

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2025

Mr. Joseph Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Dr., Building 410
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

We write to express our grave concerns about the conduct of people purporting to be agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), all of which fall under your jurisdiction. As you are aware, these personnel have been witnessed, and frequently recorded, assaulting and arresting people, including lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens, without probable cause or a warrant. They have been observed assaulting a wide array of individuals, including elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels. They have fired flash bombs, rubber bullets, and other ordinance into peaceful crowds.

These personnel have typically conducted these activities while wearing full facial masks and have refused to identify themselves or what agency they work for when prompted by elected officials, journalists, or members of the public. Often, these personnel have worn civilian clothing, such as jeans and casual shirts, rather than the identifiable uniforms typically worn by DHS, ICE, and CBP law enforcement officers. As the Los Angeles Times noted on June 20, 2025, there does not appear to be any pressing need that would justify the anonymity of these agents.¹ While Administration officials have claimed that ICE agents have been subjected to a dramatic increase in doxxing—having sensitive personal information about them such as their home addresses or family members publicly released—they have not released any data supporting this point.

DHS apparently intends to continue using these “shock and awe” tactics, as evidenced by the raid on MacArthur Park in Los Angeles last week, in which 90 National Guard troops and dozens of other federal officers, many wearing face coverings, descended upon the mostly empty park which was primarily occupied by children.² These personnel were supported by 17 Humvees and four military tactical vehicles, in a show of force clearly intended to intimidate the civilian population of Los Angeles. These tactics not only erode our public safety but raise a serious risk that criminal gangs might adopt the same approach, including donning masks and

¹ See Raul A. Reyes, *By Wearing Masks, Immigration Agents Undermine Authority and Endanger Us All*, The Los Angeles Times, June 20, 2025, available at <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2025-06-20/la-oe-reyes-masks>.

² Julie Watson & Christopher Weber, What to know about the troops and federal agents in LA’s MacArthur Park, AP News (Jul. 7, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/what-happened-ice-raid-la-macarthur-park-cc04479ed94ed68d11acf807d97914e6>

sunglasses and refusing to provide identification or to state who they work for even as they claim to be federal agents.³

At the same time, there have been allegations made that ICE is hiring so-called “bounty hunters”—non-federal employees given a payment for each immigrant they are able to apprehend and place into deportation proceedings—to staff its operations.⁴ Additionally, there have been allegations made that immigration bond agents, potentially in coordination with ICE, are contracting with bounty hunters to track down individuals.⁵ These allegations, coupled with widespread reporting that the Trump administration has largely relaxed traditional background checks and screening for new hires, while ramping up so-called “loyalty tests” to determine applicants’ fealty to Donald Trump,⁶ raise serious concerns about the character and backgrounds of those working for ICE, CBP, and DHS at this time. We have heard from many constituents who have openly questioned whether ICE has employed or contracted with people convicted for criminal activities associated with the January 6 insurrection and later pardoned by President Trump.

With this context in mind, we ask that you look into the activities of employees, agents, independent contractors, temporary employees, and others acting under or with the imprimatur of ICE, CBP, and/or DHS in apprehending those suspected of being in this country without the proper immigration status, and determine to what degree there is misconduct being carried out by these people. In particular, we would like you to consider the following issues:

Masking and Anonymity of ICE and other DHS agents

1. The rationale given by Trump administration officials for ICE and other DHS agents wearing masks and refusing to identify themselves is that this is to protect the agents’ safety from doxxing and other risks. Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons recently stated that “ICE agents are being doxxed at a horrible rate” since January 20, 2025.
 - a. According to DHS, ICE, and CBP, what actions constitute the “doxxing” of officers or agents?
 - b. How many ICE agents have been doxxed since January 20, 2025?
 - c. How many CBP and DHS employees have been doxxed since January 20, 2025?
2. Other law enforcement personnel, including FBI agents and local law enforcement officers, do not wear masks or keep their identities secret while on the job. What rationales make ICE agents unique from other law enforcement personnel?

³ See Raul A. Reyes, *By Wearing Masks, Immigration Agents Undermine Authority and Endanger Us All*, The Los Angeles Times, June 20, 2025, available at <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2025-06-20/la-oe-reyes-masks>.

⁴ Davis Raile, *Alleged Bounty Hunter’s Claims Spark Controversy at Sunnyside Press Conference*, NonStop Local, Jan. 29, 2025, available at https://www.nbcrighnow.com/news/alleged-bounty-hunters-claims-spark-controversy-at-sunnyside-press-conference/article_1aab904c-deb0-11ef-ae20-b748ada1c855.html.

⁵ Laerke Christensen, *Investigating claims ICE is ‘deputizing’ bounty hunters to arrest undocumented immigrants*, Snopes, Jun. 23, 2025, available at <https://www.snopes.com/news/2025/06/23/bounty-hunters-ice-arrest-undocumented-immigrants/>.

⁶ See, e.g., Matthew Lee et al., *Loyalty Tests and MAGA Checks: Inside the Trump White House’s Intense Screening of Job Seekers*, AP News, Jan. 25, 2025, available at <https://apnews.com/article/trump-loyalty-white-house-maga-vetting-jobs-768fa5cbcf175652655c86203222f47c>.

Personnel Information related to Contracted Bounty Hunters and ICE and other DHS Agents

1. How many federal employees who were employed by ICE, CBP, and DHS in 2024 have left federal employment since Trump took office on January 20, 2025?
 - a. How many new employees, contractors, and other personnel acting under the authority of ICE (collectively, “ICE personnel”) have been added since President Trump took office on January 20, 2025?
 - b. What are DHS’s current hiring policies, practices, and guidelines regarding the hiring and promotion of ICE personnel (collectively, “ICE personnel processes”). Have these ICE personnel processes been altered since January 20, 2025? Have there been any changes made to the enforcement of ICE personnel processes since January 20, 2025?
 - c. What are DHS’s current ICE personnel processes with respect to individuals who have had felony convictions or other disqualifying factors? Have these processes been altered since January 20, 2025?
 - d. How many DHS personnel are currently engaged in detention and deportation activities across the United States? How many DHS personnel are expected to be engaged in detention and deportation activities by December 31, 2025?
2. What vetting, including background checks, has been conducted on new ICE personnel hired, contracted, or retained since President Trump took office on January 20, 2025?
 - a. Have any of these ICE personnel been found guilty of any violent crimes or felonies?
 - b. Were any of these new ICE personnel cross-checked against lists of domestic terror organizations, such as the Proud Boys?
 - c. Were any of these new ICE personnel convicted of crimes—and then pardoned by President Trump—related to their actions on January 6, 2021?
3. Is DHS, ICE, or CBP coordinating with or encouraging immigrant bond agents to contract with bounty hunters to apprehend individuals?
 - a. If so, how many bounty hunters have been contracted, and what vetting and background investigation procedures have been implemented by the Department to ensure public safety?
 - b. How many individuals have been apprehended by these contracted bounty hunters, and where have they been apprehended? Have these individuals been turned over to state entities or DHS, ICE, or CBP components?
 - c. What was the legal status of any individual apprehended by bounty hunters during these actions?
 - d. Has DHS implemented a complaint system to receive complaints related to any potential unlawful violations made by these bounty hunters during their work? If so, how many complaints have been filed, and has your office conducted any investigations?

Disciplinary Proceedings Against ICE Personnel

1. In recent months, we have seen numerous videos in which ICE personnel have seemingly violated the law, including assaulting and attacking members of Congress, the press, and innocent bystanders. What, if any, disciplinary proceedings have these ICE agents been subjected to?
 - a. What processes are triggered when Americans report criminal or other misconduct by ICE personnel?
 - b. How many complaints have been filed against ICE personnel since President Trump took office on January 20, 2025, and what is the status of those complaints?
2. One recent example of this shocking criminal behavior by ICE personnel was the apprehension of Narciso Barranco, who was videotaped being punched repeatedly in the head by an ICE agent. What is the identity of the ICE agent who punched Mr. Barranco in the head, and what disciplinary proceedings, if any, are currently being undertaken with respect to this agent?

Given the gravity of this situation and how much misconduct we have seen from ICE personnel, we respectfully request that you provide a response to the following questions by August 1, 2025. Thank you for your attention to this deeply concerning and urgent situation.

Sincerely,



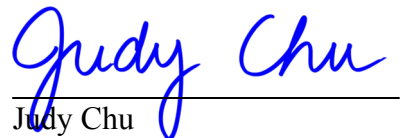
Dave Min
Member of Congress



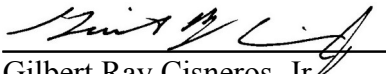
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



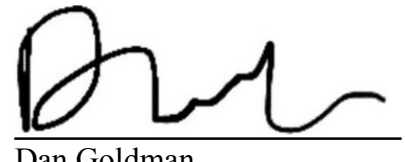
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Member of Congress



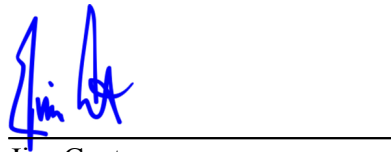
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



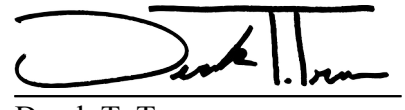
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress




Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



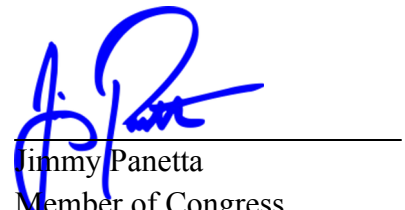
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



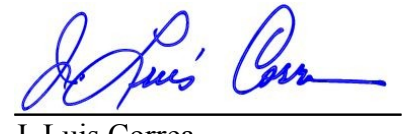
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress