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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 24, 2018

Mr. Scott Lloyd  
Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is continuing its oversight of transnational gangs.<sup>1</sup> On November 16, 2017, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the results of Operation Raging Bull, an operation that targeted the international criminal gang, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).<sup>2</sup> Law enforcement authorities arrested 267 MS-13 gang members.<sup>3</sup> Of those arrested, 64 individuals had illegally entered the United States as unaccompanied alien children (UAC).<sup>4</sup>

In 2014, under the previous leadership of the Department in the Obama Administration, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) placed 18 UACs who self-identified as gang members in placement centers across the country.<sup>5</sup> According to ORR data, ORR placed self-admitted gang members in communities in California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Texas.<sup>6</sup> A number of these individuals have subsequently been arrested for gang activity, including at least one individual in Operation Raging Bull.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Aff., to Scott Lloyd, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Dep't of Health and Human Servs. (May 23, 2017); Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., to Thomas Homan, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Dep't of Homeland Security (Sept. 25, 2017); Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Aff., to Thomas Homan, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Dep't of Homeland Security (Feb. 8, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Press Release, Dep't of Justice, 22 MS-13 Members and Associates Charged Federally in ICE's MS-13 Targeted 'Operation Raging Bull' Which Netted a Total of 267 Arrests, Nov. 16, 2017, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/22-ms-13-members-and-associates-charged-federally-ice-s-ms-13-targeted-operation-raging-bull>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

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

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Raymond Kovacic, Assistant Director of Congressional Relations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Dep't of Homeland Security, to Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Aff. (Feb. 13, 2018). *See also*, email from HHS staff to Comm. staff, Sept. 11, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Email from HHS staff to Comm. staff, Sept. 11, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Thomas Homan, Deputy Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Dep't of Homeland Security, to Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Aff. (Mar. 26, 2018).

To assist the Committee in understanding whether ORR processed or placed any additional UACs arrested in Operation Raging Bull, I respectfully request the following information and materials:

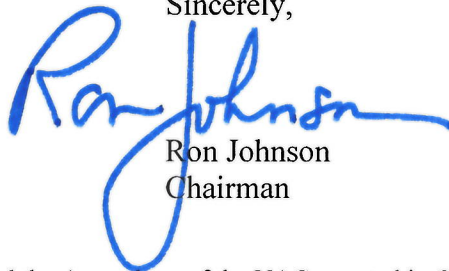
1. Please identify which gang members arrested in Operation Raging Bull were ever in ORR's custody.<sup>8</sup> For each UAC who was in ORR's custody, please provide the following information:
  - a. The date of the UAC's release;
  - b. The nature of the UAC's relationship with his sponsor;
  - c. The UAC's final placement location; and
  - d. The level of facility at which the UAC stayed in while in ORR's custody (e.g. secure, staff secure).
  
2. For each UAC who was in ORR's custody and subsequently arrested in Operation Raging Bull, please provide the following:
  - a. The UAC's Initial Placement Referral Form; and
  - b. Whether ORR received any information from DHS or its component agencies about the UAC's past criminal history or gang affiliation prior to referral, during custody, and after the release of the UAC to a sponsor.

Please respond as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 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>9</sup> Additionally, S. Res. 62 (115th Congress) authorizes the Committee to examine "the efficiency and economy of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to (i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes . . . ."<sup>10</sup>

If you have any questions about this request, please ask your staff to contact Kyle Brosnan or Brian Downey of the Committee staff at (202) 224-4751. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
Chairman

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<sup>8</sup> For your convenience, I have included the A-numbers of the UAC arrested in Operation Raging Bull as an attachment to this letter. *See*, letter from Thomas Homan, Deputy Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Dep't of Homeland Security, to Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Aff. (Mar. 26, 2018).

<sup>9</sup> S. Rule XXV; *see also* S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004).

<sup>10</sup> S. Res. 62 § 12, 114th Cong. (2015).

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cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

Enclosures