

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

January 29, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is reviewing the Department of Homeland Security's release of Mr. Apolinar Altamirano, a citizen of Mexico. In particular, we write to request documents and information relating to Mr. Altamirano's immigration history and the Department's decision to release him.

According to a public report, Mr. Altamirano is a 29-year-old native and citizen of Mexico who was arrested for the January 22, 2015, killing of Grant Ronnebeck, a 21-year-old convenience store clerk, in Mesa, Arizona.<sup>1</sup> A news article stated federal immigration authorities initiated removal proceedings against Mr. Altamirano two years ago, but on January 7, 2013, he was released on a \$10,000 bond after four days of detention. Mr. Altamirano was released notwithstanding a prior conviction on a burglary charge, information that he had ties to the Mexican Mafia, and was potentially involved in drug sales.<sup>2</sup>

The news article also stated Mr. Altamirano remained at large even though a Mesa Municipal Court judge issued two injunctions for harassment, the second of which was served on him three days before the killing.<sup>3</sup> In connection with those injunctions, according to the story, one woman wrote that she was "in fear for [her] life," and that Mr. Altamirano had "threatened to kill her 'plenty of times' and pointed a gun at her boyfriend."<sup>4</sup>

To assist the Committee's investigation, we request the Department produce the following documents as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 5, 2015:

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<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

1. All documents referring or relating to Mr. Altamirano, including, but not limited to his alien file, the Notice to Appear served on him, any criminal records, and any worksheets that were prepared in determining that a bond of \$10,000 was appropriate in connection with his release; and
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the decision to release Mr. Altamarino.

In addition, the Committee requests that you designate officials within the Department to provide a briefing to the Committee staff regarding Mr. Altamirano no later than February 2, 2015.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request.

When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Art Arthur of the Committee Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz  
Chairman



Ron DeSantis  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member  
  
The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on National Security