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## **62,000 Mexican Children Deported From U.S. Since 1989**

*by Steven Ranieri*

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According to a report by the government's National Action Program (Programa Nacional de Accion-PNA) released Jan. 13, over 62,000 Mexican children were deported from the US during the past three years. In most cases, US Border Patrol, Customs or Immigration and Naturalization Service authorities simply transport the children to the border, and deposit them on the Mexican side. An estimated 15,000 children were deported from the US to six Mexican border cities in 1991. The report said deportees fall into two main categories. First are children caught in the act of illegal entry to the US, and deported immediately. The second category is comprised of minors detained by US authorities elsewhere. These young people serve time in detention centers, and are eventually deported result of failure to submit required identity documents. Mexican consulates located in US border towns are able to assist only about 5% of Mexican children detained by the US Border Patrol officers. Of the remaining 95%, a full 12% are children under five years of age abandoned by parents, or who were lost during family members' attempts to illegally enter the US. The PNA is currently developing a program under which US officials would cooperate with Mexican consulates to turn over children scheduled for deportation to Mexican immigration authorities. (Source: Spanish news service EFE, 01/14/92)

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