

**Republican Perspective**  
**7 August 2019**  
**by Ed Manning**

**Importing Crime**

“Too much mercy... often resulted in further crimes which were fatal to innocent victims who need not have been victims if justice had been put first and mercy second.” Agatha Christie, novelist

According to recent polls, immigration is a top issue/concern for likely voters. One question worthy of a national discussion is why the U.S. imports crime?

Mara Salvatrucha, also known as MS-13, is the brutal gang originating in Los Angeles. The majority of the gang is ethnically composed of Salvadorans, Hondurans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans. “Mara” is Spanish for gang; “Salvatrucha” refers to the Salvadoran peasant guerrillas. The Trump administration has made deportation of MS-13 members a top priority.

Illegal immigrants have led to heinous murders across the country. Here in California, we are witness to this fact.

- The US Attorney’s office for the Central District of California charged “22 peopled linked to the MS-13 transnational gang, most of whom allegedly participated in a series of murders, including several slayings in which victims were hacked to death with machetes in the Angeles National Forest.” 19 of the 22 entered the country illegally.
- Marty Sepe, a Mendota woman, died from multiple gunshots on a neighborhood sidewalk. 3 MS-13 gang members pleaded guilty. Their ages were 27, 23 & 18. The US Attorney in Sacramento said that Mendota was a base of operation. Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp said MS-13 used Mendota to "conduct their crimes, to hide out from crimes that they committed in other jurisdictions and to prepare to commit crimes in states as far away as New York.” 14 brutal murders occurred near the town between 2015-17.
- Two MS-13 members were charged with the murder of a Novato High School student. Edenilson Misael Alfaro, 23, and Juan Carlos Martinez Henriquez, 19, murdered Edwin Guerra, 17 with a machete. Another Novato student survived the attack after feigning death. Authorities allege Alfaro is an MS-13 “shot-caller” or “homie,” a member with the power to order murders. His nickname is “Sicario,” or hit man, according to court documents.
- Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge set a trial date in February 2020 for 11 MS-13 defendants. The men are charged with involvement in 10 slayings, 14 attempted murders and lesser crimes linked to MS-13.

- Kristhiam Uceda, 21, confessed to the killing of a 17-year-old Olympic Continuation High School, Concord student. He also confessed to shooting a woman in the leg. The reason for the murder: Uceda got into an argument with his father and “felt the only way to get back at him was to become his enemy and to become an MS-13 member.” The killing was a right of passage into the gang.

Other examples of MS-13 brutality:

- In Maryland, a known MS-13 leader ordered the beating of a 15-year-old girl with a baseball bat who had been forced into prostitution.
- 10 MS-13 members murdered a Maryland man by stabbing more than 100 times, beheading and dismembering him, and cutting out his heart.
- 13 MS-13 gang members, 10 being illegal immigrants, were indicted for murder charges in New York for the slayings of 2 teenagers.

Acting Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Mark Morgan said that when he looked at many of these Central American teens when touring detention facilities he saw future gang members. Morgan said: “As an FBI supervisor of a MS-13 Gang Task Force, I saw firsthand the transition of countless young kids into the world of gang membership. The reasons why are varied but have remained consistent: status, recognition, protection, intimidation, brotherhood, and profit through criminal activity. They are often uneducated, unskilled, and lack a sense of belonging and purpose.” The main-stream-media called him a racist. No racist charge was leveled while he was chief of US Border Patrol under Obama.

Thomas Homan, former acting ICE Director said, “a gang operation in New York last year entitled Operation Matador, which targeted MS-13 gang members, showed that approximately 40 percent of those arrested illegally entered the US as part of a family unit or as a UAC. Many that entered the US were already gang members or soon became gang members after arriving in the US.”

For months, Democrats claimed that waves of illegals flooding the US southern border was a “manufactured crisis.” Not a crisis to MS-13 and other transnational gangs. They are leveraging illegal immigration to our detriment. You would think Democrats would “resist.”