

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Noem and Attorney General Bondi:

We write to express our outrage over the immigration raid conducted by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) targeting the residents of an apartment building in Chicago in the early morning hours of September 30th.¹ Treating a U.S. city like a war zone is intolerable. We urge you to end such violent, middle of the night operations that traumatize entire communities and put innocent men, women and children, including U.S. citizens, at risk.

According to media reports, armed federal agents in military fatigues approached or entered nearly every apartment in the five-story, 130-unit apartment building, using flashbang grenades, busting down doors, and pulling men, women and children from their beds.² Agents put residents in zip ties and led them to unmarked vans to wait for hours while handcuffed, with children separated from their parents.³ Witnesses report that some of the individuals, including children, were naked when removed from their apartments.⁴ Reports also indicate that some of the children were zip-tied together while detained.⁵ One federal agent is reported to have said “Fuck them kids” during the operation.⁶

Reporting indicates that there were U.S. citizens and military veterans among those dragged out of their apartments in zip ties and detained for hours.⁷ They were not told why they were detained, and they were not allowed to contact attorneys.⁸ Residents report significant property damage and

¹ Cate Cauguiran et al., *ICE Agents Raid South Shore Apartments; Trump Says Chicago Could Become Military Training Ground*, ABC7 Chicago, (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/ice-chicago-federal-agents-surround-south-shore-apartment-building-dhs-requests-military-deployment-illinois/17908911/>; Cindy Hernandez, *Massive Immigration Raid on Chicago Apartment Building Leaves Residents Reeling: ‘I Feel Defeated,’* WBEZ, (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/10/01/massive-immigration-raid-on-chicago-apartment-building-leaves-residents-reeling-i-feel-defeated>.

² Hernandez, *supra* note 1.

³ Mack Liederman, *South Shore Residents Return to Ransacked Apartments, Try to Move Out After ICE Raid: ‘It Looks Like Hell’*, Block Club Chicago (Oct. 2, 2025), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/10/02/south-shore-residents-return-to-ransacked-apartments-try-to-move-out-after-ice-raid-it-looks-like-hell/>; Cauguiran et al., *supra* note 1.

⁴ Hernandez, *supra* note 1.

⁵ Cauguiran et al., *supra* note 1.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Hernandez, *supra* note 1; Liederman, *supra* note 3.

⁸ Liederman, *supra* note 3; Hernandez, *supra* note 1.

having their units ransacked.⁹ Doors were blown off hinges and holes left in walls.¹⁰ When returning to their apartments, some residents found their items stolen after federal agents left apartments open.¹¹

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has stated 37 people were arrested in the raid and asserts that some of those arrested “are believed to be involved in drug trafficking and distribution, weapons crimes and immigration violators.”¹² DHS has also claimed, without providing any evidence, that the South Shore neighborhood where the apartment building is located was “a location known to be frequented by Tren de Aragua members and their associates.”¹³ In fact, law enforcement authorities have not confirmed that any of the people arrested in this raid were members of Tren de Aragua.¹⁴

It is unacceptable that this violent, heavy-handed immigration enforcement operation put families and children at risk and detained U.S. citizens, while traumatizing an entire community. Please provide responses to the following questions and requests for information by October 20, 2025:

1. Were any criminal or administrative warrants issued for this operation? Please provide any warrants and detail the specific targets and the rationale for entering nearly all 130 apartments in the building.
2. Please detail the number of both criminal and administrative arrests during this operation. How many of those arrested had active warrants for their arrest?
3. How many of the individuals arrested are confirmed Tren de Aragua members?
4. Please detail the number of individuals placed under investigative detention during this operation, and break out the numbers by men, women and children.
5. Please detail the number of U.S. citizens placed under investigative detention during this operation, and break out the numbers by men, women and children. For each U.S. citizen detained, please provide the length of detention and the rationale for their detention.
6. Please detail the number of U.S. citizens arrested during the operation and the charges filed against them.
7. Please provide evidence and documentation supporting DHS’s assertion that some “are believed to be involved in drug trafficking and distribution, weapons crimes.”
8. Please explain why agents forced individuals, including children, to leave their apartment without clothing. Please detail the number of individuals detained without clothing, broken out by gender and age.
9. Please explain the rationale behind zip-tying children together during investigative detention.
10. Please detail why helicopters were needed for this operation. Which agency provided the helicopters and agents manning them?
11. Please detail the number of agents participating in this operation, broken out by agency.

⁹ Cauguiran et al., *supra* note 1.

¹⁰ *Id.*

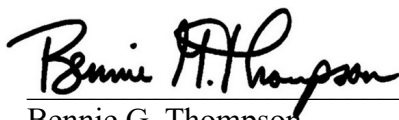
¹¹ Hernandez, *supra* note 1; Liederman, *supra* note 3.

¹² Cauguiran et al., *supra* note 1.


¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Hernandez, *supra* note 1.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



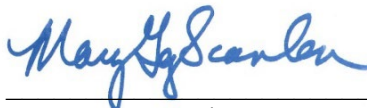
J. Luis Correa
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Border Security and Enforcement
Committee on Homeland Security



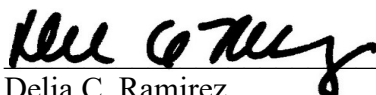
Pramila Jayapal
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Immigration Integrity, Security,
and Enforcement
House Committee on the Judiciary



Shri Thanedar
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability
Committee on Homeland Security



Mary Gay Scanlon
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
the Constitution and Limited Government
House Committee on the Judiciary



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Andrew Garbarino, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Michael Guest, Chairman
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement, Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, House Committee
on the Judiciary

The Honorable Josh Brecheen, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, Committee on
Homeland Security

The Honorable Chip Roy, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, House Committee on the
Judiciary