



Carlson: Remember when Texas was called soft? Those days are long ago

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ACLU blasts Trump immigration policy



The report says the Trump White House has used immigration policy to silence journalists, surveil political opponents and trap thousands in a punitive immigration detention system. RYAN MURPHY/REUTERS

Group says policy breaking American democracy

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

The American Civil Liberties Union released a report on Oct. 6 slamming President Donald Trump’s mass deportation agenda.

“In the past 20 months, the Trump administration has taken hundreds of actions to consolidate the president’s grip on power, execute a radical redefining of who belongs in America, and enact the largest rollback of civil rights and liberties in recent history,” the ACLU report said. “Deportations have provided a pretext, a distraction, and a legal justification all at once, as the administration at-

tacks our individual constitutional rights – impacting all Americans.”

The ACLU is a civil rights organization founded to defend rights enshrined in the United States Constitution.

The new 139-page report outlines 76 steps it says Trump has taken to fundamentally undermine American freedoms and democracy. Among its findings, the Trump White House has used immigration policy to silence journalists, surveil political opponents and trap thousands in a punitive immigration detention system that sees people sent to prisons in countries they have never known before.

USA TODAY has reached out to the

White House for comment on the ACLU report.

“If the AMERICAN Civil Liberties Union is this committed to the cause of criminal illegal aliens, it should change its name,” the Department of Homeland Security said in response to the report. “Nationwide our law enforcement is targeting public safety threats – including murderers, rapists, gang members, pedophiles, and terrorists.”

According to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, an immigration data project founded at Syracuse University, about 71% of the nearly 65,800 people in immigration detention in July had no criminal convictions. A November 2025 report from

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The latest lawsuit against Cornell University, which has grabbed national attention, alleges seven members of a fraternity sexually assaulted and raped a woman. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Attorney notices parallels in Cornell cases

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Nearly seven years have passed since Cornell University student Antonio Tsialas was found dead in a gorge in Ithaca, New York, but an attorney for his family believes circumstances in that case remain relevant today as a sexual assault investigation grips the Ivy League campus.

Shortly before his death in 2019, Tsialas, an 18-year-old freshman, had attended a fraternity party on campus where alcohol was present. The Cornell University Police Department handled the investigation. Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten declined to pursue any criminal charges, igniting outrage among some in the community who were concerned at the time that more wasn’t done.

These are all elements that David Bianchi, the attorney the Tsialas family hired in the wake of their son’s death, said coincide with the handling of the latest Cornell fraternity-related case, where a recently filed civil lawsuit details an alleged gang rape that took place on

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Measles cases continue to rise beyond 30-year high

Mary Walrath-Holdridge
USA TODAY

Measles infections surpassed 1,000 reported cases in one state as the United States continues to hurdle past a 30-year case high.

Pennsylvania, the current center of the nation’s largest outbreak, reported 1,004 total cases on Oct. 5, a remarkable uptick from just 106 total cases last year. A handful of other states are also contending with clusters of 100 or more infections.

Plummeting vaccination rates and the resulting resurgence in cases have put the United States at risk of losing its measles elimination status.

Defined by the World Health Organization as freedom from the continuous

spread of a disease for at least a year, elimination status has been called a “historic public health achievement” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – but the WHO is set to review the status for the United States in November after 2025’s Texas outbreak that killed three.

As of Oct. 1, the CDC reported 3,887 confirmed measles cases in 45 states plus Washington, DC.

The actual number is likely higher, as only cases confirmed by doctors and reported to the CDC are counted. This means people who get sick but don’t see a doctor for a diagnosis are not included. Plus, the CDC’s counts tend to lag behind states because its figures are only

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Measles cases are on the rise in the United States, threatening the country’s measles elimination status. IRINA STARIKOVA/GETTY IMAGES

