



**One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman, Task Force on Enhancing Security
for Special Events in the United States
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul:

As Members of the Homeland Security Committee Task Force on Enhancing Security for Special Events in the United States (Task Force), we write to request that you schedule a hearing in the next four weeks for the Task Force to hear from non-governmental witnesses about the effects of the Trump administration's immigration policies on the World Cup and associated public events.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has displayed a troubling pattern of aggressive and brutal immigration enforcement tactics, especially during their recent operation in Minnesota, which killed two American citizens. We are increasingly concerned that DHS's tactics pose an unacceptable risk to American citizens, foreign visitors, and immigrants who seek to lawfully enjoy World Cup matches and other public events. Moreover, we have heard from local governments that communication from World Cup planners and DHS has been virtually non-existent, which leaves law enforcement in the dark about security planning and preparation for these major events.

Last summer, more than 90 civil society groups, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the ACLU, and the NAACP wrote to Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) expressing deep concern over U.S. immigration enforcement policies and the harmful impact the Trump administration's tactics will have on the World Cup.¹ The groups highlighted how "[i]ncreased immigration enforcement actions, abusive Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations, and broader border restrictions have...contributed to widespread fear and uncertainty" for players, fans, and journalists planning to legally attend World Cup events

¹ Letter from Human Rights Watch, et al. to Gianni Infantino, President, Fédération Internationale de Football Association (July 1, 2025), www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/01/letter-to-fifa-re-impact-of-us-immigration-policies-on-the-2025-fifa-club-world-cup.

in the United States.² Since that letter was sent, the Trump administration’s enforcement actions have only increased in their severity, which jeopardizes travel and attendance at World Cup matches and Fan Festivals across the United States.

Despite pleas from lawmakers and non-profit groups, the Trump administration has repeatedly refused to rule out ICE enforcement and raids at World Cup matches and public events, prompting concerns over the safety and shared spirit of these games.³ The threat of immigration enforcement at the World Cup and related public events risks politicizing these global games and taking law enforcement resources away from public safety. Without assurances that travelers and attendees will be safe from draconian DHS law enforcement activities targeting immigrants, visitors, and citizens, our local economies will suffer massive losses rather than economic gains from the World Cup matches and Fan Festivals. It is imperative that the Task Force receive testimony about the social and economic impacts of the Trump administration’s out-of-control immigration enforcement operations, lack of coordination with local law enforcement, and their impacts on the World Cup and associated public events.

The actions by DHS officers and agents that have terrorized communities in Minneapolis and other American cities only heighten our concerns regarding how DHS plans to interact with individuals coming to the United States from every corner of the world for these games. Minnesota law enforcement leaders have repeatedly condemned actions and behavior of DHS officers, noting there have been “endless complaints of civil rights violations” and that “this behavior erodes the trust that these police chiefs have worked tirelessly from the last 5 years...to stop this exact behavior from happening.”⁴ The Minnesota ICE operation has already led to 3 individuals being shot with bullets, including 2 American citizens killed by DHS officers and agents.⁵ This follows a pattern of troubling behavior nationwide. Since the Trump administration ramped up its immigration operations in September, at least 12 people have been shot by federal immigration officers⁶ and at least 36 people have died in ICE detention—including a reported homicide earlier this year.⁷

DHS’s out-of-control operations in Minneapolis and refusal to guarantee a safe and secure World Cup free of militant ICE operations jeopardize the safety of the general public, put the security of

² *Id.*

³ Graig Garziosi, *White House Fails to Rule Out ICE Raids In and Around World Cup Stadiums Ahead of Draw*, INDEPENDENT (Dec. 4, 2025), www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/ice-raids-world-cup-draw-white-house-b2878447.html.

⁴ *Twin Cities Law Enforcement Leaders Talk about Minnesota Police Interactions with Federal Agents*, MPR NEWS (Jan. 20, 2026), www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak09ozRQ8cs.

⁵ Cheryl W. Thompson, *Man Shot Dead By Federal Immigration Officers in Minneapolis*, NPR (Jan. 24, 2026) www.npr.org/2026/01/24/nx-s1-5687276/man-shot-dead-minneapolis.

⁶ Jon Schuppe & Erik Ortiz, *Trump’s DHS Has Shot 12 People During Immigration Enforcement Operations Since September. Here’s What to Know*. NBC NEWS (Jan. 25, 2026) www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202.

⁷ Letter from Bennie Thompson et al., Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security to Kristi Noem, Secretary, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (Jan. 22, 2026),

https://democrats-homeland.house.gov/imo/media/doc/chs_letter_to_noem_re_ice_and_cbp_condemning_deaths.pdf.

foreign travelers at risk, and erode the United States' reputation as a welcoming host. Numerous countries have issued travel advisories and warnings to those coming to the United States,⁸ and leaders within the international soccer community, including the former president of FIFA, have advised international fans to avoid traveling to the United States for the matches.⁹

Hosting the World Cup is a generational opportunity to illustrate to the global community the very best of America, and we only have one chance to get it right. The Task Force has a responsibility to reassure players, fans, and the press that they will be able to safely and securely enjoy the World Cup and related public activities like Fan Festivals without becoming DHS's next victims. Our Task Force must examine and conduct oversight of the procedures and protocols being put in place by this administration so that fans and players—regardless of their citizenship status or country of origin—know that they will not be illegally detained, harassed, or otherwise threatened by ICE or other DHS law enforcement. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

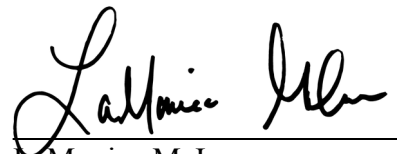
Sincerely,



Nellie Pou
Ranking Member
Task Force on Enhancing
Security for Special Events



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress

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

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

⁸ Chandelis Duster, *Some European Countries and Canada Issue Advisories for Travelers to the U.S.*, NPR (Mar. 26, 2025), www.npr.org/2025/03/22/nx-s1-5336792/european-countries-canada-travel-warnings-us.

⁹ AP, *Ex-FIFA President Joins Those Calling for Boycott of World Cup in US*, ABC NEWS (Jan. 26, 2026), www.abcnews.go.com/Sports/wireStory/fifa-president-sepp-blatter-joins-calling-boycott-world-129582287.