

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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February 27, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

On February 23, 2024, 26-year-old illegal alien Jose Antonio Ibarra was arrested in connection with the kidnapping and murder of 22-year-old Augusta University nursing student Laken Riley on February 22.<sup>1</sup> Riley “was found dead on the University of Georgia campus,” which she previously attended.<sup>2</sup> Riley, who was a “dean’s list student and sorority member,” died from “blunt force trauma.”<sup>3</sup> Ibarra was charged with “malice murder, felony murder, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, kidnapping, hindering a 911 call and concealing the death of another.”<sup>4</sup> According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Biden Administration released Ibarra into the United States in 2022 after he “entered the U.S. illegally from Venezuela.”<sup>5</sup> His February 23 criminal arrest was not his first arrest in the United States. On August 31, 2023, New York City Police Department officers arrested Ibarra and charged him “with acting in a manner to injure a child less than 17 and a motor vehicle license violation.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Patrick Reilly, *Nursing student Laken Riley did not know suspected killer Jose Ibarra, who is not a US citizen: police*, N.Y. POST (Feb. 23, 2024, 8:43 PM), <https://nypost.com/2024/02/23/us-news/laken-riley-did-not-know-suspected-killer-jose-ibarra-cops/>.

<sup>2</sup> WSBT.com News Staff, *Laken Riley: Here’s what we know about nursing student killed on UGA campus*, WSB-TV 2 ATLANTA (Feb. 24, 2024, 6:43 AM), <https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/clarke-county/laken-riley-heres-what-we-know-about-nursing-student-killed-uga-campus/TLE4MMTP5RHC7N6VCNUOS55RDQ/>.

<sup>3</sup> Reilly, *supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> Michael Ruiz, Audrey Conklin, & Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, *Laken Riley case: Georgia authorities identify murder suspect in custody in nursing student’s slaying*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 23, 2024, 5:13 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/laken-riley-case-georgia-authorities-announce-suspect-custody-nursing-students-slaying>.

<sup>5</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>6</sup> *Id.*

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>7</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 Jose Antonio Ibarra.


1. Case history information, including, but not limited to, the alien's immigration history, immigration benefits applications, the alien file (A-file) or consular file (including all consular notes), and immigration detention status and history.
2. Information regarding the time, date, and place of any and all of the alien's entries into the United States.
3. Information regarding the alien's processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials, including whether CBP officials were alerted to derogatory information about the alien and what questions were asked of the alien during the screening process.
4. Whether U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement lodged an immigration detainer against the alien.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 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

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<sup>7</sup> Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2023).