



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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JANICE HAHN
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

My office has heard multiple reports that detentions of Cambodian immigrants have increased in recent weeks. Many of these detentions were sudden and without warning. Many of the people detained have been living and working in the United States for decades without incident, and most of them have faithfully and regularly reported as required to their local ICE office during those decades.

There is speculation that Cambodians have been targeted because of ongoing disagreements between the United States and Cambodia. This diplomatic detente resulted in visa denial for Cambodians looking to travel to the United States on business or tourism. Thereafter, reports began to emerge about an increase in ICE detentions of Cambodians. Some who were scheduled to check in with their local ICE office were told to come in at an earlier date and then summarily detained. There appears to have been no precipitating event in the immigrants' lives that would warrant such a detention.

These detentions are troubling. In fact, at least one of the detainees lives in my District and was swept up in the increased enforcement. I represent a large population of Cambodians living in Long Beach, California. If it is true, as we hear, that the Administration is using this man and other gainfully-employed, civically-engaged Cambodians as bargaining chips with the Cambodian government, then we urge the Department of Homeland Security to release these people to their families, their jobs, and their communities while the diplomats work things out.

My residents and their families cannot be used as pawns. I would like an explanation for any change in procedure and details on recent detentions of Cambodian immigrants by ICE.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles