



MARK BRNOVICH  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ARIZONA

April 2, 2021

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Madam Vice President,

Recently, you stated, *"You have to see and smell and feel the circumstances of people to really understand them."* With that in mind, I formally invite you to join me for a tour of the southwest border in Arizona later this month. It will provide firsthand insight into what Arizonans, law enforcement officials, and migrants are experiencing. I will make myself available any day of your choosing.

One area of particular concern is the growing problem of human trafficking. As a prosecutor, you were passionate about this issue and the victims being harmed. In 2012, you wrote, *"The perpetrators of human trafficking have become more sophisticated and organized, requiring an equally sophisticated response from law enforcement and its partners to disrupt and dismantle their networks."* Your words ring especially true today. Arizona and the federal government need a more sophisticated and aggressive approach to address this crisis and tragedy.

The reality is that Mexican drug cartels are transnational criminal organizations with a stranglehold on everything that illegally comes across the U.S.-Mexico border, including human beings and drugs. Every day, while the cartels are making millions of dollars, migrants are being abused physically and financially. Many families cannot afford to pay thousands of dollars to send their children illegally to America, so they become indebted to the cartels and are forced into years of indentured servitude or trafficking until their debts are paid off. We must do everything we can to put a stop to this.

As Border Patrol agents are busy apprehending large groups of aliens, cartels are simultaneously driving dangerous truckloads of drugs across different parts of the border. While law enforcement is seizing record amounts of contraband, this is surely a small fraction of the drugs actually flooding communities across the country.

Lastly, dangerous criminals are crossing our southern border – some of whom we catch, while others slip into American communities. Many of the dangerous individuals apprehended at our border, who have already received final deportation orders, are not being lawfully removed.

Additionally, I have been made aware of more than 300 individuals in federal custody who were recently turned loose in Arizona communities without any coordination with local law enforcement. It should not take a preventable tragedy for the federal government to realize how dangerous and misguided the current "catch and release" policy is.

You recently said, "*Fidelity to the rule of law forms the bedrock of our democracy.*" I couldn't agree more. That's why I hope you accept this invitation and join me at the border. As the children of immigrants, we both know the opportunity this country provides and that the promise for a better future can only be sustained by a nation of laws. Let's take this on together, and provide America with the leadership it deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Brnovich", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Brnovich  
Arizona Attorney General