

THE GANG CRACKDOWN

1 x 60 HD

MS13-BLS



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In a spate of brutal violence that has become a focal point of President Donald Trump's stance on immigration and a priority of his Justice Department, some 25 dead bodies have been found in Long Island, New York since 2016—all linked to the violent gang MS-13. Many of the gang's victims, like its members, have been immigrants.

FRONTLINE investigates the impact of both the gruesome killings and the resulting anti-gang crackdown on Long Island—home to one of the U.S.'s largest communities of unaccompanied minors, who fled gang violence in Central America only to face it here.

Drawing on interviews with murder victims' families, accused gang members, top Justice Department officials including Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, local law enforcement and ICE leadership, and civil rights and immigration lawyers, *The Gang Crackdown* explores the reasons behind the spike in violence on Long Island—and examines whether law enforcement and the government have overreached in trying to combat it.

Since Spring 2017, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has arrested around 400 suspected gang members—around 60 of whom were unaccompanied minors when they arrived in the U.S.—in the New York metro area, including Long Island, as part of the ongoing crackdown. But as *The Gang Crackdown* explores, a class-action lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union of California (where some minors from Long Island were sent) led to the release of at least 27 minors ultimately held to have been detained without sufficient evidence. In the documentary, Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein defends the government's approach and responds to allegations that some minors' right to due process were violated.

With tensions running high between immigrant communities and local police, *The Gang Crackdown* examines how law enforcement determines who is an MS-13 member and who isn't.

The documentary also investigates the controversial role of schools in identifying potential MS-13 members to law enforcement, and how law enforcement has increasingly partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to target minors perceived as threats for detention and deportation.

As President Trump cites the violence on Long Island to call for tougher immigration policies and justify ramping up deportations, *The Gang Crackdown* is a gripping, must-watch look at how anti-gang efforts have played out in Long Island—and what might happen next.

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CREDITS

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