



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

August 13, 2024

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

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 90535

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) continues to conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's (Department) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) management of heightened national security risks posed by illegal aliens with terrorist ties illegally crossing the U.S. border.

We write seeking information about the recently reported arrests of three Palestinian nationals and one Turkish national, who have terrorist ties and were detained after they illegally crossed the U.S. Southwest border.<sup>1</sup> It is unclear whether these individuals have ties to Hamas, Hizballah, or another U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization. According to news media citing federal law enforcement sources, "[o]ne of the [foreign nationals] had 'salacious photos' on their phone – including a picture of a masked man holding an AK-47 rifle . . . ."<sup>2</sup>

These recent arrests highlight a systemic pattern in the rise of known or suspected terrorists attempting to, and successfully, crossing the Southwest border. Just two months ago, media reported that eight Tajikistanis with ties to ISIS were arrested in Los Angeles, New York, and Philadelphia after they had illegally crossed the border.<sup>3</sup> Weeks prior, the Department identified over 400 migrants who crossed into the United States with the help of an ISIS-

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<sup>1</sup> Jennie Taer, *3 Palestinian Terror Suspects Caught After Crossing Border Illegally as Overwhelmed Agents Warn: 'I Probably Let Terrorists In'*, N.Y. POST, July 28, 2024, <https://nypost.com/2024/07/28/us-news/palestinian-terror-suspects-caught-after-crossing-illegally>.

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

<sup>3</sup> Julia Ainsley, et al., *8 Suspected Terrorists with Possible ISIS Ties Arrested in New York, L.A. and Philadelphia, Sources Say*, NBC NEWS, June 11, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/8-suspected-terrorists-possibleisis-ties-arrested-new-york-l-philadel-rcna156635>.

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affiliated human smuggling network.<sup>4</sup> The whereabouts of more than 50 individuals within this group remains unknown.<sup>5</sup> These incidents further reflect a persistent trend, not only in illegal terrorist-affiliated U.S. border crossings, but also the failed open-border policies by the Biden-Harris administration.

We remain concerned about the threat of a “lone wolf” actor or multiple actors attempting to commit a terrorist attack in the United States. The Committee finds unacceptable that the Biden-Harris administration is dangerously failing to take measures to safeguard U.S. national security.

To assist the Committee with its ongoing oversight, please provide the following documents and information, as soon as possible, but no later than, 5:00 p.m. on August 27, 2024:

1. The complete Alien Files, including copies of Forms I-213, Records of Deportable/Inadmissible for the three Palestinian nationals and one Turkish national arrested upon crossing the Southwest border in July 2024;
2. Documents sufficient to show all derogatory information in the Terrorist Screening Data Set associated with the four Palestinian and Turkish nationals arrested upon crossing the Southwest border in July 2024; and
3. Copies of all documents and information, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer and prosecutor notes, contained in Enforcement Removal Operations’ Eagle Database, and from CBP’s E3 portal, referring or relating to the four Palestinian and Turkish nationals arrested upon crossing the Southwest border in July 2024.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. 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,

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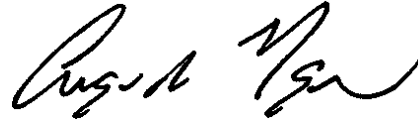
<sup>4</sup> Julia Ainsley and Tom Winter, *DHS Identifies Over 400 Migrants Brought to the U.S. by an ISIS-affiliated Human Smuggling Network*, NBC NEWS, (June 25, 2024), <https://www.nbcnews.com/investigations/dhs-identifies-400-migrants-brought-us-isis-linked-human-smuggling-rcna158777>.

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

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



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



CLAY HIGGINS  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Border Security  
and Enforcement



DAN BISHOP  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight,  
Investigations, and Accountability

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

The Honorable Glenn Ivey  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability