

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

DAVID M. WEINBERG, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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LAURA W. KILBRIDE, CHIEF CLERK

December 6, 2024

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

Director Christopher Wray  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray:

As the current Ranking Member and incoming Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC), I write to request information regarding domestic relocation flights provided to illegal immigrants.

During the recent trial of Jose Antonio Ibarra, who was convicted of the murder of Laken Riley, it was revealed that Ibarra received a one-way ticket for a “humanitarian flight” from New York City to Atlanta on September 28, 2023.<sup>1</sup> Reports indicate that Ibarra, a Venezuelan national, along with his former roommate, also a Venezuelan national, visited the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City in September 2023 to request a “humanitarian flight” ticket to Atlanta. Ibarra was previously apprehended by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in 2022 near El Paso, Texas where he was subsequently released into the country through parole.

This situation highlights a gross misuse of taxpayer funds and the severe consequences of the ongoing border crisis on communities across the United States. Migrants who have entered the U.S. illegally have been able to move freely across the country using taxpayer-funded flights and other means of transportation. Alarming, there appears to be a lack of accountability or oversight in tracking these movements. Ibarra’s one-way ticket brought him to a community where he later committed the heinous act of murdering an innocent young woman. This raises critical questions: How many other individuals with criminal histories have been transported to unsuspecting communities, and who is responsible for monitoring their whereabouts? The alarming use of taxpayer-funded flights for illegal aliens underscores the urgent need for accountability and transparency.

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<sup>1</sup> “Feds Mum on How Laken Riley Killer Got One-Way Plane Ticket from Migrant Shelter to Ground Zero,” *Fox News* (Nov. 24, 2024), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/feds-mum-how-laken-riley-killer-got-one-way-plane-ticket-from-migrant-shelter-ground-zero>.

For this reason, I request you provide complete, original, and unredacted copies of the following documents and information no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on December 20, 2024:

1. A list of all “humanitarian flight” tickets purchased from January 2021 to present including the following information for each flight:
  - a. cost
  - b. date
  - c. origin
  - d. destination
  - e. airline/carrier
  - f. bureau that provided funds
2. The eligibility criteria for migrants to qualify for a “humanitarian flight”;
3. Safeguards in place to prevent individuals with criminal histories from receiving “humanitarian flights”;
4. Processes for tracking the destinations and subsequent movements of migrants who receive “humanitarian flights”;
5. All communications between or among the FBI, DHS, CBP, and ICE regarding “humanitarian flights”;
6. All communications between the FBI, DHS, CBP, or ICE and federal, state, or local government agencies and law enforcement regarding “humanitarian flights”;
7. All communications between the FBI, DHS, CBP, or ICE and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) related to “humanitarian flights”;
8. All DHS records, including those from its components and the complete Alien File (A-File), for individuals granted “humanitarian flights”, including details of their immigration status and criminal history;
9. All receipts and records for any costs or expenses from DHS relating to these “humanitarian flights”;
10. A description of which Treasury account(s) these costs or expenses were paid out of and how much is remaining in these accounts; and
11. A description of the statutory authority that allows DHS funds to be used for these purposes.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rand Paul, M.D.  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs