

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

June 20, 2019

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary McAleenan:

On February 12, 2019, we wrote to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) about the threat posed by large caravans travelling from Central America to the United States.<sup>1</sup> We appreciate your response, dated May 17, 2019, which included internal documents and analysis from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).<sup>2</sup> Data provided to the Committee shows that hundreds of migrants approaching the southern border have criminal histories.

On February 20, 2019, the President issued a national emergency proclamation, stating that the “southern border is a major entry point for criminals, gang members, and illicit narcotics” threatening “core national security interests.”<sup>3</sup> The documents produced to the Committee reveal the following information:

- In October 2018, CBP’s Office of Intelligence (OI) tracked one caravan estimated to include nearly 8,000 individuals that arrived south of California in December 2018.<sup>4</sup> ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) established that 660 of these individuals had U.S. criminal convictions—nearly 40 were convicted of assault or aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.<sup>5</sup> Three individuals were convicted of murder.<sup>6</sup>
- In January 2019, CBP OI tracked a caravan that departed Honduras with more than 3,300 individuals.<sup>7</sup> ICE HSI identified 860 individuals with U.S. criminal histories,

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, et. al., to Kirstjen Nielsen, Sec’y, Dep’t of Homeland Security (Feb. 12, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Kevin McAleenan, Acting Sec’y, Dep’t of Homeland Security, to Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (May 17, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> Declaring a Nat’l Emergency Concerning the S. Border, Proclamation No. 9844, 84 Fed. Reg. 4949 (Feb. 20, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Kevin McAleenan, Acting Sec’y, Dep’t of Homeland Security, to Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (May 17, 2019).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 1.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

including over 20 convicted of assault or aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, nearly 30 convicted of sexual offenses, two convicted of violence against law enforcement, and one convicted of attempted murder.<sup>8</sup>

- These incidents are continuing. CBP is currently monitoring another “movement of several groups ranging in size from 1,000 to 4,000” in the Mexican states of Chiapas and Veracruz.<sup>9</sup> The documents did not specify how many migrants are believed to have criminal records.

To assist our oversight of the crisis at the southern border and better understand the threat posed by the large caravans, we respectfully request the following information about caravan members with criminal backgrounds:

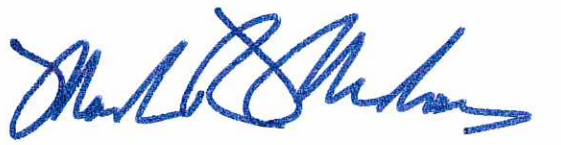
1. Arrest warrants, court documents, and other material detailing the criminal histories of all migrants in the January 2019 caravan and the October 2018 caravan believed to have criminal histories;
2. An update of CBP’s monitoring of several groups of 1,000 to 4,000 migrants in the Mexican states of Chiapas and Veracruz, including a summary of migrants with criminal records; and
3. All daily summaries of ICE HSI Office of Intelligence’s Human Smuggling Cell (HSC) referring or relating to the repatriation of caravan members with an extensive criminal record, U.S. full extradition warrants, and INTERPOL notices for extradition since May 1, 2014.<sup>10</sup>

Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than July 5, 2019. We also ask that you arrange for a staff-level briefing on the threats posed by large caravans as soon as possible. If any material responsive to this request contains classified information, please contact Committee staff for guidance on producing classified information under separate cover and apart from unclassified information.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Meadows  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

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<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 1.

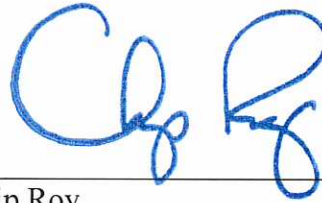
<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 6.



Jody Hice  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security



Michael Cloud  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer  
Policy



Chip Roy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil  
Liberties



James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Chairman

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Harley Rouda  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment