

U.S.-Mexico Border Patrol Limits Shootings by Agents After Deaths



Washington, March 14 (RHC)-- The U.S. Border Patrol has issued fresh restrictions on when agents can open fire. Under the new rules, customs and border agents are barred from shooting at vehicles whose occupants are trying to flee. They are also prevented from stepping in front of the vehicle or using their body to block it in the case of escape.

In cases where migrants are throwing rocks, agents have been told to first seek cover or move way and only open fire in cases of "imminent danger of death or serious injury."

A recent report found U.S. border agents have been involved in 20 fatalities since 2010, eight of which involved rock throwing. Agents were also involved in at least 67 shooting incidents in the same period. The new policy reverses a decision last year that ignored an independent panel's recommendation to use restraint with rock throwers.

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