

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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September 5, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

On July 26, 2023, during testimony before the Committee, you repeatedly stated that aliens who are encountered at the southwest U.S. border are screened and vetted by Department of Homeland Security personnel.<sup>1</sup> When pressed about the status of the record number of aliens on the terrorist watchlist who have been encountered since President Biden took office, you reiterated that “individuals that present a national security or public safety threat are detained and are a priority for removal.”<sup>2</sup> Your assertions seemed incredible at the time, and now recent press reports appear to confirm that the Department is not securing the border from terrorists who pose a direct threat to our national security.

According to reports, a foreign national with ties to ISIS, an Islamic State terrorist organization, helped to smuggle over 120 nationals of Uzbekistan, Russia, Georgia, and Chechnya into the United States through the southwest border.<sup>3</sup> These foreign nationals reportedly arrived at the border, claimed asylum, and were released into the country by the Biden Administration.<sup>4</sup> These reports seem to directly contradict your testimony under oath that all aliens encountered at the border who pose national security threats are detained and removed. Even if the national security threat was not apparent when these aliens were screened, the Administration’s open-border policies still has created a national security threat to all Americans.

The Committee has been warning you and the Department about the likelihood that our enemies would exploit the Administration’s open-border policies to do us harm. You have

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<sup>1</sup> Oversight of the Dep’t of Homeland Security: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary, 118th Cong. (2023) (statement of Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec’y, Dep’t of Homeland Security).

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

<sup>3</sup> Katie Bo Lillis, Evan Perez, Priscilla Alvarez, et. Al, *Exclusive: Smuggler with ties to ISIS helped migrants enter US from Mexico, raising alarm bells across government*, CNN (Aug. 30, 2023), <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/29/politics/migrants-us-southern-border-smuggler-isis-ties/index.html>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

responded to these concerns with contempt. The American people have a right to a full understanding of the dangerous national security consequences of your open-border policies. To that end, please provide the following data and information regarding the smuggling plot described in media reports:

1. The exact date on which you become aware that a foreign national with ISIS ties had helped to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States.
2. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who were released into the country.
3. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network currently detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
4. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who are not in ICE custody but who remain in the country.
5. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who have not been located by law enforcement officials.
6. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who have been removed from the country.
7. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who were paroled into the country, and through which parole program the aliens were allowed to enter.
8. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who were placed into removal proceedings.
9. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who were encountered by Border Patrol agents between ports of entry.
10. The number of aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network who were initially encountered at a port of entry.
11. The Border Patrol sectors through which these aliens entered the country and the number who entered through each sector.
12. A breakdown, by age, nationality, and sex, of the aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network.
13. The route(s) traveled by the aliens who entered the United States via this smuggling network from Turkey to the southwest U.S. border.


14. The terrorist or transnational criminal organizations with which each alien who entered the United States via this smuggling network, is associated.
15. For each alien who entered the United States via this smuggling network, case history information, including, but not limited to, the alien's immigration history, immigration benefits applications, the alien file (A-file) or consular file (including all consular notes), and immigration detention status and history.
16. For each alien who entered the United States via this smuggling network, information regarding the time, date, and place of any and all of the alien's entries into the United States.
17. For each alien who entered the United States via this smuggling network, information regarding the alien's processing by CBP officials, including whether CBP officials were alerted to derogatory information about the alien and what questions were asked of the alien during the screening process.
18. Whether the ISIS-tied smuggler(s) ever entered the United States since January 20, 2021, and if so, the time, date, and place of entry.
19. What, if any, changes the Department has made to its screening and vetting procedures for inadmissible aliens encountered at the border who are nationals of Uzbekistan, Russia, Georgia, and Chechnya?

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 19, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Chairman



Tom McClintock  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Immigration  
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration  
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement