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MODERNIZATION AND INNOVATION, RANKING MEMBER

Acting Director Todd Lyons
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

July 14, 2025

Dear Acting Director Lyons:

As the Member of Congress representing California's 35th District, I write to demand information regarding constituents from my District who have recently been taken into U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody.

As you know, ICE has been taking aggressive and abusive action against individuals in Southern California. There are numerous videos and oral accounts of ICE agents grabbing individuals off the street, at work, and beyond. These troubling accounts have been followed by silence, in which individuals are taken to processing and detention facilities but the Online Detainee Locator System is not updated.

Families without information on the location of their loved ones are growing increasingly desperate with this lack of information and have begun contacting local law enforcement, who in turn are filing missing persons reports. This alarming step underscores the complete lack of transparency from ICE regarding these detentions, leaving families without answers or recourse. My office has been inundated with anguished inquiries from families seeking clarity on the whereabouts, treatment, and legal basis for the detention and disappearance of their loved ones.

What's even more outrageous are the mounting reports of racial profiling—people being targeted not for what they have done, but for what they look like. A recent Los Angeles Times article exposed what my community already knows too well: ICE is going after Latino residents based on skin color, plain and simple¹. These raids have no clear connection to public safety—they are about illegal profiling, intimidation, and discrimination. That is an abuse of power, and it will not go unchecked.

¹ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-25>

Please provide me with the following information to better help my constituents and ensure clear answers on ICE's current activities in Southern California and beyond:

1. The full name, detention facility, and exact location of every individual detained from my congressional district currently in ICE custody. So my constituents know where their families and neighbors are. **I expect a complete list.**
2. **ICE's plans to improve the immediate updating of the Online Detainee Locator System:**
3. A detailed account of compliance with current law and procedures regarding the conditions in which individuals are being held, including access to medical care, mental health services, food, and legal counsel.
4. Proof that detainees have been allowed to communicate with their families and attorneys. Anything less is a **violation** of basic rights and the law.
5. The exact legal justification for their detention, including charges, proceedings, and case status. **Vague or blanket explanations will not be accepted.**
6. A full report on whether any complaints have been filed or internal reviews conducted related to racial profiling or discriminatory targeting during recent enforcement operations.

The LA Times article confirms what I am hearing on the ground — ICE's recent actions are spreading fear and chaos in my community. Families are terrified. Latinos are carrying passports to buy milk. People are skipping work, pulling their kids from school, kids are missing graduations, and avoiding public life because they're afraid of being targeted for simply existing while Brown. These are not isolated incidents—they are the result of aggressive enforcement tactics that appear to rely more on appearance than evidence. This is racial terror.

Let me be clear: I will not stand by while my constituents and their families are treated like criminals without cause. If you cannot release individual case information due to privacy laws, I expect your office to immediately provide a clear and direct process for how family members, legal representatives, or my staff can obtain this information.

ICE has a duty to act within the law and treat every individual with dignity. Anything less is unacceptable, and I will use every tool at my disposal to ensure transparency, oversight, and justice for the people I represent.

Sincerely,



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress