

**The State of Human Rights  
at the U.S.- Mexico Border**

*Abuse Documentation Campaign Report*

February 2022

## Introduction

The Border Network for Human Rights is a 22-year-old community organization that works to educate, organize, and mobilize marginalized communities in the West Texas/Southern New Mexico Borderlands. Our membership of more than 1,000 families lays out our priorities. Taking these cues from our membership, our staff helps implement an agenda that improves the quality of life and advances the dignity and rights of all persons. While rooted on the borderland, we work at all scales (state, federal, and local) to bring about positive community change.

Since the early 2000s, we have documented abuses committed by law enforcement agencies operating in the El Paso-Southern New Mexico region through an annual Abuse Documentation Campaign (ADC). This allows us to track the wellbeing of our community and identify problematic patterns of behavior that cause material and psychological harm to residents. Volunteer documenters are trained by BNHR on the process of answering three basic questions: 1. Who did what to whom?; 2. When?; and 3. Where?

Documentations are conducted through live, in-person interviews that typically run 30 minutes or longer at documentation stations in high traffic areas like churches, shopping centers, and international bridges.

BNHR reviews these documented cases to identify the specific abuses committed, work with affected persons and families to determine how they wish to move forward, and consult with local attorneys on potential legal remedies. Moreover, we use this documentation process to drive our "El Paso Model" of dialogue and pressure with law enforcement institutions, bringing them to the table with communities to insist on material change. In this approach, neither communities nor law enforcement are the problem; we are part of the solution. It is our intent that incidents of abuse decline over time.

Our first abuse documentation report in 2001 recorded dozens of cases of abuse, with most of those cases perpetrated by the U.S. Border Patrol. Since then, by applying this approach of dialogue, pressure, and action to highlight trends of abuses documented in our annual campaigns, we have been able to greatly reduce over the years the number and severity of instances of abuse while implementing policies such as the revised Border Patrol use-of-force guidelines that deemphasize the use of lethal force in favor of less-lethal force, de-escalation,

and tactical withdrawal. The results of these efforts produced, for many years, a reduction of abuses, improved quality of life, greater respect for dignity and rights, and safer communities.

## **I. The Campaign Methodology**

The Abuse Documentation Campaign of 2021 took place from Oct. 9 to Nov. 9, 2021. It is worth mentioning that the Border Network for Human Rights documents cases of abuse by law enforcement agencies on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

The first step in the documentation campaign is the training of promoters, volunteers, and staff of the Border Network for Human Rights. On Oct. 3, 2021, fifty (50) people were trained on the documentation process. This included understanding the documentation criteria and essential elements that each case needed to have. The trained individuals became familiarized with the documentation form and how to ask community members questions about the case they were reporting.

The second step in the campaign was to select the locations where the documentation campaign would take place. The selected areas were based on the presence of BNHR community members, from Las Cruces, New Mexico, to San Elizario in the far east of El Paso County. In New Mexico, documentation stations were held in Las Cruces, Doña Ana, Mezquite, Vado, Berino, Anthony, Chaparral, and Sunland Park. In Texas, documentation stations were in the communities of Anthony, Canutillo, downtown El Paso, Northeast El Paso, Montana Vista, Socorro, and San Elizario. In addition, to address the needs of people crossing the international bridge between the U.S. and Mexico, a documentation table was also set up on the Mexican side in Ciudad Juarez.

In total, eighty (80) documentation stations were set up during the campaign. There were 39 different types of stations, including international bridges (ports of entry), supermarkets, community centers, mom-and-pop grocery stores, restaurants, apartment complexes, small businesses, health fairs, citizenship fairs, markets on wheels, churches, and parks.

The third step in the campaign, as the cases are documented at the stations, is to input each case electronically and then translate it into English. As the case is inputted into a document, information is verified. Once the case has been inputted in Spanish, it is then translated into English. Most of the cases collected in the region are in Spanish.

The fourth step in the documentation process is the analysis of the cases. Each case is reviewed and analyzed to determine patterns of abuse and violations of constitutional, civil, and human rights.

The final step is the draft of this report that is shared with the agencies involved and the public.

## II. Highlights: Analysis of Alleged Patterns of Abuse

Based on our analysis of the cases we received in the current campaign, several outcomes are important to mention. These cases reflect the situation we live in at the southern border. While 25 cases were documented during the campaign, we believe these cases reflect the systemic pattern of impunity under which law enforcement agencies interact with border residents.

Below are key findings in the patterns of abuse:

1. Of the total 25 cases, ***more than half (16) of them involve abuse by federal immigration agencies*** operating at the border. Cases of abuse by local enforcement agencies were documented and raised concern, but, in general, they were sporadic. With the exception of the El Paso Police Department, we did not find patterns of abuse by local law enforcement agencies.
2. ***The majority of the cases by federal enforcement agencies occurred at the ports of entry (international bridges), involving CBP-OFO personnel.*** These documented cases illustrate very troubling violations of civil rights, human rights, and infringement on the personal dignity of people by federal agencies:
  - a. The first evident pattern is the use of systematic secondary detention without apparent or reasonable suspicion. All the cases documented were false positive, meaning that there is a practice and potential out-of-policy daily quota to send border residents and citizens of the United States to secondary detention.
  - b. We found a very troubling pattern of body and cavity searches on women. All the cases documented, again, were false positives. Victims reported outrage for the violation of their personal dignity due to unjustified touching, frisks, and intrusive physical search of their body parts.
  - c. The cases demonstrate a pattern of verbal and psychological abuse by CBP officers where victims were subjected to insults, intimidation, threats, among others.

- d. And finally, we documented a very worrisome case that happened in secondary detention that subjected the female victim to what can be considered torture. The woman was handcuffed, insulted, yelled at, threatened, and forcefully instructed to declare herself guilty. Once again, this was a false positive case.
3. While the number of documented abuses by the ***Border Patrol continues to decline, there is an alarming pattern of how the agency interacts with and subjects border residents to unnecessary searches and apprehensions in violation of human rights.***
  - a. The residents of Sunland Park, New Mexico, continue to experience wrongful entries into their homes and the stopping and questioning of long-term residents without reasonable probable cause.
  - b. In a particular incident that took place at a Border Patrol checkpoint, U.S. citizens were subjected to violations of their constitutional rights while trying to access an emergency health procedure.
  - c. At the Greyhound bus station, we found a potentially troubling pattern of abuse as Border Patrol agents applied Title 42 and expelled out of the country a long-term border resident.
  - d. During a crossing of refugees at the Rio Grande River, a 13-year-old child was subjected to harsh physical and psychological abuse by a Border Patrol agent.
4. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) ***repeatedly use intimidation and threats to keep occupants from requesting a warrant to enter private property.***
  - a. In one particular case involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the agent used intimidation, harassment, and threats to enter a home without a warrant even after the family repeatedly requested that a warrant needed to be presented. The ICE agent dressed in civilian clothes along with Border Patrol and State Troopers forced entry into the home resulting in a false positive home search. The ICE agent specifically threatened with apprehension and family separation if he had to get a warrant, even though he did not know the status of the family in the home.
5. ***Children at Fort Bliss were held in inhumane conditions by Serv Pro employees.*** Children were exposed to COVID-19, overcrowding, limited access to showers and restrooms, uncooked food, sexual advancements, and suffered psychological abuse, among other mistreatment. This demonstrates a continued violation of human and constitutional rights by government contractors.

6. One particular case involving the *El Paso County Sheriff's Department* exposed how the *local deputies collaborate with Border Patrol and deport border residents*. A witness to a robbery was held by a sheriff's deputy under suspicion of robbery. After being confirmed that he was only a witness, he was still detained and taken into immigration for deportation.
7. The *El Paso Police Department continues to act with impunity in regard to the treatment of border residents*. There is a consistent pattern of uncalled-for use of force when interacting with border residents. In two different and unrelated cases, the police officers immediately used force, leading to bodily injuries. In each case, the abuse was reported to either Internal Affairs or superiors, with each complaint being dismissed.

### III. Executive Summary of Policy Recommendations

#### 1. BNHR Recommendations Regarding Cases of Alleged Abuse by CBP-OFO at Ports-of Entry

- a. *CBP-OFO should set clear limits and standards in written policy, restricting the application of detaining persons in secondary inspection at Ports of Entry (POE)*. This should limit the time people can be held in secondary inspection, allow contact with an attorney, and particularly restrict the use of secondary inspection on vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, pregnant women, and persons with chronic illness.
- b. DHS Internal Affairs office and the Office of the Inspector General should conduct a *prompt investigation* on the:
  - i. Complaints of possible *wrongful body and cavity searches* and establish enhanced protocols to make these actions transparent and accountable.
  - ii. Possible existence of *illegal, daily quotas in the use of Secondary Detention* at POE.
  - iii. Complaints of *physical, verbal, and psychological abuse* (insults, threats, intimidation, and racial vitriol), and set enhanced training standards along with a transparent complaint system.
  - iv. Complaints regarding the very worrisome practice of torture of individuals sent to Secondary Detention.

- c. OFO should ***deploy electronic feedback buttons*** for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic at ports of entry. OFO should partner with bridge owners (such as the City or County of El Paso) to assist with implementing such a program.

## **2. BNHR Recommendations Regarding Cases of Alleged Abused by Border Patrol and ICE**

- a. Border Patrol has to further ***explain the enforcement of Title 42*** at the border and respond to the concerns that longtime border residents have been subjected to.
- b. Border Patrol has to ensure their enforcement strategies at the ***checkpoints are not impeding the access to health and medical services*** of border residents, specifically children.
- c. The El Paso Border Patrol Sector should ***publicly review and clarify its procedures on vehicular pursuits*** through populated areas such as Sunland Park, New Mexico. Border Patrol policy should ensure that the conduct of its agents while driving maximizes the safety of the communities and situations where they are operating.
- d. ***Border Patrol personnel must follow the Fourth Amendment***—search and seizure of a person’s home, including surrounding property such as yards, patios, and roofs, requires either a judicial warrant or expressed permission of the resident. Border Patrol should lay out specific procedures for obtaining a warrant or resident permission before conducting a search.
- e. ***ICE must comply with the Fourth and Fifth Constitutional Amendment*** rights while engaging in entering homes and private properties. Also, ICE must follow the new administration enforcement priorities and stop throwing “wide-net enforcement practices” that undermine peoples’ rights.

## **3. BNHR Recommendations Regarding Current Immigration Detention Strategies and the Involvement of Private Corporations**

- a. The Inspector General of the Department of Justice must launch a ***prompt investigation of grave human and civil rights violations*** committed on immigrant families and children ***by personnel of private entities*** involved in immigration detention, such as Serv Pro.

#### 4. BNHR Recommendations Regarding Cases of Alleged Abuse by El Paso Police Department

- a. The City of El Paso, Texas, must ***create, with a new city ordinance, an Independent and Civilian Police Accountability Commission*** to review cases of mistreatment and abuse, use of force, racial profiling, and wrongful treatment of vulnerable population by police officers. This Commission will also review internal police policies and procedures regarding civil and human rights compliance, standards of use of force, body-worn cameras, systemic racism, and impunity.
- b. The City of El Paso must ***put families first and publicly apologize and compensate the victims of police brutality*** committed by officers or staff of the department.
- c. The City of El Paso must ***fund social service programs*** such as drug addiction, homelessness, non-police rapid response teams, health care access, and others ***at the same rate and size as the Police Department funding.***

#### 5. BNHR Recommendations Regarding Federal Enforcement Policies, Strategies, and Programs of U.S. Government at the Southern Border.

- a. President Biden's Administration must:
  - i. ***Discontinue the enforcement of Title 42 at the Border.*** This strategy has failed to protect the basic human and constitutional rights of both immigrants crossing the border and longtime residents of the region.
  - ii. ***Unwind and discontinue the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)*** at the border. This program is violating constitutional rights and basic international human rights agreement and is exposing migrant and refugee families to dangerous and extreme situations in Mexican border cities.
  - iii. ***Biden administration must immediately stop and discontinue immigrant detention contracts with all and any private corporation.***
- b. U.S. Congress must:
  - i. Enact new policy and ***legislation to increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement within the Department of Homeland Security,*** provide independent oversight of border security activities, improve training for agents and officers of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
  - ii. Do the necessary appropriations and ***create New Ellis Island Regional Welcoming Centers along the U.S.-Mexico Border.*** These NEI centers will

The State of Human Rights at the U.S.-Mexico Border:  
Report on the Findings of the 2021 Abuse Documentation Campaign

not be enforcement detention-oriented but would have family-friendly facilities for migrants while they are processed. These centers would house CBP, HHS, and ORR, and they might also include EIOR, immigration judges, and legal aid for migrants.

These centers would process asylum claims near the border, conduct credible fear interviews in a welcoming space, help with contacting families, and transportation. These centers would also have dormitories for migrants with health assistance, a kitchen, and case managers. The NEI Center would also house NGOs that have federal funding to support immigrant families and asylum seekers.

- iii. ***Pass and enact a broad, inclusive, humane immigration reform policy*** that; a) legalizes and gives citizenship to the 11 million undocumented Americans; b) reunifies families impacted by deportation and expulsion; c) legalizes the flow of immigrants and families through New Workers Programs that provide them an orderly, peaceful, and legal entry into the country, and with the inherent labor and human rights standards; d) ends the criminalization of immigrant families, among other important provisions.

## IV. Testimonials by Agency

### CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP-OFO)

#### CASE 1

Transcriber: M. A.

Documenter: M. A.

Name of the victim: J. D.

Date of Incident: Oct. 17, 2021

Agency: Customs Agents, CBP

Type of Alleged Abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Harassment

Place of incident: Zaragoza Port of Entry

*On Oct, 17, at around 3 p.m., I was going through the Zaragoza port of entry. I was hurrying because my wife was waiting for me on the other side of the bridge in El Paso, Texas. When I arrived at the first checkpoint, where the officer was revising the documents, I accidentally showed him my Mexican voter registration card (INE) instead of my border crossing visa. When the officer saw it, he became angry, questioned what my INE card was, and pushed me. I fell on my back; I tried to cover my head so I wouldn't hit it. I scratched my elbow and hurt my back. An officer who was close by intervened to stop his colleague from hurting me. Meanwhile, the officer that pushed me was obviously furious and looked like he wanted to hurt me. I went to speak to a supervisor. They asked if they could take my blood pressure and call an ambulance since it was really high. I was told that an individual was going to take note of what happened to me. But this person never took any notes and showed no interest in what had happened. They never did anything. Instead, they gave me a flyer with a number I could call later. But I was not interested in doing anything. I just don't ever want this to happen again.*

## **CASE 2**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: D. C.**

**Name of victim: S. O. D.**

**Date of Incident: Aug. 5, 2021**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Reckless Covid-19 exposure**
- **Verbal and Psychological Abuse (Harassment and Threats)**
- **Endangerment (of Children)**
- **Wrongful Strip Search (Frisk)**

**Place of incident: Santa Fe Port of Entry**

*Today (8/5/2021), I went to Ciudad Juárez with my 5-month-old son, Nathan, because he had an appointment with the pediatrician at the Family Clinic at 1:30 p.m. for a stomach infection and flu. When I returned to El Paso, I arrived at the Santa Fe bridge around 2:20 p.m. When it was my turn to see the officer, he told me he would take my photo, which I agreed to. He asked for my documents; I gave him my Texas identification. When he asked for my son's papers, I showed him the papers from our visit to the clinic, which had my full name and my son's social security number. He told me that I would have to go in for a routine check-up. I told him that was fine; I had no illegal things with me.*

*They put me in the inspection room with three officers, two females and a male officer sitting on the computer. The male officer stated that my son did not look like me and that my son's papers were invalid. He asked me, "how do we verify that he is your son? We would have to do a DNA test, and that would take a week." Therefore, he said they were going to take my son to a detention place. I asked him where they were going to take him. The officer, an older man, mockingly told me that he would put him in a cage. The way he expressed himself was not funny to me at all.*

*They told me to take my money and all my belongings and put them inside my son's diaper bag. One of the female officers checked the diaper bag, put it in a blue box, and then took my son. The other female officer inspected me thoroughly. She put me against the wall and told me to lower my pants to my knees. She physically checked my whole body. She put her hands under my bra and touched my parts in front and behind.*

*The male officer told me that, since I couldn't prove that he was my son, they would accuse me of child trafficking and arrest me. I told him that I knew a person from CPS who could verify that the child is indeed my son and that he is an American citizen. At that moment, he turned around, looked at me, and repeated, "CPS?"*

*The officer then gave me back my documents and told me to leave. He said that he did not want to see me crossing the border with my son, that the next time, they would take him away from me. One of the female officers accompanied me to the door to leave. I was detained for approximately 40 minutes.*

*The truth is that I felt denigrated because of the way they abused my rights and those of my son. I was only taking him to the doctor; I was not doing anything illegal. I showed him the doctor's prescription, but he did not mind exposing my son to a closed place where there were more people and possible contagious viruses. My son is a baby; he was sick.*

**CASE 3**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: S. H.**

**Name of the victim: R. N.**

**Date of incident: Oct. 24, 2021**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Obsolete Database Check**

**Place of incident: Zaragoza Port of Entry**

*I, RN, want to say that this problem has been happening to me since 2012. Every time I go through the Paso del Norte Port of Entry and the Zaragoza Port of Entry, they send me to secondary inspection. Perhaps because I used to owe child support money for my children, but every time something comes out there on the officer's computer. I owed almost \$30,000, but it's been more than ten years since I paid that money. Now I don't owe anything anymore, yet every time I cross the border, they send me back to secondary inspection. They treat me like a criminal, even though I've already paid off my debt.*

*This last time it was at the Zaragoza Port of Entry. They put me in handcuffs in a room. I asked to speak to the supervisor Beatriz Chávez, and I told her that I no longer owed anything. She told me that nothing could be done and that the CBP agents know how to treat people. They let me go without any further problems.*

#### **CASE 4**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: S. H.**

**Name of the victim: M. A.**

**Date of incident: May 12, 2021**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Temporary Detention**
- **Wrongful and Inappropriate Cavity Search**
- **Psychological Abuse**

**Place of incident: Paso del Norte Port of Entry**

*My nightmare started on Wednesday, May 12, at 2:00 p.m., when I was coming over by the Paso del Norte Port of Entry. I was coming from Juárez because I had surgery on one eye. I had to wear special glasses.*

*The CBP officer started questioning me and asking me why I was so nervous. To which I responded, "I just had an eye surgery, and I can't be without my glasses for long." The CBP officer then asked if I had illegal drugs on me. I told her I had nothing on me. The CBP officer then sent me to get inspected in a room where they touched my whole body, including my private parts. I felt so bad and humiliated. I did not deserve to be treated that way. I felt like they took advantage of me; I felt so helpless.*

#### **CASE 5**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter.: S. H.**

**Name of the victim: L. L.**

**Date of incident: Nov. 3, 2021**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

The State of Human Rights at the U.S.-Mexico Border:  
Report on the Findings of the 2021 Abuse Documentation Campaign

- **Wrongful and Inappropriate Body and Cavity Search**
- **Psychological Abuse**
- **Quotas for routinary secondary detention and cavity search**

**Place of incident: Paso del Norte Port of Entry**

*I, L. L., want to tell you what happened to me on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021. I went to Ciudad Juárez to buy medicine for my son. When I got to the Paso del Norte Port of Entry, the CBP officer asked me, “why did you go to Juarez?” I showed him the medicine that I bought with the prescription. The CBP officer told me I needed to go through a secondary inspection.*

*The CBP officer took me to a room with two female officers. One of them touched my private parts in a very strange way; the officer was a brunette, Hispanic, and robust woman who spoke to me in Spanish. The officer said, “tell me what you have.” I told her I only brought medicine for my son. The CBP officer then asked me to squat. When I questioned why I had to do that, the CBP officer stated it was a routine check, that for every ten people who cross, they stop one and check them this way.*

*I felt awful during and after the search, especially with the way they searched me. I am an American citizen, and I have never had any problems with anyone. I am afraid to go through a port of entry again because of that experience.*

#### **CASE 6**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: S. H.**

**Name of the victim: A. P. M. R.**

**Date of incident: Oct. 14, 2020**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Psychological Abuse, Verbal Abuse (Intimidation)**
- **Wrongful Body Search**
- **Reckless Covid-19 exposure**
- **Physical Abuse**
- **Obsolete Database Checks (systemic)**

**Place of incident: Paso del Norte Port of Entry**

*On Oct. 14, between 4 and 5 p.m., I crossed the international port of entry. At the port of entry, the officer asked me the reason for my visit to Juarez, to which I responded that I had gone to see a dentist. He asked me to take off my mask and my glasses, then asked me if I had something to declare. I responded I didn’t. He also asked me when was the last time I had been to Juarez. I told him I did not remember, possibly three months ago.*

*That bothered the officer. He yelled at me, “How are you not able to remember!” Then the officer asked if I had ever had problems. I assumed the question was if I had ever had any issues with the police in the United States, so I answered I had not.*

*He then called another officer and claimed I was lying to them. They said that I had an issue with immigration back in 2000. I did have an issue 20 years ago, but I had applied for my legal residency and I was approved. I thought it was a thing of the past.*

*The officer never specified if I had immigration issues; it was just a misunderstanding on my end. However, they took my fingerprints and my picture.*

*She called another officer and took me into a room. She yelled at me; told me she was going to check me. I thought she was referring to my purse, but no. She yelled at me to raise my hands against the wall and began to inspect me and touch my private parts. She smacked my left thigh and yelled at me to open my legs further. She asked if there was anything in between, referring to my vagina, and I said no.*

*I was embarrassed, harassed, and sexually assaulted without a reason, motive, or warning. I did nothing wrong or illegal to deserve this treatment. After the officer searched me, she went through my purse and travel bag and found nothing illegal. She questioned me about some pills that I had, and I told her they were for my migraine.*

*She was yelling at me the whole time, trying to intimidate me, embarrass me, and harass me. Throughout this whole situation, there was another female officer inside the room just looking at us. In the end, the last officer told me that every time I cross the border, I have to declare that I've been deported. I was never told this before; I took it as intimidation.*

*I was treated like a criminal, like an animal that didn't deserve respect over a simple misunderstanding. None of the officers were wearing masks. They took my fingerprints, took my picture, told me to take my shoes and mask off, and exposed me to potentially catching Covid-19.*

#### **CASE 7**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: I. C.**

**Name of the victim: D. L. C. C.**

**Date of incident: Jan. 19, 2019**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Psychological and Verbal Abuse**
- **Wrongful Detention/Wrongful use of Secondary Detention**
- **Torture (Physical Abuse, Intimidation, Harassment, threats)**

**Place of incident: Santa Teresa Port of Entry**

*On Jan. 19, 2019, my daughter and I went to process a permit to go to the U.S. through the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. I had previously received a permit for a year to visit my family in Houston and New Mexico. I was helped by Officer Aguilar, who asked me if I worked. I told him I didn't. Officer Aguilar asked me how I was able to sustain myself. I told him that my husband supported me financially. Officer Aguilar then proceeded to ask who would take care of me financially here in the U.S. My daughter replied she would be the one to take care of me. Officer Aguilar, in a very rude and harsh way, told her, "you need to shut up; I am not speaking to you!" Officer Aguilar then asked for the reason for staying so long in the U.S. before. He said that he believed I was working.*

*Officer Aguilar told me, "be honest, being in the U.S. for a year without working is a lot, and if you really didn't work, then you should be ashamed of yourself. If you are not honest, I can arrest you. If you are not honest, I will arrest you." I was indeed handcuffed and taken to this room, where I stayed more than 2 hours. They pressured me to say something that was not true. Officer Aguilar kept telling me that they did not believe me. He left the room for a bit and then came back to continue pressuring me, asking me just to tell them the "truth." Officer Aguilar kept pushing me to say that I either took care of children, worked in the fields, or maybe watched over my grandkids. I explained that my grandchildren were older and spent most of their time at school.*

*I also told them that the handcuffs were a little too tight. I felt sick because I also have diabetes. I asked him if they could remove the handcuffs. Officer Aguilar responded that if I signed, he would remove the handcuffs.*

*I then asked if I could have an attorney present. A lieutenant later showed up. He was very nice; he returned my visa and released me. However, officer Aguilar threatened that he would make sure I never returned to the U.S. Until today, I am not sure what can happen. I would like to visit my pregnant daughter, but I am not sure if I am able to after that ordeal.*

#### **CASE 8**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: I. C.**

**Name of the victim: A. V. R. N.**

**Date of incident: Nov. 13, 2021**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Deprivation/Denial of Basic Needs/Services (Access to Medication)**

**Place of incident: Santa Teresa Port of Entry**

*In the past months, I had surgery on my leg. On Nov. 13, I went for a follow-up to Juarez so they could remove the nails from my leg. While at the doctor's, I was prescribed Tramadol with Ketorolac for the pain because I had severe pain. I bought a box with ten pills.*

*At the Santa Teresa Port of Entry, the officer, who seemed to be of Latin origin, asked me if I was bringing back money or medicine supposedly because he saw me on crutches. I told him I did have medicine with me and showed him the prescription.*

*The officer then sent me to secondary inspection and told me to step out of the car. After struggling, I was able to get out of the car, and three more officers showed up. An Anglo, a Hispanic female officer, and one Hispanic male officer around 50-60 years old. This last officer was the one who did not allow me to bring in my medicine. The other two officers kept asking him to allow me to bring my medication since I had a prescription and it was only ten pills, which I really needed. But he refused, stating that the prescription was not valid in the U.S. and that the pills were like bringing in weed.*

*That night I was in so much pain because I could only take Tylenol for my pain.*

#### **CASE 9**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

The State of Human Rights at the U.S.-Mexico Border:  
Report on the Findings of the 2021 Abuse Documentation Campaign

**Documenter: I. C.**

**Name of the victim: P. E.**

**Date of incident: Jan. 6, 2021**

**Agency: CBP**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Denial of Humanitarian Visa**
- **Psychological and Verbal Abuse (Intimidation, Threats)**

**Place of incident: Port of Entry Santa Fe**

*On Jan. 6, around noon, I arrived at Santa Fe Port of Entry to ask for humanitarian parole because I wanted to see my son, who had suffered a motorcycle accident. There had been an explosion, and my son had suffered burns on a good portion of his body. He was transported to a specialty hospital in Lubbock, Texas.*

*At approximately 1 p.m., Supervisor Escobedo saw my documents. He didn't come back until 4:30 p.m. and asked me the reason for seeking a humanitarian visa. I explained what had happened to my son, and it was then that he stated he was going to deny my request for not paying taxes in the United States.*

*He proceeded to tell me, "you don't pay taxes; you have children here but still don't pay taxes." I told him I did indeed pay taxes and explained that I have owned a property here since 2003, where my children live. I even told him that last time, I paid \$4,500 in taxes.*

*I invited him to search the property registry. He still denied the request. He said not to make a big deal because he could just take my visa away. He also warned me and told me not to go to another port of entry because I was risking my visa. My son was hospitalized from Dec. 29 to Feb 8, and I was not allowed to see him.*

## **BORDER PATROL**

### **CASE 10**

**Transcriber: M. G.**

**Documenter: L. L.**

**Name of the victim: M. B.**

**Date of incident: Mar. 2021**

**Agency: Border Patrol**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful and Entry without Permit in Private Property**
- **Reckless Driving**

**Place of Incident: Sunland Park, NM**

*My name is M.B., and I live in Sunland Park, New Mexico. The Border Patrol comes in and out of my porch without permission. This makes me feel unsafe because my kids cannot just go outside and play. My children are afraid to get run over by their vehicles since they have come in multiple times with their motorcycles.*

*We only want them to respect our property and stop discriminating against us because we are Mexicans.*

#### **CASE 11**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: L. L.**

**Name of the victim: C. S.**

**Date of Incident: Mar. 6, 2021**

**Agency: Border Patrol**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Detention**
- **Racial Profiling**

**Place of incident: Posey Rd., Sunland Park, NM**

*My name is M.S., and I live in Sunland Park, New Mexico. On Mar. 6, 2021, at approximately 7:30 p.m. by Posey Rd., two border patrol SUVs followed my son C.S. and his friend J.L. and stopped them.*

*The border patrol officers opened the vehicle's door and asked them both for their legal documents. The officers spoke in English and asked them if they had undocumented people in the car.*

*The officers took them out of the car and searched it. Once they saw they didn't have anything, they let them go. I believe my son was discriminated against because he is Hispanic.*

#### **CASE 12**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: L. L.**

**Name of the victim: M. G. V.**

**Date of incident: Jul. 5, 2020**

**Agency: Border Patrol**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Racial Profiling**
- **Psychological Abuse, Verbal Abuse (Harassment)**
- **Wrongful Detention**

**Place of incident: Mesa Verde St, Sunland Park, NM**

*My name is P.G.L., and I am a resident of Sunland Park, New Mexico. My partner and I have been victims of harassment and discrimination by the Border Patrol. On Jul. 5, 2020, at around 9 a.m., we were followed by a truck and a border patrol SUV two blocks from my house. We were on our way to work and stopped at my son's house, but he wasn't there, so we headed to Mesa Verde St. when they stopped us.*

*They asked us where the bodies were of those we were going to pick up. I responded that we did not do that type of work. I told them my boss lived a street away, and I am a roofer. This was when an officer asked me to show him my legal documents. My partner was asked first, and she responded that she had a border crossing visa. Then they asked me, and I told them I did not have them with me but that I was a legal permanent resident (LPR). They did not believe me and thought I was lying.*

*One officer started investigating my partner. They told her they were going to arrest her and then gave her an option to either see an immigration judge or be sent back to Mexico since her visa was still valid and she could use it to come back. The officers became very rude and had my partner get into their truck. I was unable to speak to her. They took me back to my house to get the proof that I was an LPR. I asked them to allow me to speak to my partner because she was the one who knew where my documents were, but they refused and continued to be rude. I went inside the house to show them the proof, and I brought my partner a backpack and her purse.*

*I have been communicating with my partner over the phone. She tells me she is doing fine, but she is worried about her two daughters because they had to stay with their aunt. Her daughters are both U.S. citizens; they are 12 and 10 years old.*

*I am worried about my partner's daughters' safety; they fled because of domestic violence from their biological dad. I feel that I was discriminated against because of my appearance; for being Hispanic. Now I am scared to drive and be stopped again. I also want to add that a week before this incident, I had been followed and stopped by the same officer, questioned, and let go. Although at the time I had not paid attention to his name, I recognized him this time. I felt I had been harassed by the border patrol.*

### **CASE 13**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: R. A.**

**Name of the victim: M. A.**

**Date of incident: Aug. 14, 2016**

**Agency: Border Patrol**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Temporary Detention**
- **Wrongful Immigration Detention of a US Citizen**
- **Psychological Abuse**
- **Endangerment (of Children)**

**Place of incident: Border Patrol CheckPoint-Sierra Blanca**

*My name is M.A., and I am a mother of seven children. They all have an eye disability and had to undergo surgery. I had to go to my children's surgery at the specialist's order, and the hospital arranged everything for me to go. The hospital was aware of my legal status and helped me. On Aug. 14, 2016, I left with my children to San Antonio on a commercial bus.*

*When we arrived at the Sierra Blanca checkpoint, a Black Border Patrol officer went up to review the documents. He did not speak Spanish. I showed him all the documents I had with me, but he did not understand anything. They decided to get me off the bus with my children. It was a very cold day. They detained us for approximately two to three hours, so we missed our bus. We were there until around 12 midnight or 1:00 a.m. They went through my documents and muttered to each other that it had been a mistake to get us off the bus. When they let us go, I asked them how I would get to San Antonio, and they told me to take the next bus. The officers saw that no buses were passing by, so they took us to the nearest gas station in Van Horn to take the next bus.*

*I cried as I saw my children fear and question what was happening to us. We were all afraid of not knowing what would happen to us. I cried out of frustration because I was scheduled to be at the hospital at 6 a.m. since my children's surgery was at 9 a.m. Luckily I was able to speak to my sister, and she was able to pick us up after 2-3 hours of waiting. We were on our way to San Antonio when we got into a car accident. The car was destroyed. I feel that because the officers did not do their job or knew their job, we were unable to reach our destination. Therefore my children lost an opportunity to get the necessary surgery. The discrimination, humiliation, and bad treatment of the incredulous agents stopped them from complying with a humanitarian order. I hope this will not be repeated with any more family!*

#### **Incident on Sep. 12, 2020**

*My name is M.A., I have seven children, and four of them have a syndrome called Blepharitis. On Sept. 12, 2020, two of my daughters had an appointment with a specialist in Dallas, Texas, for their eyelid lift procedure. My husband, my four sick children, and I headed to Dallas. We decided to drive through New Mexico because I had a bad experience driving through Sierra Blanca. When we arrived at the New Mexico checkpoint (Hwy. US-180), they asked us to get out of the vehicle. We were questioned over and over by different agents. I showed them the appointment we had and explained it was the reason why we were traveling. The agents took a family picture of us, which we didn't understand the reason for.*

*We had been there for four hours. They kept telling us we were getting ready to be released, but it was a lie. They made me wait in the truck while they held and questioned my husband. Officer Romero finally came out just to tell me we were allowed to leave, but my husband would have to stay behind.*

*The officer said these were orders from his supervisor. I asked officer Romero if sending me to the truck was a tactic they used to detain him, and he denied it. Officer Romero insisted that the order came from his supervisor. I drove off very upset, and I called my coordinator R. A. to explain what had happened. She told me to go back to the checkpoint. When I arrived back at the checkpoint, I was told my husband would not be able to leave by the supervisor's orders. I told*

*them I understood but that I wanted to wait for him. The officer very rudely and sarcastically said to go ahead and wait for him till Monday. The officer indicated to me where to park. Shift personnel had changed. A nicer officer came to ask me about the hospital information. He commented to my son that he was not sure why they released us but not my husband. Many hours passed by, and they kept questioning us about the same thing over and over. My children and I waited for eight hours, suffering from hunger and cold. My children were crying for their dad. Finally, my husband was released at 10:40 p.m. and was given an appointment for the next day, Sunday, at 8:00 a.m. in El Paso so that they could put on him an ankle bracelet. I asked them if I also had to go with my husband to the appointment, they said I had to. The officer recommended that we cross back through the same checkpoint since they had everything documented and would not have any problem going through. We indeed showed up to the appointment; my husband got an ankle bracelet, and thank God we were able to cross the checkpoint without further problems. It was difficult to see how citizens were denied the right to seek medical attention. I continue with the struggle that my daughters need surgeries and only hope that I don't have to go through this again.*

**CASE 14**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: I. C.**

**Name of the victim: J. N. L.**

**Date of incident: Sep. 25, 2021 (6:30 pm)**

**Agency: Border Patrol**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Physical Abuse**
- **Psychological Abuse (Verbal)**
- **Physical Abuse of a minor (13 Yro)**
- **Psychological Abuse on Children**

**Place of incident: Rio Grande river in downtown El Paso**

*On Sept. 25, at around 6:30 p.m., my son and I crossed the Rio Grande River to the United States at the height of Oro Street, where the train ended. When we crossed there, we stayed because we saw that the border patrol truck was coming. When it arrived, an officer got out quickly and screamed at us. It seemed like he was under the influence of some drug because out of nowhere, he grabbed my son by his shirt and pressed him down against the gravel. I told him, "buddy, you cannot treat my son like that; he is a minor. He is only 13 years old, and I will report it."*

*He threw me face first and then grabbed me by my neck. I felt he was suffocating me. He yelled at me and told me to go ahead and report him and called me "trash." He said, "I am not your buddy; I am an immigration officer."*

*We never tried to run. He seemed to have a Dominican accent. He called on the radio for backup, and soon other officers arrived in a gray-colored uniform. I realized they were sheriff officers.*

*I told the sheriff officers about the mistreatment my son received from the Border Patrol officer. I asked them if I could report it. They responded that they were county officials and they were there to transfer us to get fingerprinted. I was nervous and scared and did not notice the patrol number or names. They took our fingerprints and then took us over the bridge to Juárez.*

*My right arm hurts, and my neck hurts even from drinking water. My son is also sore and in pain. This was not fair treatment.*

## **CASE 15**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: A. A.**

**Name of the victim: J. D. V. P.**

**Date of incident: Oct. 5, 2021**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Harassment**
- **Psychological Abuse**
- **Wrongful Arrest**
- **Wrongful Expulsion under Title 42**

**Place of incident: Greyhound Terminal in El Paso, Tx**

*On Oct. 5, 2021, around 2:30 p.m, my wife, my baby, and I arrived at the Greyhound Terminal in El Paso, Texas. My wife went in to buy the tickets when two people in civilian clothes arrived. They showed me some police badges. I was waiting for my wife outside the terminal when they asked me what I was doing there and requested my identification.*

*I showed them my New Mexico driver's license, but they told me that the driver's license was useless. I asked them why, if I had obtained it legally. They replied that it was not a legal document and even tried to rip up my driver's license. Then I told them that I did not have legal status and that I had a case pending.*

*They started to investigate more. Even Border Patrol arrived. One of the civilian officers was very rude and offensive. He told me things like I had no rights here in the United States and that I was not an American. He sarcastically said I was not staying in this country while he would.*

*Then the other civilian officer, who was an immigration officer, started interrogating my wife and began to threaten her. My wife has DACA, but the immigration officer said, "you know that if I want to, I will take away your permit and send you back to Mexico because you should not be together or be married to an illegal?"*

*They made comments and told her to wait before buying the tickets because she may end up saving the money, making it seem as if I was going to be deported. My wife cried because she*

*was scared of them taking me away. They were being insensitive and told her to shut up. They handcuffed me and took me inside a patrol car. They took our documents away from us and then took pictures of them. I was taken to an office close by, where they reviewed all of my documents, fingerprinted me, and took my mug shot. They put me inside what looked like a dog kennel. After about thirty minutes, they walked me across the bridge.*

## **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER ENFORCEMENT (ICE)**

### **CASE 16**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: A. A.**

**Name of the victim: F. S. G.**

**Date of incident: Jan. 22, 2021**

**Agency: ICE, Border Patrol, and State Trooper**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Entry (at Home)**
- **Psychological and Verbal Abuse (Intimidation, Threats)**
- **Psychological Abuse on Children**
- **Reckless Covid-19 exposure**

**Place of incident: Anthony, TX**

*On Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at 11 A.M., someone knocked on my door. When I opened it, it was an ICE agent dressed in civilian clothes, along with border patrol agents and State Troopers. The ICE agent told me that they had an anonymous report that undocumented people were here in my house. I told him no, there was no one there, and he could not enter. He put his foot on the door and told me they had to go in because they had that report. I told him he had to bring a warrant. He said he could get the warrant, but if they went for it, they would come back and break down the door.*

*I told him to wait for me and let me make a call. I called Lourdes Vázquez, a coordinator with the Border Network for Human Rights, because the agent had his foot on the door and did not move it. When Lourdes answered, I told her that immigration and state troopers were there and that they didn't want to bring a warrant. I asked the agent to move his foot to close the door. Lourdes asked me to inform him he had to get a warrant. They said if they bring it, they will come back and take all of us, and separate us from our children. I had the cell phone on speaker. Lourdes asked his name, and he answered, "Marcos Arteaga." She told him that if he didn't bring a warrant, he couldn't go in. She informed him that they couldn't enter my property just because of some gossip. She also stated that she was going to talk to the director of the Border Network so that he could talk to the agents' boss, Chávez, to check if he could enter without an order. The officer didn't pay any attention to Lourdes and continued talking to me.*

*There were four children with me, my grandchildren, and they were terrified. I was in shock; my blood levels dropped from the intimidation and shame I was subjected to. I felt like a criminal; I was humiliated. They put us all at risk of Covid- 19 because they weren't using masks and went into the house.*

*My daughter came down from the top floor when she heard the argument and threats from the agent. She said, "OK, I'm going to let you in, but I want you to trust me because I'm going to trust you." They entered without a mask and searched the whole house up and down. Before they left, they said they had already checked everything; there was no one else. They thanked us and told us that we would probably never see them there again. The agent repeated that if they had brought the order, they would have taken us all. The agent further stated that Lourdes seems "very comfortable in her house."*

## **DETENTION CENTERS**

### **CASE 17**

**Transcriber: I. C./M. A.**

**Documenter: M. A.**

**Name of the victim: H. P. G.**

**Date of Incident: May 24, 2021**

**Agency: Serv Pro Company/Fort Bliss Detention Center**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Reckless Covid-19 exposure**
- **Violation to the access to basic needs while in detention**
- **Psychological Abuse**

The State of Human Rights at the U.S.-Mexico Border:  
Report on the Findings of the 2021 Abuse Documentation Campaign

- **Sexual Abuse**

**Place of Incident: Shelter Operation Serv Pro Carpa#8**

*I, H.P.G., started working in the tents where they have unaccompanied minors in Fort Bliss on May 14. I noticed several cases of abuse that were happening. For example, one night, a child woke up and told me, "my eyes hurt." I took him to the nurse; he had covid. But the children were all mixed up, and they were getting infected. They weren't eating well as the food was raw.*

*Later, I learned that the children have been in detention for 45 to 56 days. They have to brush their teeth in the showers because the employees close the bathroom door to prevent them from using it. The children dry themselves with their own clothes because there are either no towels or very small towels.*

*The children are so afraid that they want to be deported; they can no longer bear the mistreatment they are facing there. The children also told me that tent workers let children touch their private parts. They also yell at them to go to sleep and wake them up in the morning by putting the horns in their ears. They have no blankets, only sheets, and it gets very cold at night. They get sore throats.*

*During the day, the tents are very hot. The girls are given underwear so small for them that it cuts their legs. There is a lice pandemic, and they just put nets over their heads. There are about 900 children in each tent and around 78 beds.*

*I worked there for a few weeks. I do not wish that on anyone, and I am not afraid to discuss what I experienced there.*

**CASE 18**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: I. C.**

**Name of the victim: R. Q. I.**

**Date of incident: May 28, 2021**

**Agency: ICE/Otero Processing Center**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Violation of Constitutional 5th Amendment Rights (Double Jeopardy)**
- **Deprivation/Denial Basic Needs (Emergency Medical Response)**
- **Psychological Abuse (Intimidation, Threats, Retaliation, Solitary Confinement)**
- **Reckless Covid-19 exposure**

**Place of incident: Otero Processing Center**

*My name is R.Q.I. and I was born in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. I have been detained by ICE for the last eight months. In May 2020, I returned to the U.S. with my Legal Permanent*

*Residence (LPR) card. ICE arrested me at the Zaragoza Port of Entry, stating that I was arrested because of an issue I had in 2009. That issue had taken me to the Otero processing center, it got cleared, and I was released. I explained that it was a mistake because it was already resolved; I renewed my LPR and traveled to Juarez frequently. But they arrested me and took me to the EPPD station and then to Odessa. On Oct. 23, after 3 or 4 months of being held without an explanation, they took me back to ICE in El Paso Processing Center. Afterwards, they transferred me to the Otero Processing Center, and I have been here since then.*

*I am writing to you because it is urgent that attention is paid to this place, that they do something so that the abuses and violations of all kinds of human and civil rights are stopped and are caught in the public light, and that these private detentions are closed. Here the detainees are only a source of money production for MTC, which is the company that runs the center.*

*About a month after my arrival in Otero, I began to suffer pain in the abdominal area. It was so painful that I couldn't sleep; I cried from the pain. For two weeks, the medical staff only gave me Tylenol. Even though I told them many times that I had been hospitalized previously for gallbladder problems, they ignored me. Finally, they sent me to Del Sol Hospital, where I underwent emergency surgery. Days later, they returned me to the Otero Processing Center, where they put me under COVID quarantine for ten days. After those ten days, they sent me to a regular dorm. A few days later, the area of the surgery became infected and opened. I had to wait two weeks to get antibiotics. It's important to mention that I suffer from various illnesses. Here, there are also no measures to prevent COVID.*

*Also, if you want to protest, you are immediately threatened by the security guards.*

*They are offering the Johnson and Johnson vaccine only. If we refuse to take the vaccine for fear of the adverse effects, they try to pressure us, telling us that ICE will only let go of those who have taken the vaccine. They use coercion and threats to pressure us into taking the Johnson & Johnson. More than 25 people here had an adverse reaction to the vaccine, and many were taken to the hospital.*

*Another issue is the foodservice. The kitchen is run by the same guards who do not have a food license or the training to handle food. These same guards are intimidated and forced to work different job positions and at different hours, whether they like it or not. There are lawsuits pending in the state of New Mexico against the MTC company. It is horrible. There are many more details. I was sent to solitary confinement for peacefully protesting against the cleanliness of the place. I was then visited by Lieutenant Baker, who threatened me.*

## **El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPCSO)**

### **CASE 19**

**Transcriber: M. A.**

**Documenter: M. A.**

**Name of victim: E. P. and J. S.**

**Date of incident: May 19, 2018**

The State of Human Rights at the U.S.-Mexico Border:  
Report on the Findings of the 2021 Abuse Documentation Campaign

**Agency: El Paso County Sheriff Office**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Search of Vehicle and Personal Property**
- **Racial Profile**
- **Psychological Abuse**

**Place of Incident: outside Mountain View High School**

*On May 19, 2018, at around 3:30 p.m., I went to pick up my son Jose from school. Leaving the school parking lot, a deputy sheriff honked at me and pulled me over. The officer's name is Roberto Gandara. He asked for my driver's license, and I told him I did not have any. He then proceeded to ask me to get out of my vehicle. He told me he would search my car. Then he took my purse away. He told me that my son was a gangster because he saw his school notebooks had some drawings. Then he said he was going to search the trunk because we had cocaine. This was a lie. I had flour to make tortillas because I sell them. Once he searched everything, he gave me back my purse. By this time, another sheriff officer had arrived and started questioning my son, asking why we had been pulled over. We thought immigration was going to be called on us. Fortunately, they just gave me a ticket for no driver's license. I was terrified; they tended to whisper amongst themselves.*

**CASE 20**

**Transcriber I. C.**

**Documenter: M. A.**

**Name of the victim: M. M.**

**Date of incident: Oct. 21, 2021**

**Agency: El Paso County Sheriff**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Psychological Verbal/Verbal abuse**
- **Racial Profiling (Discrimination, Attitude of Deputy after seeing Mexican Consular Identification)**

**Place of incident: Mark Jason St., El Paso, TX**

*On Thursday, Oct. 21, at around 6:40 p.m., I was driving on my way to pick up a friend. I passed by the elementary school on Mark Jason and saw a sheriff. Soon after, he pulled me over. The sheriff asked me for my insurance and driver's license.*

*When he noticed that I had the Mexican consulate identification, he asked me in an insulting manner, "are you aware you are not supposed to drive without a driver's license?" and I responded, "of course, I am not ignorant, but that is the only identification I have, do you need another one?"*

*The officer then told me he stopped me because my headlight looked like it was out, and my license plate was not very visible. The officer went to check my insurance and then came back to tell me I was going to receive a warning to change the headlights. I was distraught; I felt discriminated against because of how he expressed himself due to the type of identification. He was very rude to me.*

**CASE 21**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: A. A.**

**Name of the victim: J. H.**

**Date of incident: Jan. 26, 2021**

**Agency: El Paso County Sheriff**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Local Police Enforcing Immigration Laws (El Paso County Sheriff)**
- **Wrongful Arrest (By Sheriff Deputy)**
- **Wrongful deportation/expulsion**
- **Wrongful Application of Title 42**

**Place of incident: Dyer and Taylor St., El Paso, TX**

*On Jan. 26, around 12:30 a.m., my husband went to the 7-Eleven store. When he arrived, my husband saw two individuals robbing the store. He did not go in, he turned away, but the police saw him and stopped him. They asked him if he was one of those robbers. He said no. They told him to go with them to verify with the cashier that he was not the one who had robbed the store. They kept him inside their vehicle and did not allow him to come out. The cashier verified he was not the thief. They asked my husband for his identification. My husband showed them his Mexican consular identification. The police told him that it was not valid. My husband told them it was the only identification.*

*The Sheriff deputies took him into custody. My husband thought he would be a witness, but unfortunately, they took him to the Santa Fe Bridge and turned him over to immigration officers with blue uniforms. Then he was processed and expelled to Guadalajara, Mexico.*

*Unfortunately, after that, my 9-year-old daughter was hospitalized for a tumor in her chest. She and my other daughters worry a lot about their father.*

**SUNLAND PARK POLICE  
DONA ANA COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE  
FBI**

**CASE 22**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: L. L.**

**Name of the victim: J. A. M.**

**Date of incident: Dec. 2019**

**Agency: Sunland Park Police; Sheriff, FBI**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Arrest**
- **Wrongful Entry**
- **Physical Abuse**
- **Wrongful Destruction of Property**

**Place of Incident: Sunland Park, NM (Mora Ln)**

*My name is J.A.M., and I live in Sunland Park. On Dec. 2019, at 5:00 a.m., I was a victim of abuse by the Sunland Park Police, Sheriff, and FBI. They came to my work at 5:00 a.m. to arrest me. Before heading to my work, they went to my house at 3:00 a.m., abusing their power by entering my home without a search warrant, breaking down the door, and destroying the interior of my home.*

*This caused my wife to have a medical issue. She had to be taken to the hospital with a possible heart attack. After leaving my home, they came to my work, which was when they arrested me. They arrested me because they had my phone bugged as they were investigating a fire that had happened days before in Sunland Park. The man whose house burned down was a coworker. I*

*mentioned to my grandson the incident, which is why they arrested me for more than eight hours.*

*After the interrogation, they released me but were not held accountable for the damages they caused me, both mentally and materialistically.*

## **El Paso Police Department**

### **CASE 23**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: S. S.**

**Name of the victim: J S**

**Date of incident: Jun. 5, 2019**

**Agency: EPPD**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

**Wrongful Temporary Detention**

- **Physical Abuse**
- **Psychological Abuse**
- **Psychological Abuse on Children**

**Place of incident: Parking lot at Pellicano & Pullman Dr.**

*On the day of the incident, Jun. 5, 2019, I had my two little brothers with me, heading home. At the time, one was six years old, and the other was one year old. There was an accident, and the road was closed. I asked the officer for directions when he proceeded to shout vulgar language at me. I then asked him for his badge number because officers don't have the right to talk to citizens inappropriately for no reason. He, along with his supervisor, came over to my vehicle, asked me to step out, and informed me that I would be receiving a citation for impeding traffic.*

*I proceeded to ask them for their badge numbers, but they disregarded and continued to write the citation. They then asked me if I was going to sign the citation. I told them, yes, but I would also want their badge numbers. That's when they informed me I was under arrest, saying that I refused to sign the citation, to turn around, and place my hands behind my back.*

*After following their instructions, they pushed me up against my vehicle forcefully and twisted my arm. The officer then shouted, "stop resisting," and then slammed me on rocks and blacktop where my right ear was damaged and my leg was cut. They also slammed my face into the concrete.*

*All of this occurred while my brothers were in the backseat screaming and crying. I informed the officers to call my mother so that she could come and get my brothers. The officers then told me that they were going to call CPS to place my brothers in the system instead of calling my mother. They continued to antagonize me and use vulgar language by telling me, "you're a grown - a man - and you're calling for your mom" while beating on me in front of my brothers and the family of the accident victims.*

*I was then placed into the back of the vehicle, where EMS came and asked me if I wanted to receive medical treatment. I refused because I needed evidence of their assault on my person.*

*After assaulting me while in custody, the officer and his female partner continued to antagonize me, use vulgar language, mock me, and laugh at the incident in hopes that I would have a reaction.*

*I believed that I was going to die in front of my brothers and all I could do was pray.*

*After the incident, I still did not receive the officer's or his supervisor's badge number. I also have called internal affairs on several occasions, and they have not returned my call to this day.*

*This incident took place in 2019. Police brutality is just as real in El Paso as it is in other cities and states. It is time that we as a community come together and hold these officers accountable and responsible for their actions.*

**CASE 24**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: S. S.**

**Name of the victim: A. E.**

**Date of incident: Sep. 28, 2021**

**Agency: EPPD**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Wrongful Temporary Detention**
- **Wrongful Arrest**
- **Physical Abuse**
- **Psychological Abuse**

**Place of incident: Thunderbird Trail Head at 1100 Thunderbird Dr, in West El Paso, 79912**

*On the morning of Sep. 28, 2021, around 5:00-5:30 am, I was sleeping under a blanket in my car parked at the Thunderbird Trail Head at 1100 Thunderbird Dr, in West El Paso, 79912, when I was awakened by a knock and a flashlight shining into my car. After identifying that the people outside my car door were police, I spoke to them. At no point did the officers identify themselves by name or badge number, only as "El Paso Police." Officers J. Garcia and J. Arce asked me several routine questions, all of which I answered compliantly and truthfully.*

*Officer 1 then asked me to step out of the car. I asked why, and his answer was, "because I said so." This was a power play on behalf of Officer 1. I stepped out of my vehicle, and once I was out, again asked why. No response. I continued to ask, and the response I received was, "wait until the other officer who has more information arrives." I stood outside next to my vehicle as instructed by officer 2 and waited for the third officer. I'm not sure how long she took, but I was not dressed to stand outside at night in the cold. I proceeded to shiver for several minutes until officer 1 was kind enough to retrieve my blanket for me from the car (even though they never presented evidence of a warrant). Officer Waide arrived and asked me why they are here. I replied that they know why. She then asked to pat me down and put the blanket on the dirty ground. I asked if I may place it elsewhere, at which point officer 2 rudely and forcefully grabbed it from me, dragged it across the floor, and shoved it into my car (even though they never presented evidence of a warrant). This was a power play on behalf of officer 2. Officer Waide then asked me, "would you be willing to go to a hospital and get checked out?" I replied no. She asked me why; I replied because I do not want to and do not have the insurance or means to pay*

*for it. She nodded. She told me she was worried about my and her safety, and she thought I should go to the hospital. This was where I get confused. Her safety? I had not run, threatened, waved my arms, approached the officers in any way, or failed to comply with any of their requests. She patted me down; she knew I had no weapons.*

*Suddenly, out of nowhere, I am told to turn around and stand against my vehicle. My arms were then extremely forcefully grabbed and shoved against my back. I felt the cold sensation of the handcuffs against my skin. I repeatedly asked WHY I was being put in handcuffs. None of the officers answered. I continued to ask, and one of the officers responded by tightening the handcuffs.*

*The officers then grabbed me and proceeded to drag me several feet from where I was calmly standing next to my vehicle to their vehicle and slammed my 120-pound body into the back of the vehicle, forcefully grabbing my head and shoving it.*

*I tried to calm down and told Officer Waide, who was driving the vehicle, that this was a mistake. She did not understand or care about what I said. Both my hands went completely numb, and I began to lose sensation in my wrists as well.*

*At some point during the ride to the hospital, Officer Waide told me she called and told my mother she was taking me to the hospital. This is a HIPAA violation since I am not a minor. Officer Waide also said that my mother would pick up my vehicle.*

*We arrived at the hospital, and Officers Waide and officer 2 grabbed me forcefully and began walking me inside. I asked if this was necessary as I seemed to have no choice. They replied yes, we have to be touching you at all times. It was sick and disgusting, but I nodded. Officer Waide said they could let me go if I promised not to try and flee. I replied again, "I have no choice, so why would I?" The two officers released their grip but stayed close. We walked into The Hospitals at Providence on Transmountain together, and the officers went off to speak with the hospital's personnel.*

*After being released from the hospital, I walked, on foot, from the Hospitals of Providence on Transmountain to my car at 1100 Thunderbird Drive, even though it is the responsibility of those involved to take me back to my car or my home in Texas at no charge to me. Upon arrival, I saw the marks from where I was brutally dragged just a few hours ago. I took a video of the marks left while I was being abused. I opened my car and started to clean it from the mess the officers had made in it a few hours ago when I discovered some contents of my vehicle missing (even though a warrant had never been presented).*

## **CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO**

### **CASE 25**

**Transcriber: I. C.**

**Documenter: Y. A.**

**Name of the victim: K. S.**

**Date of incident: Oct. 13, 2021**

**Agency: Mexican Consulate**

**Type of Alleged Abuse:**

- **Deprivation/Denial of Basic Need or Service**

- **Psychological and Verbal Abuse**

**Place of incident: 910 San Antonio Ave. El Paso, TX**

*My name is K.S., and my husband is I.S. We went to the Mexican consulate on Oct. 13 to process a consulate identification. We took all the required documents, like a marriage certificate, a birth certificate, an expired Mexican passport, and an electoral card from 2021. We were still denied. They made me process the INE (Mexican voter identification) and show my proof of residence. But even then, they still denied my case. At this moment, we are unsure what to do; we are desperate. When we spoke with the general consul, he clarified that some documents were no longer acceptable and advised me to bring proof of my education, Mexican social security documents, or the naturalization letter. They asked my husband to bring his military card. From the beginning of our arrival at the consulate, we felt discriminated against, especially when the woman attending was so rude and unprofessional.*