

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Marking Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin,

We are writing to demand an immediate investigation into reports¹ that detainees have been retaliated against after our visit to the Adelanto U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Center located at 10250 Rancho Road, Adelanto, CA 92301 on Monday, June 1, 2026. Any report of retaliation against a detainee at an ICE facility is disturbing and warrants investigation, but it is especially troubling if retaliation stemmed from meetings with Members of Congress performing oversight of an ICE facility. Meeting with detainees is an important component of any oversight visit to a detention facility and provides valuable and complete information to Members. These reports must be thoroughly investigated, and if proven true, corrected and the individuals responsible for them must be held accountable.

During our oversight visit, we met with three detainees who described poor treatment and unsafe conditions at the detention facility. According to the Immigrant Defenders Law Center, a non-profit law firm that represents detainees at the Adelanto facility, one of these detainees was moved out of the California facility and deported, which they allege was a violation of a court directive. Prior to our visit, we heard reports that detainees were driven to take the desperate action of a hunger strike to protest inhumane conditions at the facility. The individuals raised serious concerns about the conditions in the facility, including the lack of access to adequate food, water and medical care. Furthermore, they raised disturbing accusations that individuals were being retaliated against for protesting these conditions including that they were being harassed, placed unjustly in solitary confinement and subject to expedited deportation.

In light of these disturbing reports, we ask that you respond to the following questions no later than June 30, 2026.

1. Were any of the detainees we met during our Congressional Oversight visit treated differently than before our visit in the days afterward? This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Being placed in solitary confinement;
 - b. Being transferred to another detention facility;
 - c. Being issued a deportation order or removed;
 - d. Being subject to increased force by detention facility personnel; or
 - e. Losing privileges provided to other detainees, like visitation or access to phones or tables.
2. An issue that was raised by detainees during our oversight visit was the hunger strike mentioned above. Does ICE consider participation in a hunger strike to be a protected freedom of speech activity? What are ICE's policies regarding responses to hunger strikes?
3. Please respond to the reports that detainees were placed in solitary confinement, sent to other facilities across the country, and met with deportation orders following the visit.
4. What are ICE's standard operating procedures regarding the use of solitary confinement and segregation in detention facilities? Were these procedures followed regarding the above detainees in this instance? Please detail if any of the above detainees were placed in solitary confinement, when they were placed in segregation, and by what justification.

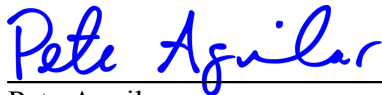
¹ Los Angeles Times, *ICE accused of retaliating against Adelanto hunger strikers with transfers and solitary confinement*, June 11, 2026 - <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-06-11/ice-retaliated-against-adelanto-hunger-strikers-advocates-say>; truthout *Hunger Strikers in Adelanto ICE Jail Moved to Solitary After Meeting Congressmen*, June 9, 2026 - <https://truthout.org/articles/hunger-strikers-in-adelanto-ice-jail-moved-to-solitary-after-meeting-congressmen/>

5. What are ICE's standard operating procedures for transferring detainees from one detention facility to another? Were these procedures followed regarding the above detainees in this instance? Please detail if any of the above detainees were relocated to another detention center, when, where, and by what justification.
 - a. The government is required by law to "provide at least two court days' notice to the petitioner, their counsel, and the Court of its intent to remove the petitioner from the Central District of California." Was this notice provided prior to the detainee(s) being transferred?
6. Were any of the detainees who we met during the oversight visit issued deportation orders after the visit? Please detail which detainees, when, and by what justification.
 - a. It has been reported that Kyon Shakeel Swaso, who was participating in the hunger strike, was deported following the congressional visit. Please provide the legal justification for this removal as well. Prior to his removal, was DHS aware of a court directive intended to prevent his deportation? If so, was that court directive followed?
7. If ICE alleges appropriate standard operating procedures were followed, what evidence can you provide to substantiate that actions taken against detainees were unrelated to their participation in our oversight visit?
8. Will you ensure future detainees who play an important role in thorough oversight visits conducted by Members of Congress are not met with retribution?

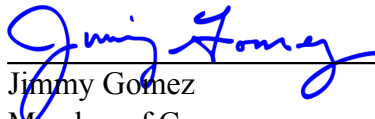
Congressional oversight visits are an essential part of our democracy, and these visits are incomplete without firsthand accounts from individuals in detention facilities.

Accordingly, we look forward to your prompt response to the above questions.

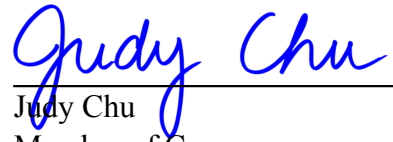
Sincerely,



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress