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INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

10/16/2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I am writing to express my continued, urgent concern with the Department of Homeland Security's failure to address the growing crisis at our southern border. Given the recent terrorist attacks by Hamas in Israel, it is more critical than ever that we ensure America's borders and ports of entry are secure.

At its core, the federal government's most basic responsibility is to protect the American people. The failure to secure our southern border creates an opportunity for terrorists and criminal syndicates to threaten the safety and security of my constituents and every single American.

As the CIA's former counterterrorism director Bernard K. Hudson recently declared, "It's impossible to have a realistic counter-terrorism policy if you actually have no control over your border." In recent interviews before the House Judiciary Committee, DHS officials acknowledged that "American communities have become less safe" since 2021.

This weekend, the world watched with horror as Hamas terrorists crossed the border into Israel to massacre civilians, rape women, and behead children – the same terrorist group that chants "death to America". These deadly attacks are a haunting reminder that we must all be extra vigilant. DHS must do all it can to identify any foreign-nationals in the U.S. with ties to terrorist organizations and deport them immediately.

In fiscal year 2023, Border Patrol reported having apprehended 151 migrants with positive terrorist watchlist matches who entered the United States illegally at the southern border. This was an all time high for them. Additionally, it has been widely reported that there have been more than 1.5 million "gotaways" at the southern border under the Biden Administration.

Strong border security policies are essential to our national security. I urge you to prioritize the safety of Americans and enforce our nation's immigration laws. There is no time to waste. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Monica De La Cruz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress  
15th District of Texas