



ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA



MARK GLASS
COMMISSIONER OF THE FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

November 2, 2023

VIA U.S. MAIL

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
Department of Homeland Security
MS 0525
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Re: *Demand for Special Interest Immigration Status Information*

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We have long known there is a crisis at our Southwest Border that is impacting the entire country. The State of Florida has already filed multiple lawsuits concerning the problems the Biden Administration's border crisis is causing in our State and the astronomical number of aliens at the Southwest Border who are traveling to Florida. However, the recent barbaric attacks by Hamas terrorists on innocent Israeli men, women, and children and the continued threats targeted at Jewish people across the world have made our border crisis even more dangerous.

Only days ago, your agency acknowledged that "[f]oreign fighters" from terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah "may attempt to travel to or from the area of hostilities in the Middle East via circuitous transit across the Southwest border."¹ In this fiscal year alone, Border Patrol has apprehended 169 aliens on the terror watch list at the Southwest Border,² the most in recorded history,³ which does not include those who successfully entered our country undetected. Further, over the past few years, the Department of Homeland Security has encountered tens of thousands of "special interest

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/cbp-memo-sounds-alarm-hamas-hezbollah-fighters-potentially-using-southern-border-enter-us>

² <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

³ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/high-migrant-numbers-break-multiple-records-new-blow-biden-border-strategy>

aliens” from countries that have “conditions that promote or protect terrorism or potentially pose [a] national security threat to the U.S.”⁴

While the Biden Administration has not—at least not yet—announced any new plans to accept refugees from Gaza, recent reports suggest that the Department of Homeland Security does not even have an internal process to track aliens arriving from Gaza or the West Bank.⁵ Further, the Department of Homeland Security public data dashboard does not list Gaza or the West Bank in its citizenship category and would presumably list aliens traveling from those regions as an “other” option under nationwide illegal immigrant encounters—of which there have been over 299,000 in the past fiscal year.⁶

In light of the above concerns regarding the data provided by DHS and our desire to protect public safety in Florida, we request the following:

1. The number of aliens DHS knows or believes to be in Florida who qualify as “special interest aliens,” along with their country of origin and current address.
2. The number of aliens DHS knows or believes to have crossed the Southwest Border originating from the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, or Lebanon.
3. Destination and address information for these aliens to the extent known by DHS.
4. To be advised of the last time a federal official validated the address information for these aliens through personal contact with these aliens and the number of aliens whose location is unknown.
5. Equivalent information pertaining to aliens entering Florida’s airports after being granted advanced parole under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5), to the extent not already included.
6. Any and all documents discussing the release of “special interest aliens” by DHS or DHS’s knowledge or belief that “special interest aliens” are present in the interior of the United States.⁷
7. Any information available to DHS regarding entities or persons who are providing transportation into Florida for aliens who have unlawfully entered the country without inspection.

⁴ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hawley-pushes-mayorkas-encounters-special-interest-aliens-into-us-amid-terror-fears>

⁵ <https://dailycaller.com/2023/10/25/exclusive-border-authorities-are-counting-palestinian-migrants-as-other-nationalities/>

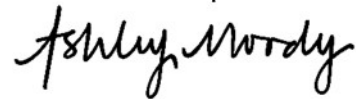
⁶ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters>

⁷ Please treat paragraph six as a Freedom of Information Act request to the extent you do not provide a complete response voluntarily.

Florida law enforcement endeavors to provide a safe environment for both our citizens and visitors to our State. Having the information requested above will enable us to better protect public safety.

Sincerely,

Ashley Moody
Florida Attorney General

Handwritten signature of Ashley Moody in black ink.

Mark Glass
Commissioner of FDLE

Handwritten signature of Mark Glass in black ink.