



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

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Venezuelan murder suspect Jose Antonio Ibarra's illegal entry, detention, and release into the United States. Ibarra, who was confirmed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to have illegally crossed the border into the United States in September 2022, was recently charged with the murder of 22-year-old University of Georgia nursing student Laken Riley.

This past weekend, ICE released a statement admitting that Ibarra was "paroled and released for further processing" into the United States after being arrested by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) near El Paso, Texas on September 8, 2022. The statement elaborates that Ibarra was later arrested in September 2023 by the New York Police Department (NYPD) and "charged with acting in a manner to injure a child less than 17 and a motor vehicle license violation." It seems that ICE did not take action to detain Ibarra after his arrest in New York, as Ibarra was recently arrested on February 23, 2024, in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, and charged with the kidnapping and murder of Riley. The murder allegedly took place while Riley was jogging on the University of Georgia's campus.

This tragedy further underscores the Committee's serious concerns about the security of our nation, and the potential for criminal aliens to take advantage of the glaring vulnerabilities created by the Biden administration's open-border policies.

To assist the Committee with its investigation, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than, 5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2024:

1. The complete Alien File, including a copy of the Form I-213, for Jose Antonio Ibarra;
2. Any and all information, including officer notes, contained in Enforcement Removal Operations' Eagle Database referring or relating to Jose Antonio Ibarra; and

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3. All documents and communications between the Office of the Secretary, CBP, and ICE—including, but not limited to, emails, text messages, and official memos—referring or relating to Jose Antonio Ibarra from February 22, 2024, to present.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Green". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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

Encl.

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