

NEW YORK CITY INVITATIONAL  
DEBATE & SPEECH TOURNAMENT  
2019

CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE PACKET  
Finals - UPDATE



To: All Participants in the Final Round Congress at  
the New York City Invitational Debate and Speech Tournament

Date: October 16, 2019

Re: Immigration and Border Security Information - UPDATE

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The United States Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) has intercepted several leading groups of the caravan last weekend. The quickening pace of the caravan has splintered it into several large groups. These splintered groups, and the main caravan, are different from the publicized reports of the Mexican National Guard blocking the caravan from entering Mexico. The Mexican National Guard has not blocked this particular caravan which started earlier and the main part of the caravan is nearing the U.S. southern border.

Many of these splintered groups attempted to cross through an open portion of the southern border and not through an official port of entry. There is no assurance CBP intercepted all of the individuals attempting to cross the border. CBP has been conducting preliminary screening interviews with individuals from these groups many of which are families. One particular individual (Individual 1) has raised red flags with CPB. Individual 1 claimed to have been separated from other family members. CBP recommended him for additional interviews.

Individual 1, at first, requested asylum asserting that he had a well-founded fear of persecution in his home country. Based upon the initial interviews, CBP suspected Individual 1 of working with the drug cartels despite not fitting the profile. Upon further examination, CBP had sufficient suspicions to refer the information gathered to U.S. intelligence.

Other agencies at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reviewed all of the information gathered. A determination was made to subject Individual 1 to a higher level of interrogation. Within the past 24 hours, that interrogation, along with refined intelligence assessments, definitively establishes that Individual 1 is a member of the Islamic State. Confronted with this information, Individual 1 has made an overt declaration of allegiance to the Islamic State. At this point, Individual 1 has provided very little additional information about any potential targets or the size of the cell. More thorough interrogations will need to happen after Individual 1 is transported to a location to be determined.

DHS believes this is not an isolated incident. Individual 1 has alluded to a number of other members of the Islamic State who are attempting to infiltrate the southern border of the United States. DHS believes that a number of Islamic State members are traveling with the caravan, especially family groups, in order to divert CBP attention and resources to make infiltration easier. The bulk of the caravan is expected to reach the border within the week and there is no assurance CBP will have sufficient resources to intercept every individual.

There are obviously many issues to address, but this Final Round Congress must focus on all of the legislation submitted to them in light of these developments. The work of the Final Round Congress is more urgent than ever.

Best of luck!