



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Seeking Justice: Oversight of ICE's Use of Force in the Death of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

July 24, 2026

We are here today to address the tragic killing of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo who was shot by ICE agents on July 7, 2026. Over the years, the Committee on Homeland Security has conducted oversight on countless issues. But none has been more urgent than Americans and immigrants alike being locked up, assaulted, shot, and even killed by the Department of Homeland Security—including ICE and CBP.

It pains me that the friends and family members of Lorenzo are not the only ones to have suffered this tragedy at the hands of DHS. Preceding Lorenzo's death, Ruben Ray Martinez, Marimar Martinez, Renee Good, and Alex Pretti were also shot in cold blood. Countless others have been beaten, harassed, and detained without cause. What we have seen time and time again following these deaths is a pattern of obfuscation and misinformation by DHS.

The facts before us today in Lorenzo's killing follow this deeply disturbing pattern. Despite the lack of body-worn camera footage, ICE rushed to claim self-defense, but that narrative has been contradicted by others in the van. We also know that these same witnesses have been detained by ICE and pressured to "self-deport." That is obstruction, and it is incompatible with a credible investigation. ICE also initially claimed that Lorenzo was the target of an immigration operation, but hours later conceded he was not the person ICE intended to arrest.

Harris County District Attorney Sean Teare, who is here with us today, says Federal authorities have refused to cooperate with his office. ICE has cut off access to surveillance footage, vehicle logs, and operational data, and even refuses to turn over basic information on the incidents. ICE cannot stonewall local law enforcement. We will not tolerate such secrecy when a community demands truth.

Sadly, less than a week after Lorenzo's death, ICE fatally shot another man—and father to a three-year-old—in Maine. The victim of this shooting was also not the intended target. Again, there was no body-worn camera footage. And again, DHS claimed that the shooting victim had endangered public safety. In other words, ICE followed its usual playbook in the wake of a shooting by one of its officers.

The lack of body-worn camera footage is unacceptable and has become a hallmark of these operations. DHS blames the lack of cameras on government shutdowns, but even months after DHS pledged rapid deployment of the technology, they are still not in use. And to no one's surprise, the Trump administration has no interest in reforms that will save lives. In response to these two most recent killings, ICE quietly instructed officers to cease most vehicle stops—a tacit admission that the tactic has been out of control.

Yet within a day, President Trump publicly reversed the pause in a social media post ordering that traffic stops continue. This is no way to manage law enforcement operations; it will only lead to more tragedy. Today's forum is about putting facts on the record, cutting through the misinformation, and demanding

accountability. Accountability means evidence. We demand DHS cooperate with local law enforcement agencies by sharing all the evidence in its possession on these shootings. Accountability means reform. Body-worn cameras must be in active use on every ICE agent. Witnesses must be protected against deportation And ICE must submit to independent and transparent investigations following any use of deadly force.

To Representative Espaillat, the CHC, our witnesses, and the Houston community, thank you for your courage and commitment to this most sacred work. Today we honor Lorenzo's memory—as well as the other victims of ICE violence—by demanding truth, accountability, and reform.

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