

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 25, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to you with grave concerns regarding violent criminals from Venezuela being released from prisons, embedding themselves into migrant caravans, and traversing into the United States.

For nearly two years, we have written to you about this extremely concerning situation. In September 2022, our first letter highlighted an intelligence report received by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that agents needed to be on alert for violent criminals from Venezuela among migrant caravans headed to the U.S.- Mexico border.<sup>1</sup> This report stemmed from a report that the Venezuelan government began releasing violent prisoners who committed “murder, rape, and extortion” and encouraged them to join migrant caravans headed to the United States.<sup>2</sup> We warned you that the threat was very real and implored you to take action.

Having received no response, we again wrote to you in February 2024, and explained that our unheeded warnings had come to pass, with Venezuelan migrant gangs having established themselves in our cities and multiple murders and sexual assaults having been committed by Venezuelan migrants.<sup>3</sup> To date, we have yet to receive a response or acknowledgement of any of these letters.

Given our previous letters to you, DHS had full notice of the threat posed by Venezuelan aliens, and you cannot feign ignorance. Despite your awareness of the threat, in March and May of this year, DHS released two Venezuelan nationals into the interior after they had illegally crossed the border, even though there were thousands of beds available in migrant detention centers.<sup>4</sup> Those two Venezuelan nationals went on to murder a 12-year-old girl in Houston named Jocelyn

<sup>1</sup> Troy Nehls, *Rep. Nehls Asks Mayorkas to Secure Borders from Released Venezuelan Prisoners Among Caravans*, NEHLS.HOUSE.GOV, (Sept. 22, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Randy Clark, *EXCLUSIVE: Venezuela Empties Prisons, Sends Violent Criminals to U.S. Border, Says DHS Report*, BREITBART, (Sept. 18, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Troy Nehls, *Rep. Troy E. Nehls Sends Follow-Up Letter to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas Regarding Venezuelan Prisoners*, NEHLS.HOUSE.GOV, (Feb. 29, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> John Binder, *House report: Biden's DHS freed Jocelyn Nungaray's accused killers into U.S. despite available ice detention space*, BREITBART, (Jun. 24, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Michelle Homer & Victor Jacobo, *'you took my baby away' | mother of 12-year-old found strangled in Creek left devastated, angry*, HKOU, (Jun. 19, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> Jennie Taer & Alex Oliverira, *Illegal migrants lured Jocelyn Nungaray, 12, under bridge, assaulted her for 2 hours before killing her: Prosecutors*, NEW YORK POST, (Jun. 24, 2024).

Nungaray, who was described as a “smart, loving, nurturing young lady.”<sup>5</sup> These criminal illegal aliens that you released into our country took that little girl under a bridge, sexually assaulted and tortured her for over two hours, then strangled her to death before dumping her body in a bayou like garbage.<sup>6</sup> If you had heeded the warnings in our prior letters, Jocelyn Nungaray, and others, could still be alive. That is not a matter of opinion. It is a fact. Your catastrophic border policy and callous disregard for the safety of Americans is, frankly, unconscionable.

We are once again seeking to have our questions answered from our September 2022 letter, we continue to urge you to prevent Venezuelans from entering our interior, and immediately deport those you have released pending immigration proceedings. Finally, in the strongest of terms, we implore you to initiate a complete and total moratorium on all Venezuelan migration until they agree to cooperate with deportation requests. Americans have suffered enough at the hands of the Biden Administration.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Troy. E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress