Tracking a ‘Package,’ The Perils, And Price of Migrant Smuggling

By NICHOLAS KOULIS

MATAMOROS, Mexico — Shortly before dawn last Sunday, a smuggler and a driver in an U.V.W. packed with 15 migrants crossed the border into the United States. Soon afterward, they were stopped by Border Patrol agents.

The agents took the migrants into custody, and a smuggler who is a Mexican man said he was part of a large smuggling ring. The group had been planning to cross the border and travel north, toward Houston, for weeks.

In recent months, as the U.S.-Mexico border has become more dangerous for migrants, the number of people smuggled across the border has increased. This has put an increased burden on law enforcement agencies, which are already struggling to manage the flow of migrants.

The smuggler who was taken into custody on Sunday said that he had been planning to smuggle migrants across the border for about a year. He said that he had been working with a large network of smugglers, and that he had been smuggling migrants into the United States for at least two months.

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