

Just another hurdle, Mexican visitors say

And the illegal migrants targeted by a tough new Arizona law dismissed it as just another obstacle that paled in comparison to the extortion, arrests and kidnappings they already risked to reach US soil.

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Nogales: The line of Mexicans waiting to go shopping in Arizona snaked twice around the sun-drenched plaza, even as politicians nearby slapped stickers on cars calling for a boycott of the US state.

And the illegal migrants targeted by a tough new Arizona law dismissed it as just another obstacle that paled in comparison to the extortion, arrests and kidnappings they already risked to reach US soil.

They vowed to keep on coming.

Resentment has erupted across Mexico over the Arizonian immigration law Mexicans consider racist.

But crossing back and forth between the countries is so intrinsic to their lives that many Mexicans find it hard to stop it, despite calls by immigration activists for a boycott of Arizona.

"Border cities depend on each other and it has been that way for many years," said Maria Romero, a nurse from Nogales, across the border from the Arizona town of the same name.

"It seems they don't understand that on the other side and are always looking for ways to make things more difficult."

There are few signs so far that the bill has deterred Mexicans from crossing into Arizona — legally or not. The wait to drive across the border is more than two hours.

The legislation signed by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer last week requires local and state police who stop people for another reason to question them about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally.

Suspects would be detained if they are not carrying proper documents.

Supporters say the law is necessary because the federal government has failed to secure the border they are anxious about crime.

However the law has provoked protests in the US by immigrant advocates.

At least 23,400 jobs in Arizona depend on the more than \$7.35 million (Dh27 million) that Mexican visitors spend every day.

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