

Living in a globalised world

Second line of defence

Narrator:

For the illegal migrant, just to get across the border is not enough. There are vehicle checkpoints 70 miles into the states on all routes from the border to the major cities. No longer a thin line. The frontier is affectively 70 miles wide.

John Harmon, Border Patrol Agent:

The border itself is a hard area to contain, since it's so long. So therefore there are going to be several groups that get across the border. And this checkpoint is set up here to funnel the people that cross the border into an area where again there is someone who can be able to try and inspect them.

Narrator:

Augusto Fernandez is disappointed. He thought he had made it. He has swum the Rio Grande, and had travelled well into United States territory, but he was arrested at this border patrol road block. Augusto has fraudulent papers. Now he has signed his own deportation document.

Augusto Fernandez (Speaking in Mexican - subtitles):

There is little work in Mexico. The economy has difficulties. It is so difficult to work there.

Narrator:

Augusto was on his way to Dallas, where he had been offered a job.

Officer:

Can I ask your profession?

Augusto Fernandez (Speaking in Mexican:

Narrator:

He's a hairdresser.

Augusto Fernandez (Speaking in Mexican – subtitles):

I think the people who come to the United States suffer a lot. People come here for work, only for work, nothing more.