

Bush Signs New Border Fence Into Law

high-tech US-Mexico wall will include surveillance cameras, infrared sensors, satellites and ground radar

By [Global Research](#)

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Critics call it is a reincarnation of the Iron Curtain, Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, and The Great Wall of China.

The fence is intended to enforce border regulation along this porous stretch of the U.S.-Mexican border

(WASHINGTON D.C.) – A 700-mile long fence along the Mexican border was approved today at the nation’s capitol. The President says the wall will help to deter illegal immigration from the countries south of the United States.

Bush signed the bill into law at a White House ceremony. He says the planned barrier will be a double fence with a strip in the middle where border guards can patrol. He calls it “an important step in our nation’s efforts to secure our border.”

The high-tech wall will include surveillance cameras, infrared sensors, satellites and ground radar.

In facing critics, the administration points to success that a similar wall on a limited stretch of fence near San Diego has been successful in stemming the tide of illegal immigration.

Salem, Oregon resident James Santana recently completed a trip along most of the U.S.-Mexican border riding a mountain bike. He talked with scores of people who were attempting to seek entry to the U.S.

He asked one man why he would go to such extreme measures to improve his life in the United States. The man replied, “Do you know what it is like to put your daughter to bed hungry every night?”

Santana also says that the flow of immigrants below the Mexican border are as big of a problem for Mexico as they are for the United States. Mexico’s border with Guatemala is a continual source of concern.

Earlier in October, Bush signed a measure into effect that doubles the number of US border patrol agents to 18,000 by 2008. He also authorized the first funds, 1.2 billion dollars, for the 6-billion-dollar fence project.

Critics say the fence will not stop the many

Critics say illegal migrants will still cross the border. It will certainly become more dangerous for families journeying northward, but will do little to impact those who overstay their visas. They say it would enrich the smuggling of people and they say it complicates relations between the US and Mexico.

Mexican President-elect Felipe Calderon has denounced the border fence. The President says it will not work. Mexican officials are comparing it to the Berlin Wall.

Bush's proposals for broader immigration reform include a guest worker program, and efforts to bring legal residency to an estimated 11 million residents in the US. That effort however is stuck in Congress.

In terms of numbers, officials estimate that approximately 1.2 million people were arrested last year alone for entering the US illegally. Most of those arrests were made in the Southwest desert areas in Arizona and New Mexico. They say another half a million people illegally entering the U.S. escape detection every year.

US Senator Edward Kennedy says Bush is using a populist tactic to help Republicans keep control of both the house and senate in upcoming November 7th elections.

Interestingly, the Canadians could see similar border tactics in the future. A US government study has been launched to determine whether the nation needs and could build "a state-of-the-art infrastructure security system" along the northern border.

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