

**HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D.**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 4, 2017

Director Sarah R. Saldaña  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Director Saldaña:

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement Removal Operations (ERO) has recently released hundreds of asylum-seeking individuals from family-detention centers in south Texas, many of whom are women and children from Central America.

In some instances, but not all, ICE has worked with both non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and city governments to coordinate advance notification before the release of large numbers of individuals who need shelter services and large numbers of family units who are being transported to bus stations or airports for domestic travel.

Does current ICE policy require the advance coordination and notification between ICE and local governments before individuals are released from ICE detention (normal operations or large numbers)?

How does ICE determine who is released from detention and who remains in custody?

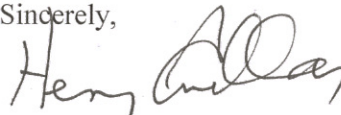
What steps is ICE taking to improve notification and coordination with NGOs and local governments regarding the care of family units released from ICE custody (normal operations or large numbers)?

What steps is ICE taking to ensure that those individuals who are being released from custody and transported to a bus station or airport have the appropriate travel arrangements in place to minimize the amount of time (especially overnight) spent in a public transportation hub?

I respectfully request that prior to all releases, ICE notify the city and county governments, elected Federal government officials, and appropriate NGOs in the localities in which the individuals are being released.

I appreciate your attention to these questions and your quick response.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress  
Texas 28<sup>th</sup> District