

# Mexico pushes back after top U.S. court favors Trump on

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico pushed back on Thursday against a U.S. Supreme Court action granting a Trump administration request to fully enforce a new rule curtailing asylum applications by immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, one that could create a new headache for Mexico. Central American migrants returned to Mexico from the U.S. under the Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) to wait for their court hearing for asylum seekers, have breakfast at a migrant shelter in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico September 12, 2019. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez

The court on Wednesday said that so long as the issue is being litigated, immigrants who want asylum can be required to first seek safe haven in a third country through which they travel on the way to the United States.

"This is the ruling by the court, it's a U.S. issue, and obviously we don't agree with it, we have a different policy," Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard told a news conference.

The court's move comes at a delicate time for Mexican-U.S. relations. Under U.S. President Donald Trump's threat of imposing tariffs, Mexico has agreed to house many of the surging number of Central American asylum-seekers south of the border pending their U.S. hearings.

That gesture has led to a decline in U.S. apprehensions and rejections of migrants at the border, which totaled 64,000 people in August, down 22% from July and 56% from a high mark in May. Even though arrests are still at their highest for any month of August since 2007, the decline from earlier this year won Mexico praise from Trump following a White House meeting on Tuesday.

But Mexico has resisted U.S. pressure to sign a formal "safe third country" agreement that would commit it to hearing the asylum cases of migrants from Central American and elsewhere, a move that would take even more pressure off the U.S. border.

"This can't come about from a court ruling by another country. It's an agreement between two or more countries," Ebrard said, referring to a safe third country agreement. "Mexico won't accept it under any circumstances."

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has been at pains to avoid angering Trump in the fraught discussions over trade and migration, mindful that Mexico sends around 80% of its exports to the United States.

Lopez Obrador, who spoke with Trump by telephone on Wednesday, told the news conference the call was fruitful and there was nothing that would lead to the imposition of measures that would hurt the Mexican economy.

Asked whether the two presidents could meet in person, Ebrard said the matter has been under consideration, but that there were no plans for a meeting in the short term.

Mindful of domestic political pressure not to cave in to the United States, Ebrard repeated that Mexico expected U.S. authorities to curb the southward flow of illegal weapons into Mexico, a stance his government has adopted to counter U.S. demands to do more to stop migrants heading north.

Successive Mexican governments have pointed out that illicit arms sales from the United States into Mexico have fueled turf wars between drug gangs and clashes with security forces, exacerbating social problems and adding to migratory pressures.

Ebrard said it was in his country's interest to keep migrant numbers down to avoid tensions with Washington on the issue in the run-up to the 2020 U.S. presidential election.



Central American migrants returned to Mexico from the U.S. under the Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) to wait for their court hearing for asylum seekers, have breakfast at a migrant shelter in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.





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# Editor's Choice



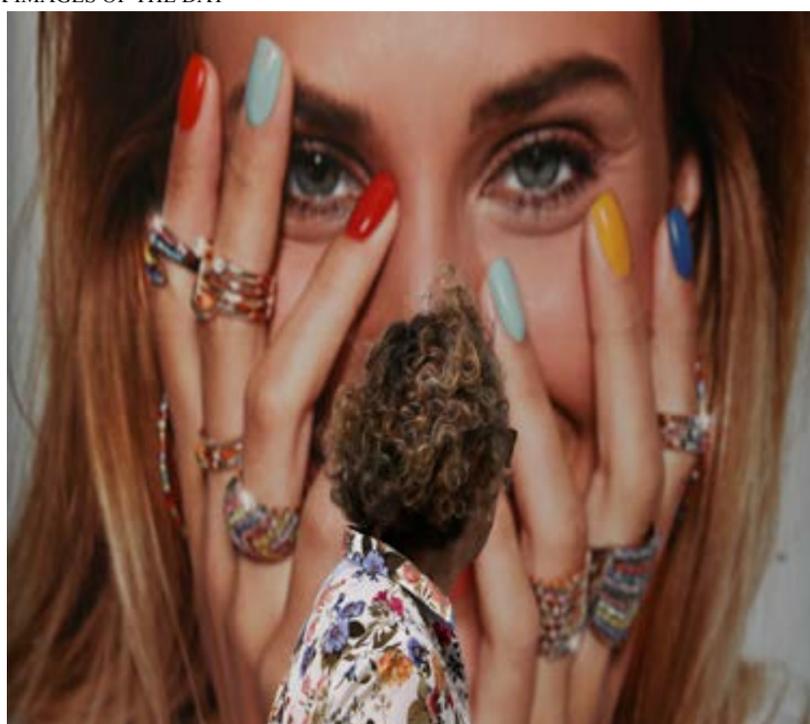
German Chancellor Angela Merkel sits inside a Volkswagen car at the international Frankfurt Motor Show (IAA) in Frankfurt, Germany, September 12, 2019. REUTERS/Wolfgang Rattay TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduces Vancouver Kingsway candidate Tamara Taggart at a rally in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada September 11, 2019. REUTERS/Jennifer Gauthier NO ARCHIVES. NO RESALES. TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Visitors try Alienware gaming devices at Tokyo Game Show 2019 in Chiba



A woman looks at a jewellery ad at a shopping district in central Madrid



Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, attends the launch of the Smart Works capsule collection in London



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks at a news conference after reshuffling his cabinet at his official residence in Tokyo



Mexican citizens fleeing violence, queue to cross into the U.S. to apply for asylum at Paso del Norte border crossing bridge in Ciudad Juarez



Palestinian jockey competes as another falls during a local horse racing on the land of Gaza destroyed airport, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip



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## Hurricane Season Is Here – Are You Ready?

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The International District would like to remind everyone that Hurricane Season is upon us. We all need to be smart and plan ahead for all kinds of disasters: natural, manmade, technological and terrorist related. In Southeast Texas, however, the most likely disaster scenario is a Hurricane.

Here are a few things to do in preparation:

### Before the Hurricane

- Monitor local TV or AM 740 KTRH Radio for instructions
- Check your supplies; especially water (5 gallons per person per day)
- Fuel your vehicles and generators
- Cover your windows with plywood
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, toys, tools and other objects that could be missiles
- Take pictures of property and contents for insurance purposes

### Stock Emergency Supplies

- (at least 72 hours worth)
- First aid kit
  - NOAA Radio and batteries
  - Flashlight and batteries
  - Extra eye glasses
  - Bottled water & Non perishable food
  - Clothing & Bedding
  - Sanitation (toilet paper & personal hygiene items)
  - Medications and copies of prescriptions
  - Cash as well as credit cards
  - Photo ID, important documents and records
  - Special products for babies, elderly and medically fragile family members

### Don't Forget Your Pets

Pet disaster kits should include: medi-

cations, first aid kits, sturdy leashes and collars, carriers to transport pets safely, current photos with owner or family members, food, potable water, litter/pan, muzzle, can opener, and toys.



Make a check list of necessary pre hurricane preparations and review with your family. Review it again when there is a storm in the Gulf of Mexico. Discuss evacuation plans with your family. Check Radio 740 and local television media for updates on zones being evacuated. Make sure your home insurance policy is current and remember that standard policies may not cover flooding and wind damage.

For more information check out the Harris County Office of Emergency Management web site. Emergency Essentials Kit (HarrisReady.org) (Courtesy International Management District)

### The "Ultimate" Hurricane Checklist

- Aluminum foil
- Battery-powered or **hand-crank radio** and an NOAA **Weather Radio** with tone alert and **extra batteries** for both

- Bleach and medicine dropper (Nine parts water to one part bleach can be used as a disinfectant.)
- **Books, games, puzzles** or other activities for children
- **Cash or traveler's checks and change**
- **Carbon monoxide detector (while using generator)**
- **Cellphone with chargers, inverter or solar charger**
- Change of clothing including a long-sleeve shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes
- **Coolers**
- Duct tape
- **Dust mask** to help **filter contaminated air** and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Emergency reference material, such as a **first aid book**
- **Extension cord (for generators)**
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Financial documents



### Fire extinguisher

- First aid kit
- Fix-a-flat
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Frozen gel packs
- Gas cans
- **Generator**
- **Infant formula and diapers**
- Local maps
- **Manual can opener for food**
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Paper and pencil
- Paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- **Pet food and extra water** for your pet
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Prescription medications and glasses
- **Rain gear and rubber boots**
- Sandbags (for flooding)
- **Sleeping bag or warm blanket** for each person
- **Toilet paper**
- Trash bags
- **Utility knife**
- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- **Whistle to signal for help**
- **Work gloves**
- **Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities**

(Courtesyhttps://www.chron.com/news/)



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS THE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY / TIRZ NO.3 DOWNTOWN INNOVATION SPACE

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority / TIRZ No.3 (the "DRA") will receive proposals from developers, landlords, brokers and other interested parties for a vibrant innovation space to become the center of gravity for technology and entrepreneurship in the northern node of the Houston Innovation Corridor, located in TIRZ No.3 in Downtown Houston, Texas. Proposals will be received until 5:00 PM, local time on Thursday, September 19, 2019 by Robert Pieroni, Director of Economic Development, 2 Houston Center, 909 Fannin, Suite 1650, Houston, Texas 77010. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Respective of this advertisement, telephone, mail, email queries or requests for information will be addressed by the Authority.

Beginning Monday, August 26, 2019, this project's Request for Proposals (RFP) may be reviewed and downloaded as an electronic file from the Authority's website: <http://www.downtowntirz.com>. A pre-submittal conference is scheduled for 2:00 PM, Thursday, September 12, 2019, to be held at the Authority's offices. Following this conference, queries or requests for information will be addressed by the Authority, pursuant to the instructions provided in the RFP. Based on the Proposals submitted, an evaluation DRA selection committee. The findings and recommendations of the selection committee will be presented to the full DRA Board of Directors for final approval. The project will not move forward without full board approval.



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Conventional-Gas Station	SBA Loan-Motel
Loan Amount: \$1,880,000 Term: 20 Years Straight payout Purpose: Purchasing	Loan Amount: \$2,500,000 Term: 12 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Construction/ Term Start Up
Conventional: Retail Condominiums	Conventional: Gas Stations
Loan Amount: \$4,350,000 Term: 8 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Tenant Improvement/ Term CRE Investor Program	Loan Amount: \$3,450,000 (Total 2 Loans) Term: 20 Years straight payout Purpose: Refinance & Extra Equity for Gas Stations purchasing
Conventional: Gas Stations	Conventional: Builder line of credit
Loan Amount: \$3,780,000 Term: 20 years straight payout Purpose: Refinancing and Extra Equity for Land Purchasing	Loan Amount: \$1,700,000 Term: 12 Month Interest Only Purpose: SFR Construction Builder Line

For your Commercial Loan inquiry and SBA Loan inquiry, please contact,

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**Amazon Drivers Part Of \$10 Million Theft Ring, FBI Says**



Amazon vans line up at a distribution center to pick up packages for delivery on Amazon Prime Day, in Orlando, Florida on July 16, 2019.

**Overview**

*A theft ring in Washington state sold millions of dollars' worth of stolen goods on Amazon.com in the past six years, recently unsealed federal court documents show.*

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

SEATTLE — A theft ring in Washington state sold millions of dollars' worth of stolen goods on Amazon.com in the past six years, and a pair of Amazon delivery drivers was involved, recently unsealed federal court documents show.

According to a search warrant affidavit unsealed in U.S. District Court in Seattle and reviewed by The Associated Press, two storefront businesses posing as pawnshops bought the goods from shoplifters, then had the items shipped to Amazon warehouses, where they were stored until sold online.

Entities associated with the alleged ringleader did at least \$10 million in sales on Amazon since 2013, FBI agent Ariana Kroshinsky wrote in her affidavit.

No charges have yet been filed, though investigators have raided the pawnshops

and the home of the man identified as the ringleader, Aleksandr Pavlovskiy, 44, of Auburn. A man who answered the door at one of the shops Wednesday identified himself as Alex and told The Associated Press his business was legitimate, that he kept good records and he should not be in any trouble.

Among those who provided stolen items to the pawn shops were two contract Amazon drivers, Kroshinsky said. Their job was to travel to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, pick up items being returned to the company and then bring them to an Amazon warehouse south of Seattle, and to deliver items to post offices for shipping. Instead, they routinely stole the goods and sold them to the pawnshops, she wrote.

Amazon did not immediately return an

email seeking comment about the case Thursday.



**A pawn shop alleged to have been a front for a theft ring closed in Renton, Wash. on July 31, 2019. The FBI says the ring sold millions of dollars' worth of stolen goods on Amazon.com in the past six years, and that a pair of Amazon delivery drivers was involved. No charges have yet been filed.** Elaine Thompson / AP

The investigation began last summer when a police detective in Auburn, a south Seattle suburb, was perusing a record of pawnshop sales and noticed that one man had made 57 transactions. It turned out to be one of the drivers.

He had received nearly \$30,000 selling items to the pawn shops between February and July last year, the affidavit said. Police initially arrested the driver, but released him from jail to avoid disrupting their larger investigation.

The other driver, identified as Abbas Zghair, was believed to be a roommate of the first. Amazon told investigators that Zghair stole about \$100,000 worth of property, including gaming systems, sporting goods and computer products — items he sold to one of the pawnshops for less than \$20,000, the agent wrote. In an unrelated case, Zghair has been charged with murder after police said he shot and killed a man in an Auburn field in March, then fled to the Canadian border, where he was arrested trying to cross with a fake ID. He's being held on \$2.5 million bail.

Detectives staked out the pawnshops, Innovation Best in Kent and Thrift-Electro

in Renton, and observed that they appeared to be paying shoplifters and drug users cash for new items from Home Depot, Lowes and Fred Meyer department stores.



Unlike typical pawn shops, they didn't make sales; instead, the products were moved to a warehouse and to Amazon "fulfillment centers," from where they were shipped when they were sold on Amazon's website by sellers using the handles "Bestforyouall" or "Freeshipforyou," the affidavit said.

According to a database of pawnshop transactions reviewed by Auburn police, the suspect pawn shops paid more than \$4.1 million to sellers who brought them nearly 48,000 items in the past six years. The items included allergy medication, razors, electric toothbrushes and tools in their original packaging. Detectives also conducted undercover operations in which they sold new items in their original packaging to the shops, which accepted them no questions asked, Kroshinsky wrote.

The FBI said it is awaiting more Amazon records to determine the full extent of Pavlovskiy's enterprise, but that "estimated revenue from Amazon sales, for entities associated with Aleksandr Pavlovskiy, was at least \$10 million since 2013."

Pavlovskiy's lawyer, Cristine Beckwith, did not return a message seeking comment.

The sale of stolen or counterfeit goods on Amazon or other digital marketplaces is not uncommon, but it was not immediately clear how many other schemes

had reached such a volume of sales. Last year, police raided a pawn shop in Monroe, north of Seattle, that they said had taken in \$428,000 fencing stolen items, much of it on Amazon.



Jon Riley, a vice president for the digital strategy firm Publicis Sapient and previously the head of e-commerce user experience for Amazon Devices, said preventing the sale of stolen goods is a major challenge for the company, but retailers can be held liable if they don't do enough to ensure they're not selling stolen goods. Because it's impossible for Amazon to review "every Tide pod" that's sold on its site, the company will likely need to do more to vet sellers, Riley said.

"It's a little bit of an arms race for Amazon to be able to take in product, put it on the web and get it to their customers in a speedy fashion and not unwittingly sell stolen stuff at the same time," Riley said. "Ultimately what Amazon has to do is show good faith if the government comes knocking on the door and says, 'Look, you're selling stolen goods.'" (Courtesy nbcnews.com)



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