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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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August 3, 2018

Mr. Ronald D. Vitiello  
Deputy Director and Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Acting Director Vitiello:

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is continuing its oversight of border security and immigration enforcement. A whistleblower recently provided information about an illegal alien who was apprehended illegally crossing the southern border and later released, despite having an outstanding arrest warrant for homicide in Honduras.<sup>1</sup> As the Administration works to better enforce our immigration laws, I respectfully request information about this individual.

According to the whistleblower, authorities in Honduras issued an arrest warrant for homicide against the subject on October 2, 2017.<sup>2</sup> U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents apprehended the individual between the ports of entry in the Rio Grande Valley Sector on May 22, 2018, and released him on May 27, 2018 with a notice to appear before an immigration judge at a later date.<sup>3</sup> At the time of the apprehension, USBP was apparently unaware of the Honduran arrest warrant.<sup>4</sup>

Local police in Massachusetts reportedly arrested the alien on June 6, 2018 on charges of being a fugitive from justice.<sup>5</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) received notification to “be on the lookout” for the alien on June 8, 2018—two days after he was arrested by local authorities.<sup>6</sup> The alien is reportedly currently in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody.<sup>7</sup>

To better understand how ICE is executing its immigration enforcement mission, I respectfully request the following information and material:

1. Please provide the alien file for this individual.

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<sup>1</sup> The alien’s name and other identifying information can be found in the enclosure to this letter.

<sup>2</sup> Phone call between whistleblower and Comm. staff (July 3, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> Phone call between Customs and Border Protection staff and Comm. staff (July 25, 2018).

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

<sup>5</sup> Phone call between whistleblower and Comm. staff (July 3, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Phone call between Customs and Border Protection staff and Comm. staff (July 25, 2018).

<sup>7</sup> Phone call between whistleblower and Comm. staff (July 3, 2018).

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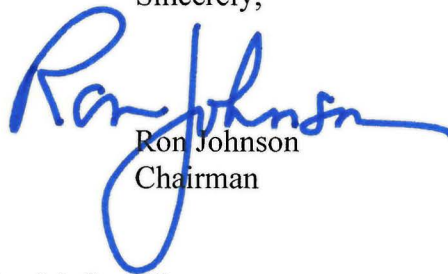
2. Please identify which entity issued the lookout notice for this individual on or around June 8, 2018. How and when did ICE become aware of the lookout notice?

Please provide these materials as soon as possible, but by no later than August 17, 2018.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate “the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government.”<sup>8</sup> Additionally, S. Res. 62 (115th Congress) authorizes the Committee to examine “the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to (i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes . . . .”<sup>9</sup>

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please ask your staff to contact Kyle Brosnan or Brian Downey of my staff at (202) 224-4751. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

Enclosure

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<sup>8</sup> S. Rule XXV(k); *see also* S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004).

<sup>9</sup> S. Res. 62 § 12, 115th Cong. (2017).