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

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Todd Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Lyons:

My recent Congressional oversight visit on June 17 to the Adelanto Detention Facility with my colleagues confirmed my suspicions that Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) haphazard, chaotic, and directionless arrests are subjecting more innocent individuals to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

During our visit, I met with a detainee whose story is similar to many other detained immigrants. He and his wife lived in Chino, California, and as an asylum seeker, with no criminal record, was following the law and applicable rules. On the day he was detained, he was appearing at immigration court in Santa Ana, California, for his third hearing, only for the judge to dismiss and close his case immediately. When he and his wife were ordered to leave the courtroom, ICE agents were stationed outside to detain them and send them to the Adelanto Detention Facility. Additionally, I heard from other detained immigrants who said they had been brought in from locations thousands of miles from where they were detained, such as Miami, Florida, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, rather than be sent to a detention facility closer to their family and legal counsel. Separately, my constituents have had their immigration cases immediately dismissed and sent to ICE detention centers far from home, including Texas.

I am deeply concerned that many of these detainees are being sent to detention facilities across the country without any connections to legal services, family or friends, or logical reasons for that matter. These are hardworking people who are trying to live out their own American Dream while abiding our laws and immigration court hearing proceedings – only to be detained and sent to facilities across the country.

It is evident that ICE either lacks competence or disregards proficiency in immigration law because the ongoing raids and detentions are fueling terror, chaos, and a misuse of taxpayer funds.

As part of my oversight responsibilities, I am demanding a response within 72 hours to the following questions:

1. While at Adelanto, I asked ICE personnel why a detainee who lived in Florida was sent to Adelanto and they responded, "That's a question for higher ups." Provide a detailed explanation on the decision-making process related to detainees being sent across the country or state lines.
2. What is the criteria for transferring a detainee to a facility outside of the location where they were detained, and what is the criteria for transferring individuals from one detention facility to another?

3. On May 30, the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) leadership sent a memo to Assistant Chief Immigration Judges (ACIJJs) on immigration adjudications. This memo outlines that "oral decisions must be completed within the same hearing slot on the day testimony and arguments are concluded.... Respondents in the expedited removal proceedings are subject to mandatory detention."<sup>1</sup> Is the goal of this guidance to scare immigrants to miss their asylum court hearings and use that as a justification to try and deport them instead of actually targeting priority cases?
4. What is the actual cost per day and annually to taxpayers for wasting money by flying detained immigrants across state lines and housing them in facilities?

During our inspection, we witnessed and heard various disturbing accounts from the detainees at the Adelanto Detention Facility, such as:

- Detained immigrants cleaning their restrooms because staff refuse to do so;
- Detained immigrants not being provided with clean clothing and having to wash their personal items, including their underwear and socks, in the shower; and
- ICE and facility staff are not providing a required telephone pin number for detainees to call their family and legal counsel.

It is a disgrace for this country, built by generations of immigrants, to treat immigrants and our most vulnerable populations this way. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars and only leads to more confusion for detainees accessing legal representation and communicating with family, while filling the coffers of for-profit private prison corporations.

As the Congressman for California's 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional district, I will continue to demand access to ICE facilities to conduct Congressional oversight to ensure all detainees are treated humanely and with dignity. I will continue to demand answers from ICE and other relevant Federal agencies. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Luz Rivas  
Member of Congress

CC: Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aila.org/practice-alert-eoir-guidance-to-immigration-judges-on-dismissals-and-other-adjudications>