**[Trump admin plans to begin turning asylum seekers back to Mexico](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/dhs-plans-begin-turning-asylum-seekers-back-mexico-await-court-n962401)**

By Julia Ainsley

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration plans to begin turning asylum seekers back across the southern border to wait in Mexico Friday under a new policy designed to crack down on immigration by Central American families, according to three Department of Homeland Security officials familiar with the matter.

Customs and Border Protection officers [will begin returning asylum seekers](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/dhs-begin-returning-asylum-seekers-border-mexico-await-decisions-n950406) attempting to enter at the San Ysidro port of entry in California from Tijuana, Mexico, where thousands of migrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador are already waiting in poor conditions.

Under current policy, [immigrants who pass an initial "credible fear" interview are allowed to remain in the U.S.](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/judge-bars-trump-administration-denying-asylum-migrants-who-enter-illegally-n938271)while they wait for immigration judges to decide their cases. Single adults are detained while they await their hearing, but a federal court decision in 2015 mandates that families with children be detained no longer than 20 days.

The U.S. plans to turn asylum seekers back across the border to wait for their court dates, a policy rights advocates have vowed to fight.

# **rt dates**

# **DHS plans to begin turning asylum seekers back to Mexico to await court dates**