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COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S.
HELSINKI COMMISSION)

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

I write to inquire about the Department of Homeland Security's immigration enforcement policies, priorities, and communications.

I reiterate that I believe it is essential to focus our limited interior enforcement resources on apprehending and deporting those who are most disruptive to our communities, especially violent criminals. In your public statements, you appear to agree with that sentiment and describe your agency's focus on the "worst of the worst." On its face, that would seem to make sense. However, there have been conflicting reports about who ICE is detaining, and I would like some clarification.

From my conversations with constituents over the August recess, I have found that many welcome the removal of violent criminals. Yet, there are neighborhoods in "panic" as they fear an indiscriminate approach that prioritizes the number of total removals, rather than the offense.

I find your rhetoric misleading and does not match the impact of your policies. My constituents fear that people whom they have known for decades, whose only offense is being an immigrant without papers, is will disappear. Many of these people are deeply integrated into our community. Some have lived here for decades, brought to the U.S. as children, and have no connection to the countries of their birth.

Perhaps it was fitting then, when I returned to Washington, to learn that someone who worked in and maintained my apartment building for at least a decade was followed by ICE on the way to work and arrested. To give you some indication of how deeply embedded and beloved this person was in our community, building residents have created a GoFundMe page to provide support, which has raised

tens of thousands of dollars. To the best of my knowledge, and that of many of my neighbors, he was never involved in any criminal activity -- simply a hard-working man trying to support his American citizen children. There when I left, gone when I came back.

These anecdotes, experiences, and public data conflict with your stated priorities. This recent article from CBS News describes how ICE detentions of “people facing *only* civil immigration charges, such as entering the country without authorization, *rose by over 250%*” in May 2025.¹ Further, CBS News found that only 8% of detainees had been convicted of violent crimes. Most crimes were traffic offenses.

These reports undercut your assertions that “Agents continue to target criminal illegal aliens wreaking havoc in some of the biggest cities across the nation.”² It would seem only a tiny percentage of those detained are the “Child Predators, Murderers, and Rapists” touted by the Department.

In that context, I renew and escalate my request for this information.

- How many unauthorized migrants has ICE apprehended since January 20, 2025?
- How many of those apprehended by ICE since January 20, 2025, were convicted of homicide, rape, or child sexual abuse?
 - Of those convicted, please list in which jurisdiction.
 - Where were those convicted apprehended by ICE? Were they apprehended in the community, or were they previously in the custody of another law enforcement agency?

I look forward to your answers.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

¹ Julia Ingram, *ICE Detentions of Non-Criminal Immigrants Spike; About 8% Have Violent Convictions, Analysis of New Data Shows*, CBS NEWS (June 30, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-detentions-non-criminal-immigrants-violent-crime-convictions-analysis/>

² Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., *ICE Nabs More Worst of Worst Including Child Predators, Murderers, and Rapists on Friday* (Sept. 6, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/06/ice-nabs-more-worst-worst-including-child-predators-murderers-and-rapists-friday>