

HOTNIR Current Events Digest — April 20, 2026

As of April 13, 2026, a ProPublica investigation shows, 36,595 immigrants have filed habeas corpus cases claiming their detention is illegal. Texas and California both have more than 7,000 cases, followed by Florida with just over 2,600. The number is greater than the total habeas petitions sought

<https://projects.propublica.org/habeas-tracker/>

The Trump administration faces a lawsuit for bypassing environmental laws as it seeks to build a border wall in the Big Bend area. The suit was filed in the Western District of El Paso by a professional river guide, the Friends of the Ruidosa Church, and the Center for Biological Diversity.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/04/16/texas-border-wall-lawsuit-big-bend/>

Bryan Jose Morales-Garcia, 25, who was born in Denver and moved to Mexico as a toddler, was deported to Mexico because ICE agents did not believe he was a U.S. citizen and would not allow him to get his papers to prove it. He was detained after an encounter near Fredericksburg with Gillespie County sheriff's deputies.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/bryan-morales-us-citizen-deport-mexico-b2955205.html>

Texas' only licensed Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu legal interpreter has been detained by ICE. Meena Batra, who lives in South Texas near the border, was taken into custody at the Harlingen airport before boarding a flight to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to work on a case. Batra, who is Sikh, left India in the 1980s after her parents were murdered. She said her work authorization status was good for another four years.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/apr/16/ice-immigration-court-interpreter-detained>

https://www.texasobserver.org/immigration-court-interpreter-arrested-ice-south-texas-airport/?goal=0_975e2d1fa1-91ba4af773-361257155&mc_cid=91ba4af773&mc_eid=4b0d7adc95

Several Texas cities are trying to minimize their police departments' cooperation with ICE. As a result, officials have found themselves under investigation by the state attorney general and threatened by the governor with the prospect of cutting off state funds.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/04/15/texas-houston-police-ice-city-policy/>

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit against the city of Houston on Thursday.

<https://www.courtsnews.com/texas-ag-sues-houston-over-new-ice-ordinance/>

Hayam El Gamal and her five children have been held in the Dilley detention center since June and she reportedly has been denied medical treatment related to an unidentified lump in her chest. Last month, the family's attorney released letters from El Gamal and her children describing the conditions they were experiencing and observing.

<https://www.fox7austin.com/news/attorney-claims-dilley-ice-detainee-risk-death-from-lack-medical-care>

A previous article about the Egyptian family explained they were detained after the father, Mohamed Sabry Soliman, was charged with attacking mostly Jewish protestors at a Boulder, Colo., event last June.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/03/11/el-gamal-texas-egyptian-family-dilley-health-care-food-ice-detention-letters-children/>

An 86-year-old French woman who last year married an American veteran she first met in the 1960s has been released from ICE custody and returned to France. She was widowed in January and one of her stepsons allegedly was involved in her detention.

<https://apnews.com/article/ice-immigration-85-french-woman-military-fa5c151b4a250e1e5c73a625d6cab2a5>

ICE hired 12,000 new officers and special agents in a hiring spree. An Associated Press investigation found applicants with “questionable histories were either not fully vetted before they were brought on or were hired in spite of their past.”

<https://apnews.com/article/ice-background-checks-vetting-immigration-8ae6b7b850f7c0265b3cb8b5060ef8fd>

An ICE agent working in Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been charged with two counts of assault for allegedly pointing his gun at the heads of two motorists on a highway in February.

<https://abcnews.com/Politics/ice-agent-charged-2-counts-felony-assault-minneapolis/story?id=132107046>