has escalated, as cartels and gangs are reaping substantial profits. Many organizations that previously shied away from human smuggling are now deeply involved, capitalizing on the current lax immigration policies.

Despite the grim realities I've uncovered regarding human exploitation at the border, I remain hopeful — hopeful in you. I believe in the power of bipartisan action to enact meaningful legislation that can alleviate the crisis threatening lives. The current immigration system fails everyone, and it is imperative to establish legal pathways that include proper vetting for entering the United States. We must send a clear message to the cartels that the border is no longer open and empower Border Patrol with the funding and resources necessary to secure the border rather than merely processing migrants who have been smuggled into the country.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my research and I welcome your questions.

*Alicia Hopper*

Alicia (Ali) Hopper

Sadulski Enterprises, LLC