

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906  
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March 18, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3017 7th St. S.W.  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

On February 27, 2024, we wrote to you requesting information and documents regarding Jose Antonio Ibarra,<sup>1</sup> the 26-year-old illegal alien from Venezuela, who allegedly murdered Laken Riley, a 22-year-old Augusta University nursing student, on February 22, 2024.<sup>2</sup> According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Biden Administration released Ibarra into the United States in 2022 after he “entered the U.S. illegally from Venezuela,”<sup>3</sup> paroling him into the country<sup>4</sup> despite his reported affiliation with the dangerous Tren de Aragua gang.<sup>5</sup>

We now write to request the same information and documents regarding Ibarra’s brothers, Diego and Argenis Ibarra. According to ICE, both brothers entered the United States illegally

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Jim Jordan et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Alejandro Mayorkas Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (Feb. 27, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Rosie Manins, *Laken Riley case: Suspect had been arrested by federal, local authorities*, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION (Feb. 26, 2024), <https://www.ajc.com/news/suspect-in-student-death-at-uga-cited-for-october-shoplifting-in-athens/KQNKOZMOLJBINHW4HQQXXZJ27Q/>.

<sup>3</sup> S. Dev, *Suspect in murder of Georgia nursing student entered U.S. illegally, had previously been arrested*, ICE says, CBS NEWS (Feb. 26, 2024, 7:50 PM), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jose-ibarra-suspect-murder-georgia-nursing-student-illegal-entry-venezuela/>.

<sup>4</sup> Ashley R. Williams, Raja Razek, & Priscilla Alvarez, *New details emerge following arrest in case of murdered University of Georgia jogger*, CNN (Feb. 25, 2024), <https://abc7chicago.com/university-of-georgia-laken-hope-riley-nursing-student-killed-in-jose-antonio-ibarra/14467697/>.

<sup>5</sup> Jennie Taer, *Migrant charged with Laken Riley’s murder easily entered US despite links to bloodthirsty gang, bombshell Post probe reveals*, N.Y. POST (Mar. 8, 2024), <https://nypost.com/2024/03/08/us-news/migrant-charged-with-murdering-laken-rileys-easy-path-to-us/>.

near Eagle Pass, Texas, on April 3, 2023.<sup>6</sup> They were expelled by Border Patrol agents pursuant to Title 42 authorities but re-entered the country illegally on April 30, 2023.<sup>7</sup> Despite attempting to bite a Border Patrol agent, Diego Ibarra was subsequently released on Alternatives to Detention (ATD) by ICE.<sup>8</sup> Argenis Ibarra was released by ICE with a notice to appear in immigration court.<sup>9</sup>

Since his release, Diego Ibarra's interactions with U.S. law enforcement officials reportedly include arrests for "failure to appear for a fingerprintable offense,"<sup>10</sup> driving under the influence, "speeding, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, possession of an open container of alcohol, [] driving without a license," shoplifting,<sup>11</sup> as well as a visit from police during which Diego Ibarra was accused of slapping his girlfriend in the face.<sup>12</sup> According to authorities, Diego Ibarra, like his brother Jose, "appears to be affiliated with the Tren de Aragua gang."<sup>13</sup> He was most recently arrested as police in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, were searching for Riley's murderer, after he produced a fake green card when asked for identification.<sup>14</sup> Argenis Ibarra was encountered by ICE on February 23, 2024, in Athens, Georgia, while ICE was "assisting the University of Georgia Police Department with their investigation into the murder of Laken Riley."<sup>15</sup>

Criminal aliens exploit vulnerabilities in our nation's immigration system to the detriment of those in the United States. The Biden Administration's border and immigration policies only increase the likelihood that criminal aliens will successfully enter and remain in the U.S. Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration policy and procedures.<sup>16</sup> To assist the Committee with its continued oversight of federal immigration policy and procedures, we ask that you please provide the following information and materials regarding Argenis Ibarra and Diego Ibarra.

1. Case history information, including, but not limited to, the aliens' immigration history, immigration benefits applications, the alien files (A-files) or consular files (including all consular notes), and immigration detention status and history.

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<sup>6</sup> Audrey Conklin, *Laken riley murder suspect's second brother was twice deported before settling in Georgia*, FOX NEWS (Mar. 8, 2024, 11:09 AM), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/laken-riley-murder-suspects-2nd-brother-twice-deported-settling-georgia>.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Undocumented Venezuelan Man Charged with Possessing Fake Green Card*, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE (Feb. 23, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdga/pr/undocumented-venezuelan-man-charged-possessing-fake-green-card>.

<sup>11</sup> Memorandum of Facts in Support of Gov. Motion for Det. at 5, *United States v. Diego Ibarra*, No.3:24-MJ-00005-CHW (M.D. Ga. Mar. 6, 2024).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> Ronny Reyes, *Laken Riley's suspected killer linked to bloodthirsty Venezuelan gang behind terror in NYC: court docs*, N. Y. POST (Mar. 7, 2024), <https://nypost.com/2024/03/07/us-news/brother-of-laken-rileys-suspected-killer-has-ties-to-venezuela-gang-prosecutors/>.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> Conklin, *supra* note 6.

<sup>16</sup> Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2023).

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2. Information regarding the time, date, and place of any and all of the aliens' entries into the United States.
3. Information regarding the aliens' processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials, including whether CBP officials were alerted to derogatory information about the aliens and what questions were asked of the aliens during the screening process.
4. Whether U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement lodged an immigration detainer against the aliens.
5. Whether the aliens were on Alternatives to Detention (ATD) and, if so, the type of ATD, the dates for which the aliens were on ATD, and the date on which ICE removed the aliens from ATD.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Chairman



Tom McClintock  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Immigration  
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration  
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement