

# American Free Press

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## BORDER BEDLAM

- AMERICAN FREE PRESS reporter goes to Mexico to check out aftermath of caravan chaos

By John Friend

**T**IJUANA, Mexico—Hundreds of migrants are camping in tents in a public street just outside the Benito Juarez sports complex in Tijuana, Mexico, home to a makeshift shelter set up by the migrants, local officials, and charity groups to assist the thousands of mostly Central American migrants who have trekked thousands of miles in an attempt to enter the United States.

Local authorities closed the sports complex late last month due to unsanitary and squalid living conditions and set up a new camp in the Mariano Matamoros neighborhood of Tijuana, roughly 10 miles from the U.S. border. That hasn't stopped hundreds of migrants from continuing to squat near the sports complex, which this reporter visited last weekend to get a firsthand account of the ongoing situation.

Men, women, and children are camping in tents and other handmade shelters in a public street next to the sports complex, which is a roughly 10-minute drive from the



**Hundreds if not thousands** of Central American migrants are still camped out in Tijuana, Juarez, and other Mexican cities, hoping for entry into the United States. Above, an AFP photo shows one of their migrant camps.

main U.S. border crossing entry. The vast majority of those camping are young men aged 16-25, based on this reporter's estimation. According to locals, thousands of migrants had been living in or near the sports complex in previous weeks, but

many have either relocated, attempted to cross the border, or have begun the arduous journey back home after realizing gaining asylum or refugee status in the United States is a much more difficult process than they had anticipated or were promised.

The sports complex and surrounding area is covered with garbage, discarded items, and human waste. The main entryway to the complex is locked, and signs are posted indicating the facility is closed. Local faith-based organizations and charities in the area are providing warm meals and other basic living es-

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### THE INSIDE SCOOP



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