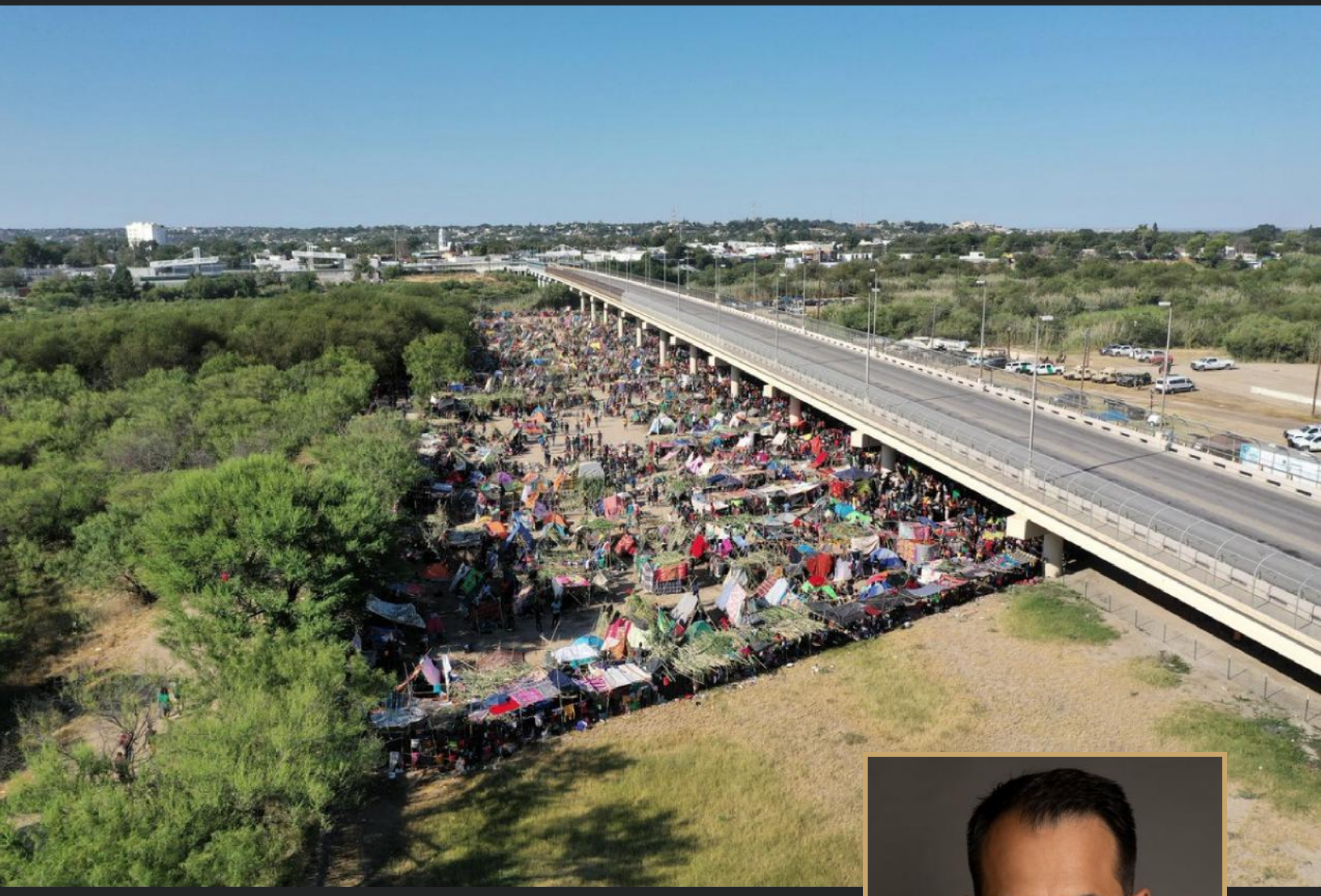
THE OTHER SIDE

SEVEN YEARS REPORTING AMERICA'S BORDER CRISIS FROM MEXICO





AUDEN B. CABELLO

A U.S. citizen, a family waiting in line, and the migrant surge he filmed from across the river.

Cover: the camp beneath the Del Rio International Bridge, 2021. Photo by Auden B. Cabello.



ACUÑA, JULY 2021. A Haitian mother prepares her son to walk across the Rio Grande into Del Rio.

INTRODUCTION

I WAS LIVING THE STORY I WAS TELLING.

I reported the border crisis from the side most American journalists never lived on. From 2017 to early 2024, I lived in Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, across the river from Del Rio, Texas, with my wife and our two children while we worked through an eight-year legal green card process.

Almost every day I commuted to Piedras Negras, across from Eagle Pass, to report on the migrants gathering there. I was one of the only U.S. journalists based on the Mexican side during the largest migration surge in modern U.S. history.

I never set out to become a border journalist. My family's struggle to do things the legal way put me on the riverbank, camera in hand, at the exact moment the world started crossing it.

CHAPTER ONE

THE WAIT

I was born and raised in Fort Stockton, Texas. In 2015 I married Bethssy, a Mexican citizen, and as newlyweds we filed for her green card the right way, during President Trump's first term. The petition was denied after a referral to the fraud department.

Because of that denial, our son was born in Del Rio, Texas. When my wife could no longer stay in the United States legally, we had a choice: split up our family, or leave together. In 2017 we crossed the river and made a home in Acuña. Our daughter was born there, and within months I secured her U.S. citizenship.

Two border-town births, two nationalities, and one family caught in the middle of immigration policy.

We filed again and waited. Years went by. We paid thousands of dollars in fees and legal costs. On Christmas, an email finally arrived with an interview date at the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juárez.

Bethssy went in, and once again our case was sent to the fraud department. This time it was my own citizenship in question, because I had been born with the help of a midwife. Everything seemed like another failure, and depression was setting in.



AUDEN AND BETHSSY. Married in 2015, they spent almost eight years fighting for her legal residency.



GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024. The family's first meal together in the United States, before driving to their new home in Midland.

All the while, I was watching something that made the wait harder to bear. From my side of the river, I filmed thousands of people crossing the Rio Grande and being released into the United States within days.

"As a US Citizen, I'm having to live in Mexico with my wife and two children after having paid thousands of dollars," I wrote in September 2023. "Yet, thousands are pouring in and getting a free pass into the country." Reporting meant long days away from my family, and I lost money every time I went into the field. But I kept going.

On February 22, 2024, the news came: my wife's visa had been approved. Thousands of people shared in that moment; it became my second most-liked post.

"Our wait is finally over. We're coming home."

X, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

After two attempts, thousands of dollars and almost eight years in Mexico, I thanked Acuña for seven unforgettable years. Bethssy has since earned her Texas real estate license, passing her exams in English.

CHAPTER TWO

DEL RIO, 2021

I began filming in July 2021, as Haitian migrants waded across the Rio Grande into Del Rio. For weeks there was no local or national coverage, and I was the only one reporting from the Mexican side.

The crossings grew into a camp of some 15,000 Haitians beneath the Del Rio International Bridge. My photo of it became the cover of Todd Bensman's book Overrun. That September, Tucker Carlson used my drone footage of the surge, and the crisis brought my first collaboration with Fox News correspondent Bill Melugin.

In December 2021 I worked an assignment with Univision in Eagle Pass. I went on to serve as a border correspondent for Real America's Voice alongside Ben Bergquam, and I made repeat appearances on Steve Bannon's War Room, on Newsmax, including The Chris Salcedo Show, and on The Steve Gruber Show.

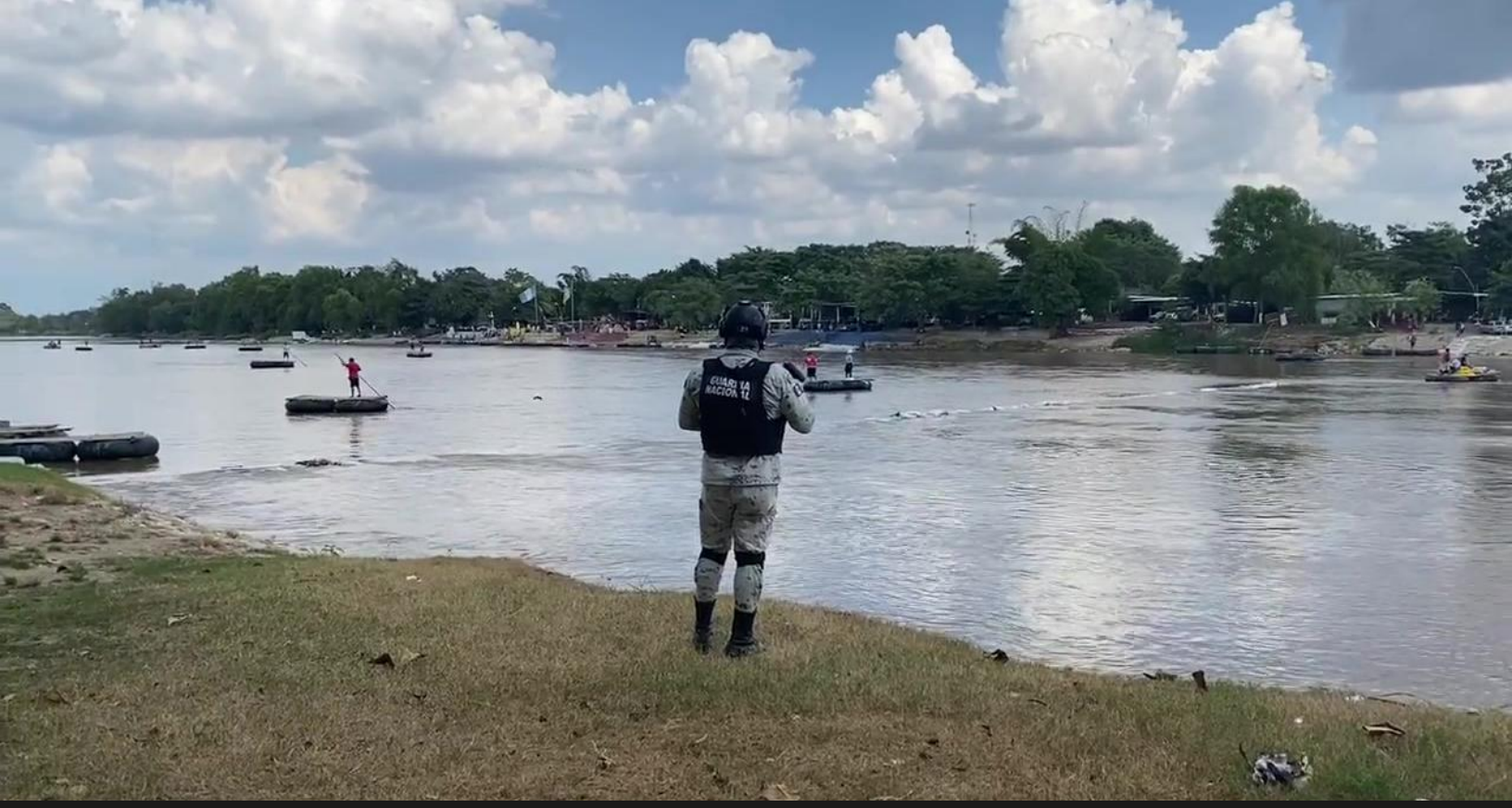
> "There was no local or national media coverage at the time."
>
> ON THE START OF THE HAITIAN SURGE



DEL RIO, 2021. A Fox News crew sets up during the Haitian surge.



NORMANDY, TEXAS, APRIL 2022. A large group of Venezuelans, Cubans and Colombians after crossing near Eagle Pass.



SUCHIATE RIVER, JANUARY 2022. Mexico's National Guard watches the Guatemala border ahead of the first caravan of the year.

CHAPTER THREE

TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

In January 2022 I traveled to Tapachula, Chiapas, with Todd Bensman of the Center for Immigration Studies. Tapachula is ground zero for migrants arriving from around the world.

I filmed the Suchiate River crossing from Guatemala, protests at Mexico's immigration offices and the first migrant caravan of 2022 as it formed. I met men like Malick, from Senegal, who later made it to Atlanta.

I have tracked caravans out of southern Mexico ever since, including a running count of every caravan to leave under President Claudia Sheinbaum, starting with the first one in October 2024.



EAGLE PASS, DECEMBER 2023. Thousands gather after crossing during one of the largest days of the surge.

CHAPTER FOUR

EAGLE PASS, 2023

My most widely seen work came in 2023, when Piedras Negras and Eagle Pass became the epicenter of mass crossings. In late September I filmed a line of mostly Venezuelan migrants stretching from the shelter in Piedras Negras all the way to International Bridge 2. Elon Musk reposted my video the same week he visited Eagle Pass.

That fall, Fox News became a regular home for my reporting. My exclusive video of migrants riding the La Bestia freight trains aired during my first on-camera Fox appearance, on The Ingraham Angle, and Sean Hannity cited it. With Griff Jenkins I explained how Mexican officials gave migrants GPS coordinates to the river, and the "selfie effect" drawing more people north. In October I led presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy's tour of the border in Eagle Pass.

27M

VIEWS ON THE VIDEO ELON MUSK REPOSTED

6,047

LIKES, MY MOST-LIKED POST EVER

EAGLE PASS, DECEMBER 2023. From my drone, thousands of migrants wait in rows to be processed after one of the largest crossings of the surge.

PHOTO ESSAY

ONE DAY IN EAGLE PASS



The processing area beside the bridge. By unofficial counts, 30 buses moved about 1,600 people out that day while the center held more than 4,000.



A line of new arrivals along the Rio Grande. With rail crossings suspended, unofficial estimates put the losses at $50 million a day.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE SYSTEM BEHIND IT

My reporting goes past the crossing point to the system behind it. I documented how migrants are sorted by nationality and money as they move north, with the poorest left to ride the freight trains or walk in caravans.

> "The cartels filter out migrants by nationality and money. The poorest of the poor are left behind and leave in caravans."
>
> X, OCTOBER 18, 2024

Through a source inside the railway, I traced La Bestia's routes from central Mexico to the Texas border, including trains carrying more than 3,000 people north to Piedras Negras.

At crossing points I found the maps and pamphlets that guide migrants north. And I asked publicly why the UN's International Organization for Migration was operating in Eagle Pass, a question that drew more than 2,000 likes.



PIEDRAS NEGRAS, NOVEMBER 2023. A Red Cross guide for migrants, left at a major crossing point.



EAGLE PASS, DECEMBER 20, 2023. A group of 500 crosses. "The first thing they do is take a selfie."

FROM THE RIVER TO THE STUDIO

My reporting from the Mexican side put me in front of national audiences on Fox News and on Steve Bannon's War Room, in English and in Spanish.



FOX NEWS. On air as an independent journalist, reporting on the thousands of migrants waiting for freight trains to the U.S. border.



STEVE BANNON'S WAR ROOM. Live from the Rio Grande on Real America's Voice.



WAR ROOM, OCTOBER 2022. With Ben Bergquam, reporting from the border for Real America's Voice.

ON AIR · FOX NEWS



FOX NEWS ALERT, DECEMBER 14, 2023. Live from Eagle Pass as migrants rode cargo trains toward the U.S.



SAME DAY, OFF AIR. At the riverbank in Eagle Pass.



THE WILL CAIN SHOW, MAY 2025. On President Trump's offer to send U.S. troops against Mexican cartels.



FOX NOTICIAS, FEBRUARY 2025. With Rachel Campos-Duffy, my first Spanish-language interview for Fox.

BEHIND THE CAMERA



DECEMBER 20, 2023. My live position in Eagle Pass, the night I was booked on The Ingraham Angle.



OCTOBER 13, 2023. Eagle Pass, the day I led Vivek Ramaswamy's border tour.



JULY 2022. Covering a press conference as Real America's Voice's border correspondent.

ON THE RECORD

MAY 2025	The Will Cain Show, Fox News: U.S. troops and Mexico's cartels
FEB 2025	FOX Noticias with Rachel Campos-Duffy, my first Spanish-language Fox interview
NOV 2024	LiveNOW from Fox with Andrew Craft, on the caravan that left Tapachula that morning
JAN 2024	On assignment as a photographer for the Daily Mail in Eagle Pass
DEC 2023	Fox News Alert live from Eagle Pass; Fox News with Griff Jenkins: GPS coordinates and the migrant "selfie effect"
2023–24	Fox News, America Reports: the U.S.-Mexico meeting on the surge
NOV 2023	First on-camera Fox News appearance, The Ingraham Angle, with exclusive La Bestia train video; cited by Sean Hannity
OCT 2023	Led presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy's border tour in Eagle Pass
SEP 2023	Piedras Negras video reposted by Elon Musk; 27 million views
MAY 2023	Steve Bannon's War Room with Lara Logan, before Title 42 ended
OCT 2022	Steve Bannon's War Room with Ben Bergquam, live from the border
2022	Border correspondent, Real America's Voice, alongside Ben Bergquam
2022	Production team on two Ventura Report documentaries
2022–24	Newsmax guest, including The Chris Salcedo Show
JAN 2022	Reported from Tapachula and the Suchiate River with Todd Bensman
DEC 2021	Assignment with Univision in Eagle Pass
2021	Cover photo of Todd Bensman's book Overrun; drone footage used by Tucker Carlson; first collaboration with Bill Melugin and Fox News
2021–26	Footage licensed to Storyful and Fox News
2015	Featured in the documentary Kingdom of Shadows

TODAY

EVERY SACRIFICE HAS ITS REWARD.

I have always financed this work myself. Today I live in Midland, Texas, with my family, and I keep reporting on caravans, cartels and enforcement for more than 435,000 followers across Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube and X.



That contrast between legal and illegal immigration, lived firsthand, is why I became a journalist. It runs through everything I do.

254.8K
FACEBOOK · AUDEN B. CABELLO

136.5K
TIKTOK · @AUDENCABELLO

18K
YOUTUBE · @AUDENCABELLO

15.6K
X · @CABELLOAUDEN

10.1K
INSTAGRAM · @AUDENCABELLO, VERIFIED

435K+
FOLLOWERS IN TOTAL

Followers as of October 2026.

AUDEN B. CABELLO

INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST · PHOTOGRAPHER · FILMMAKER

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