



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

This week, media reports indicated that the San Diego Field Office Intelligence Unit of Customs and Border Protection (SDFO-FITU) published an official, internal document dated October 20, 2023, that assessed “that individuals inspired by, or reacting to, the current Israel-Hamas conflict may attempt travel to or from the area of hostilities in the Middle East via circuitous transit across the Southwest border.”¹ It is concerning that the Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) learned about this information through public news sources and not directly from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) despite the Department’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) transmitting near-daily situational reports about the Israel-Hamas conflict to the Committee. We write to request additional information about this matter, to include DHS’s efforts to identify, investigate, and mitigate these national security threats.

In the document, entitled, “Foreign Fighters of Israel-Hamas Conflict May Potentially be Encountered at [the] Southwest Border,” the SDFO-FITU warned that “foreign fighters motivated by ideology or mercenary soldiers of fortune may attempt to obfuscate travel to or from the US to or front countries in the Middle East through Mexico.”² The document alerts officers of “Possible Indicators” of those individuals potentially encountered at the Southwest border such as “Military age males,” “Single travelers,” and an “Undetermined return plan.”³ Finally, the document provides “Questions of Interest,” to probe those individuals potentially encountered at the Southwest border about their possible association with groups that the United States has designated as terrorist organizations, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine or any other similar organization.⁴

¹ Jennie Taer, *EXCLUSIVE: Feds Warn That Hamas, Hezbollah Could Be Crossing Southern Border*, DAILY CALLER, Oct. 22, 2023, <https://dailycaller.com/2023/10/22/hamas-hezbollah-southern-border>; Adam Shaw & Bill Melugin, *CBP Memo Sounds Alarm on Hamas, Hezbollah Fighters Potentially Using Southern Border to Enter US*, Fox News, Oct. 23, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/cbp-memo-sounds-alarm-hamas-hezbollah-fighters-potentially-using-southern-border-enter-us>.

² *Id.*

³ *Supra* note 1.

⁴ *Id.*

Secretary Mayorkas

October 24, 2023

Page 2

The Committee continues to have serious concerns about the security of our Southwest border and the potential for terrorists to take advantage of the glaring vulnerabilities created by the Biden administration's open border policies. To assist the Committee with its continued oversight of terrorist threats at the Southwest border, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2023:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the October 20, 2023 document, entitled, "Foreign Fighters of Israel-Hamas Conflict May Potentially Encountered at [the] Southwest Border," and intelligence products about "individuals inspired by, or reacting to, the current Israel-Hamas conflict," "foreign fighters," and "travel across the Southwest border," from October 7, 2023, to the present; and
2. A document sufficient to identify all DHS employees involved in drafting, reviewing, approving, or disseminating the October 20, 2023 document entitled "Foreign Fighters of Israel-Hamas Conflict May Potentially be Encountered at [the] Southwest Border."

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. To the extent a complete response to this inquiry requires the provision of classified information, please do so under separate cover. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy and has special oversight functions of "all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security."

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



AUGUST PFLUGER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

Secretary Mayorkas

October 24, 2023

Page 3



CLAY HIGGINS

Chairman

Subcommittee on Border Security
and Enforcement

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Seth Magaziner, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

The Honorable Lou Correa, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement

Mr. Troy A. Miller, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection