

Four dead after truck carrying migrants crashes in Texas

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Laredo, July 2 (RHC)-- Four people have been killed after a vehicle crashed in Texas, southern United States, while trying to evade an immigration checkpoint, according to officials.

Two Mexican men, one Guatemalan national and another unidentified person died in Thursday's crash, the Mexican consulate in the Texan border city of Laredo said in a statement.

The driver, a U.S. citizen, was hospitalised along with two people thought to be from Guatemala, according to information from the consulate, Mexico's interior ministry and the National Institute of Migration (INM). The truck had been travelling from Laredo and was bound for San Antonio when it crashed.

The incident on Thursday in the town of Encinal came days after 53 people died after being trapped in the back of an abandoned truck near the Texas city of San Antonio, in the deadliest human smuggling incident in U.S. history.

The truck trailer carrying the people found dead on Monday had also passed through the same checkpoint in Encinal, but was not detected. Authorities described finding a gruesome scene, with bodies stacked inside of the trailer, hot to the touch. Others were found dead in the nearby brush.

Temperatures in the area were as high as 39.4 degrees Celsius (102.92 Fahrenheit) on the day of the discovery, and no water supplies were discovered inside the trailer, which did not have a working air conditioning unit.

The driver, Homero Zamorano Jr, a native of Texas, was later arrested and charged with human trafficking along with another man. Two others believed to be involved in the incident were charged with firearms possessions and living in the U.S. without documents.

Among the dead were 27 Mexican nationals, 14 Hondurans, eight Guatemalans and two Salvadorans, Mexican and Guatemalan officials said. Others, including minors, remained hospitalised.

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