Mexican Immigation :

Earlier this year the US Congress seemed poised to pass much needed immigration reform legislations. The plan called for –among other things- increased security measures along the border with Mexico. A game of cat and mouse plays out every night along the Rio Grande River portion of the border: on one side, US Border Patrol agents, on the other migrants who cross the river into the US illegally. Over the past 2 years the number of migrants crossing here has doubled.

Monica Ortiz Uribe reports on the challenges of patrolling the South Texas border:

*Night falls in the Rio Grande Valley outside Mission, Texas. Suddenly, through a pair of night-vision goggles, a Border Patrol agent spots movement. He picks up his radio. A mother and her 2 infant boys are floating across on a raft. They’re making on to the US soil, but their taste of success is brief. They’re apprehended and put in the backseat of a border patrol Suburban. The family is from Guatemala, on their way to reunite with the woman’s husband in the States. Now their fate will be a detention centre and likely deportation.*

*While apprehensions across the southern border are declining, South Texas is the one spot where the numbers are rising again. So far this year, the Border Patrol has detained nearly 200 000 people in this part of Texas. Mark Foster is a Border Patrol supervisor: “we can apprehend anywhere between 100 and 200 people a shift”. In response, the border patrol is shifting resources and 600 more agents to South Texas.*