



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE
12:15 Pm O'CLOCK

JAN 29 2025
Jane Nelson

Secretary of State

Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-51 relating to state agencies sharing intelligence on foreign terrorist organizations with federal law enforcement personnel working under the Trump Administration.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Davidson".

Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD:gsd

Attachment

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
January 29, 2025

EXECUTIVE ORDER
GA 51

Relating to state agencies sharing intelligence on foreign terrorist organizations with federal law enforcement personnel working under the Trump Administration.

WHEREAS, the Biden–Harris Administration’s open-border policies resulted in the unchecked entry of transnational criminal foot soldiers, as predicted by former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials who warned that “the surge in numbers of single, military-aged males” from hostile nations and regions “appears to be an accelerated and strategic penetration, a soft invasion, designed to gain internal access to” the United States and “inflict catastrophic damage” on this country; and

WHEREAS, these federal policies effectively ceded to hostile non-state actors control of strategic points along our southern border, like Fronton Island in Starr County, Texas, where transnational criminal organizations engaged in open warfare against rival cartels and against state and federal officers, hid and surveilled state and federal law enforcement, and stashed and smuggled weapons, drugs, and people across the border—endangering the lives of Texans; and

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, as Commander-in-Chief of the military forces of Texas, responded to this threat by moving a heavily armed force onto Fronton Island to secure it against transnational criminal cartels, and subsequently regained operational control of Texas territory; and

WHEREAS, I rejected the Biden–Harris Administration’s written demands to effectively cede control of Fronton Island back to transnational criminal cartels, which had stashed assault rifles, grenade and rocket launchers, various munitions, and improvised explosive devices hidden about the property; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2022, I issued Executive Order GA-42, which recognized the destruction caused by Mexican drug cartels and designated them as foreign terrorist organizations; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-42 also ordered the Department of Public Safety to establish a Mexican Cartel Division within the Texas Fusion Center, conduct multi-jurisdictional investigations of foreign terrorist organizations, enhance interdiction operations, and intensify efforts under Operation Lone Star to detect and disrupt transnational criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2023, I signed into law Senate Bill 1900, which strengthened the tools to combat transnational criminal organizations operating in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Tren de Aragua (TdA) is a transnational criminal organization that operates a sweeping criminal enterprise engaging in trafficking human beings for sex, smuggling weapons and deadly drugs including fentanyl, and torturing and dismembering victims; and

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WHEREAS, although TdA originated in a Venezuelan prison, it quickly spread its criminal enterprise into Colombia, Peru, and Chile, before expanding operations into the United States; and

WHEREAS, FBI officials in Texas confirmed that “members of Tren de Aragua have crossed into the United States,” and a memorandum from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security revealed that the group’s leaders gave members “a ‘green light’ to fire on or attack law enforcement”; and

WHEREAS, reports indicate that, since being released into the country, suspected members of TdA have unleashed a scourge of crime and terror across the United States, including murdering a nursing student in Georgia out on a morning jog, shooting police officers trying to stop a robbery in New York, sexually assaulting a mother and her minor daughter in Wisconsin, and forcibly assuming operational control to establish large-scale operations in once-quiet suburbs in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, reports confirm that TdA established criminal operations in Texas, including in Houston, where members raped and strangled a 12-year-old girl, and in El Paso, where TdA had converted hotels to house gang members, imprisoned human smuggling victims, and staged criminal operations, resulting in nearly 700 phone calls to local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2024, I launched a statewide operation to target TdA, including designating it as a foreign terrorist organization, subjecting its members to heightened penalties authorized by Senate Bill 1900, and creating a TdA Strike Team within the Texas Department of Public Safety to develop better intelligence and eliminate the organization’s criminal operations in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order, *Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists*, Section 1 of which recognized the threat posed by groups like Mexican cartels and TdA, and Sections 2 and 3 of which directed federal actors to identify groups for terror designations, expedite the removal of such groups, and ensure their total elimination from the United States; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 10 of the Texas Constitution provides that the Governor of Texas is the sole organ of Texas’s diplomatic affairs, authorized by state law to conduct all business between this State and the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Texas, do hereby direct all appropriate state agencies to assist federal law enforcement personnel working under the direction of the Trump Administration to eliminate the operations of designated foreign terror organizations, like Mexican cartels and TdA, by sharing intelligence gathered through Texas’s preexisting and ongoing efforts to combat such organizations within Texas.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders in conflict or inconsistent with its terms and shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Governor.

Given under my hand this the
29th day of January, 2025.



GREG ABBOTT
Governor

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12:15pm O'CLOCK

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ATTESTED BY:



JANE NELSON
Secretary of State

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