



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 in Biddeford: Oversight of ICE's Use of Force in the Death of Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero

August 17, 2026

We are here today to demand accountability for the death of Johan Sebastián, a 25-year-old father and work permit holder from Colombia, killed in front of his young daughter by an ICE officer with a history of violence, who by all accounts was unfit to have a badge and a gun.

His death is a direct result of the Trump administration's unlawful, out-of-control immigration policies. Unfortunately, Johan Sebastián's killing isn't an isolated case. Across our country, immigration officers have hurt and killed Americans and immigrants alike, created chaos in our communities, and violated the law.

Despite promising to go after the "worst of the worst," ICE is arresting people with no criminal record to fulfill arbitrary, politically motivated quotas, making our communities less safe. ICE's lowered hiring standards and reduced training have led to unfit officers on our streets, with catastrophic results.

The Department of Homeland Security has lied repeatedly about what happened in these shootings, falsely blaming the victims and then backtracking when video footage contradicts their lies.

Rather than rein in ICE, congressional Republicans have refused to conduct oversight of the agency, instead giving ICE billions in taxpayer dollars with no strings attached. It's outrageous. In the absence of action by our Republican colleagues, Homeland Security Committee Democrats have held forums and conducted site visits in communities devastated by ICE's immigration policies.

We have heard from elected leaders, community members, and grieving families from Houston, New Orleans, New Jersey, Chicago, Minneapolis, and beyond. And now, tragically, we add Biddeford to the list of communities that have suffered a terrible loss.

Today, we will hear testimony from family members, elected officials, attorneys, and advocacy groups about what happened. And we will hear about what Congress must do to prevent yet another life being cut short by a rogue ICE agent who decides to shoot first and asks questions later.

I pray that congressional Republicans hear the witnesses' testimony and realize they cannot sit idly by as innocent people are shot and killed by their own government. Please know that we will do everything possible to hold the Trump administration accountable for what happened in Biddeford, ensure the Federal government cooperates fully with the State of Maine's investigation, and prevent future senseless tragedies.

We stand united in support of this proud community. We will not look away, we will not stop, and we will not allow these abuses to go unchallenged.

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