

Texas erects new border barrier as dispute with Biden administration ramps up

WASHINGTON, Jan 12 (Reuters) - The Texas National Guard this week erected new barriers along part of the state's border with Mexico blocking access for U.S. Border Patrol agents, the federal government said in a Friday court filing, in an escalating conflict between the Republican state government and the Democratic administration of President Joe Biden over migration.

Lawyers for the Biden administration told the U.S. Supreme Court in their filing that Texas' "activities have changed the situation along the relevant stretch of the Rio Grande." They added that the additional barriers in and around Eagle Pass, Texas "further restricts Border Patrol's ability to reach the river in particular areas."

The filing comes after the administration earlier this month asked the justices to temporarily allow Border Patrol agents to cut or remove controversial razor-wire fencing that Texas officials placed along part of the Republican-governed state's border with Mexico to deter illegal border crossings.

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