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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

KRISTINE J. LUCIUS, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

January 13, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I write to request information on Neris Moreno and Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza, two individuals charged with the brutal murder of 22-year-old Jordy Mejia. According to the Washington Post, Moreno and Leiba-Esperanza lured Mejia from New Jersey to Maryland after exchanging messages on Facebook under the false name of Shaila Smith.<sup>1</sup> Mejia's body was found on November 12, 2015, by hikers in a shallow grave in Maryland woods near Gaithersburg.<sup>2</sup> The Washington Post also says that Moreno and Leiba-Esperanza recently entered the country illegally and are members of the notorious and brutal MS-13 criminal gang.<sup>3</sup>

To better understand Moreno's and Leiba-Esperanza's immigration and criminal history, please provide my staff on the Judiciary Committee with the following information as soon as possible, but not later than January 19, 2017:

1. The alien registration number for Neris Moreno and Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza, their complete alien file (A-file), including any temporary files or working files, and all documents and items contained in them that were generated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or in their possession about these murderers, whether currently in written or electronic form, including, but not limited to, the Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Executive Summary, criminal history and immigration summaries, detainers or requests for notification, I-213(s), and Notice(s) to Appear or other charging documents created to seek their removal from the United States.
2. Please identify and explain each and every encounter that DHS or any of its agencies has had with Neris Moreno and Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza, including the date of the encounter, whether the encounter resulted in detention or the issuance of a detainer or request for notification, whether the encounter resulted in the initiation of removal

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<sup>1</sup> Dan Morse, *Prosecutors: MS-13 Murder Victim Lured to Maryland Using Fake Woman, Facebook*, WASH. POST, Jan. 4, 2017, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/prosecutors-ms-13-murder-victim-lured-to-maryland-using-fake-woman-facebook/2017/01/04/128b6670-d2c1-11e6-945a-76f69a399dd5\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.eb3abfffb19d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/prosecutors-ms-13-murder-victim-lured-to-maryland-using-fake-woman-facebook/2017/01/04/128b6670-d2c1-11e6-945a-76f69a399dd5_story.html?utm_term=.eb3abfffb19d).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

proceedings or reinstatement of a prior removal order against them, and the current status of those removal proceedings or reinstatement.

3. Please identify each and every date on which Neris Moreno and Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza was arrested by a law enforcement agency in the United States, including criminal and civil arrests, the nature of the charges, the jurisdictions where the arrests occurred, the dispositions of the charges, the dates on which he was released from the custody of the law enforcement agencies, and the reasons for the release.
4. If a local law enforcement agency declines to honor a detainer or notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding Neris Moreno or Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza, what action will DHS take to ensure that they are not released from custody and allowed to reoffend?
5. Did Neris Moreno or Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza ever apply for any immigration benefits? If so, was any application approved? Please provide copies of any applications that Neris Moreno or Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza may have submitted, whether or not adjudicated.
6. When did ICE become aware that Neris Moreno and Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza were associated with the MS-13 gang? Please explain.
7. If Neris Moreno or Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza had been encountered by DHS enforcement officials prior to their recent arrest for murder, would they have met the requirements to be considered a priority for removal under the Obama Administration's Priority Enforcement Program? If so, please provide the exact reason for such consideration. If not, why not?
8. Have any victims associated with the crimes committed by Neris Moreno and Jackelin Leiba-Esperanza been contacted by officials at ICE? Please provide details.

As you know, the Privacy Act authorizes disclosure of information to Committees of Congress. If you cannot fully respond to each and every request for documents or information set forth above, please identify the specific item requested to which you cannot fully respond and explain why you cannot respond.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kathy Nuebel Kovarik of my staff at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee