

GREG LOPEZ  
4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I write to you today following the shocking news reports and video that Americans have watched over the last week showing the illegal gang takeover of residential buildings in Aurora, Colorado. According to latest reports, this gang has taken over an apartment building, is collecting rent, and have encouraged their members to attack law enforcement officers. It's outrageous that this is being allowed to happen in the United States of America and it must end.

We urge you to immediately issue a directive to the Field Officer Director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Colorado to aggressively apprehend, detain, and deport any members of Tren de Aragua, or other known foreign criminal gangs, located in the state of Colorado with a particular emphasis on the Denver urban corridor and the City of Aurora, Colorado.

Recently we learned, per the memo that your agency sent to the Albuquerque Police Department, Tren de Aragua leaders have given its members the "green light" to attack and open fire on United States law enforcement. The calls for brazen violence against our nation's police officers are wholly incompatible with our American way of life and it is squarely your responsibility to ensure that these murderous gang members are expeditiously detained and removed from our country. Failure to do so will result in the loss of innocent American life.

Even worse, your Department has been aware of threats from this gang and chosen not to act. This past July, President Biden labeled the group as a transnational criminal organization. Based on the recent events in Aurora, it is clear why this decision was made.

Under your leadership, the United States has lost control of our southern border. With millions of encounters every year, criminal networks including Tren de Aragua have taken advantage of the situation and are wreaking havoc on our communities. Every crime committed by illegal gang members in the United States is entirely preventable. We call on you to end this senseless policy of catch and release and to deport all known foreign gang members, so that violent criminal enterprises like Tren de Aragua and others may not terrorize the American people.

Please provide confirmation that you have issued the requested directive and answers to the following questions by no later than September 12, 2024:

1. Did the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have intelligence on Tren de Aragua in Aurora and these residential buildings ahead of this takeover?
2. Is anything similar occurring in other cities around the country? If so, what is being done to apprehend and deport these gang officials? How are you preventing similar situations from occurring nationally?
3. Are you in contact with surrounding police departments and agencies in Colorado about the potential for this to spread to their communities? What resources are being provided to correct this situation?
4. Have these specific individuals identified as members of Tren de Aragua been on your agency's radar for previous crimes or criminal activity? If so, why have they not already been deported? When did these individuals first enter the United States?
5. How many other individuals in the US have ties to Tren de Aragua? How many members of Tren de Aragua have been deported?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Lopez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

U.S. Rep. Greg Lopez - 4th Congressional District