

Testimony for the Record - Alejandro Barranco
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration
For the Hearing
Biden's Border Betrayal: Criminal Aliens in America
July 22, 2025

Chairman Cornyn, Ranking Member Padilla, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Good afternoon, my name is Alejandro Barranco. I am a proud Marine and the son of Narciso Barranco who was violently attacked and detained on Saturday, June 21, 2025 in Santa Ana, California, while working a job he held since the 1990s. My father was surrounded by masked men who did not identify themselves and never presented any type of warrant. Terrified, he ran. They chased him, pointed a gun at him, pepper sprayed him, and eventually tackled him to the ground and kicked him. After he was handcuffed, these men held him down while another beat him repeatedly in the neck and head area. After all of this, they then threw him in the backseat of an unmarked vehicle.

Growing up, my father was always working from sun up to sun down. He always did his best to provide for our family even if it meant working 7 days a week and extremely long hours. We always had food on the table, a roof over our heads, and clothes to wear to school. He always taught us to be good people and try our best to give back to this great country. He always told us to respect our country and be thankful for all the opportunities we would have growing up in America.

I was the first in my family to graduate high school and eventually go to college, a dream come true for my parents. While in college, I would keep asking myself if I was doing the best I could or if I could maybe do more for myself and my family. That's when I looked into joining the military. I joined the Marine Corps out of the love I have for this country and continue to bring honor to my family name. When I told my dad I was going to enlist, he cried with pride. He told me to give it everything I had, because we do anything and everything to give back to our country. I deployed to Kabul in 2021 to support the evacuation, standing alongside Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice. I helped carry their caskets home.

Today, both of my brothers are also serving in active duty. My father tells everyone, "All three of my sons are Marines." He is so proud that he raised sons who wanted to serve. I believe my brothers and I are a reflection of who my father really is, a law abiding, proud, and patriotic man. My father has no criminal record and should have never been attacked

by these people. My dad is a human being, but he was not treated with the dignity he deserved. He has always made sure to do his best in giving back and supporting this country just like we all do. That is who he is. That is who our country punched, threw in detention, and is trying to deport. What I saw in the video of that day broke my heart.

Since my father was detained, it has been a nightmare for my family. He was held in a cage with 70 to 100 other people. One toilet. No shower. No change of clothes. People were in work uniforms, because they were literally taken while just trying to do their jobs supporting their families and community. When he went to another facility, Adelanto, conditions were still grim. He went 14 hours without water. The plumbing failed. Dirty blankets made people sick. When he finally got a hearing, the government attorney arrived unprepared. If we didn't have a lawyer, we wouldn't have even known he had a court date.

My father was eventually granted bond and came home. But the trauma of that day, and the brokenness of this system, remains in our hearts.

My father is an outstanding member of the community and should have never been attacked the way he was. These people had no warrant for him and had no reason to chase and beat him. He was working his job which he has done since the 90s when he arrived here. I believe my father was racially profiled which led to a lot of stress and mental trauma to everyone in my family. We have received an overwhelming amount of support from everyone in the community, from our neighbors to councilwomen and members of Congress. This kindness is the country I know and love. But I also know this is not the only case in which officers have crossed the line and ignored all types of training in how to detain someone.

I do believe that the vast majority of undocumented people in this country are here to work and support the country as well as raising children like my brothers and me. In fact, an estimated 1 in 12 U.S. residents are either undocumented or live with an undocumented individual; among Latinos, it's 1 in 3. I'm here today because I want other people who've had their family members taken like my dad was, to know they are not alone. Thousands of families like ours are being ripped apart, and their stories matter. I want this committee to understand the human impact of the immigration policies of this administration. I want them to know that the people being ripped from our communities are hardworking, honest, patriotic people, who are raising America's teachers, nurses, and Marines. Deporting them doesn't just hurt my family, it hurts all of us. It makes our communities less safe, less prosperous, and less resilient.

The current system is broken. Cruel and indiscriminate raids are tearing families apart and punishing hardworking people who contribute to our communities every day. My father –

like so many others – deserves a fair chance to stay in the country he calls home. This country is better because of people like my dad. It is time our policies reflected that. Thank you.