



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subcommittee Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Smarter Borders, Safer Nation: Expanding the Use of Non-Intrusive Inspection Technology

January 22, 2026

I'm particularly pleased to see CBP here to answer questions. With the violent immigration enforcement activities regularly occurring in communities, I expect Members will have plenty of questions for you, Ms. Sabatino, today. I understand you oversee some of the officers participating in these activities.

The noticed topic today is about non-intrusive inspection equipment. I want to be clear – I have long pushed for the full deployment of these scanners at our ports of entry to prevent dangerous drugs and other illicit goods from entering the country. There are real concerns with the acquisition and rollout of that equipment. And I will continue to engage with CBP on that – we need to make sure taxpayer dollars are invested effectively. However, right now the American people are demanding answers about what is happening in our cities. They want to know what immigration agents are being instructed to do.

We've all seen the horrific videos from Minnesota, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans and other cities. The Trump administration is occupying and terrorizing American communities in the name if immigration enforcement. That is what needs to be our focus today. I do not understand how my Republican colleagues can sit here and pretend it isn't happening.

It's been one year since President Trump was sworn into office. It's clear that he, along with his corrupt crew, don't care about public safety or national security. President Trump and his administration have not made us safer or stronger as a nation. In fact, he's done the opposite.

Just look at Minneapolis. I can't believe anyone could claim those violent actions are making the city safe. Most citizens there will probably tell you they've never felt more unsafe. Masked federal agents are roaming the streets asking people of color for their papers to prove their citizenship. And if they don't have them or don't respond quickly, they are violently arrested and whisked away to unknown locations.

The same thing is happening to those who dare to film them. Even though that is a protected activity. This is an assault on everyone's civil rights and civil liberties. And I still can't quite believe that my Republican colleagues who were appalled about wearing a mask are just fine being told that their constituents must now carry their passports on them at all times.

Because if an immigration officer can detain a citizen in Minneapolis who doesn't have their passport on them, they can just as easily detain any one of us in this room. Or any one of the people we are here representing. This is not ok. None of us should think it is acceptable.

Citizens and non-citizens alike are being harmed by this administration. We saw an ICE agent shoot and kill a mother of three in broad daylight. And immigration agents – including CBP – have shot at least 11

other people since the start of this Trump administration. In addition to the shootings, we've seen aggressive and violent tactics by ICE and CBP usually depicted in over-the-top action movies.

A military-style raid in Chicago targeted residents in an apartment building in the middle of the night. Beyond the flashbang grenades and agents rappelling from helicopters, witnesses saw children in their underwear zip-tied together in vans. Other residents, including U.S. citizens and military veterans, were also zip-tied for hours.

This is not what our country stands for. The American people are taking notice. They see the Trump administration and DHS is more focused on an anti-immigrant agenda than improving the lives of our citizens.

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[Media contact](#)