

A Comment on NYT's June 23, 2018 article "Is the Border in Crisis?"

Peg Bowden

Tucson9h ago

Times Pick

I live near Nogales, AZ., a major Port of Entry for asylum seekers from Central America. The crisis is on both sides of the border. There are hundreds living in shelters in Mexico waiting to be processed by the slow-moving US immigration authorities. At least 30 or more migrants sleep on the sidewalk outside our US gates on blankets and mats that kind people leave to alleviate their discomfort. Toddlers curl up next to stuffed toys we have left. Yesterday it was 103 degrees on that sidewalk. The mosquitoes swarm at night. Sometimes immigration authorities process 5 family units per day, sometimes none. Their faces are full of hope, fear, and a numbness after days of harsh travel to get here. Almost all are fleeing extreme violence, killings of parents and family members, gang recruitment, and domestic violence. Some have been killed by the police. The families know that their future in the US may include incarceration. The people I have met are strong, resilient, determined, and relieved to be out of their country of origin. They will do our country proud if we give them a chance.