

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 18, 2018

Kevin K. McAleenan  
Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner McAleenan:

We write today concerning the serial murder allegations against Juan David Ortiz, a U.S. Border Patrol agent based in Laredo, Texas.

According to news reports, Ortiz has confessed to murdering four women and kidnapping a fifth from September 3, 2018 to September 15, 2018. Ortiz, who has been a Border Patrol agent for 10 years, worked as an intelligence supervisor. While the details we have on this story are horrendous, important questions loom.

Entrusted with the role of overseeing the Department of Homeland Security, we need to know whether Juan David Ortiz was acting in his capacity as a Border Patrol agent at any time during the alleged crimes. It is critical for us to determine whether Ortiz used any government vehicles, weapons, databases, or other knowledge he accessed in his role as a Border Patrol agent. Clear answers to these questions are also important to ensure that our government processes are secure from abuse.

Further, Congress must know whether U.S. Customs and Border Protection missed any red flags that could have prevented these tragedies, such as changes in Ortiz' conduct or a lapsed background check. Like you, our priority is to provide for the well-being and safety of the populations we serve. To do so, we must learn from any mistakes made in this case.

We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience and realize that these details may be privileged during this investigation. As such, we will accept a written or oral response as necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke.

Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

Rubén Gallego

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Michelle Lujan Grisham

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Darren Soto

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan

Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Al Green

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal

Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Gene Green

Gene Green  
Member of Congress