



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

On May 1, 2023, the Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) requested important documents and information related to the Biden administration's vetting of Afghans relocated to the United States after the catastrophic August 2021 U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup> While we are in receipt of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) half-page May 2, 2023, interim response letter assuring us that "the Department's components have already begun the work of identifying responsive documents," DHS failed to produce a single substantive document.<sup>2</sup> DHS must furnish a timely and comprehensive response, as the requested materials are necessary to further our oversight.

On September 6, 2022, the DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that "the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) did not always have critical data to properly screen, vet, or inspect the [Afghan] evacuees."<sup>3</sup> According to the OIG, "DHS may have admitted or paroled individuals who pose a risk to national security and the safety of local communities."<sup>4</sup> The OIG's report attributed these challenges to DHS not having a contingency plan to support emergency operations, insufficient vetting procedures for thoroughly evaluating evacuees, and no standardized polices.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, the consequences of DHS's failed vetting processes are affecting states and localities. Multiple reports of Afghan evacuees committing violent crimes in the United States exist.<sup>6</sup> While these cases of violent crimes may be infrequent, the importance

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Hon. Mark Green et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (May 1, 2023) [hereinafter Chairman Green letter].

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. to Hon. Mark Green, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. (May 2, 2023). Notably, as mentioned in the May 1, 2023, letter, Committee Republicans previously requested information on September 16 and November 12, 2021, concerning the withdrawal from Afghanistan. Chairman Green letter, *supra* note 1.

<sup>3</sup> OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GEN., DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC., OIG-22-64, DHS ENCOUNTERED OBSTACLES TO SCREEN, VET, AND INSPECT ALL EVACUEES DURING THE RECENT AFGHANISTAN CRISIS (REDACTED) (Sept. 6, 2022) [hereinafter DHS OIG report].

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 8.

<sup>6</sup> Adam Shaw, *Afghan Evacuee Charged with Child Sex Crime in New Mexico: Officials*, FOX NEWS, Sept. 30, 2022, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/afghan-evacuee-charged-child-sex-crime-new-mexico-officials>; Elizabeth Faddis, *Afghan Refugee Resettled in Montana by Biden Administration Charged With Rape*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER, Oct.

of thorough DHS vetting procedures remain to ensure Americans' safety and security. To reiterate, DHS must be forthcoming and transparent to the Committee and the American people about the Biden administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The May 1, 2023 letter requested that you produce documents and information by May 15, 2023. Those documents are now 25 days overdue. Our requests remain outstanding. To begin the accommodation process and expedite DHS's voluntary cooperation, we request that DHS provide Committee staff a briefing, including but not limited to its response to the OIG's September 6, 2022 report and DHS's recent announcement creating a process to re-parole eligible Afghan nationals in the U.S. through online and paper filing.<sup>7</sup> Please schedule this briefing on or before June 23, 2023.

The Committee would, as an accommodation to expedite compliance, allow for a virtual briefing on a mutually agreeable platform. For your ready reference, the following documents and information were requested in the May 1, 2023 letter:

1. All documents and communications between or among employees of DHS, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Defense referring or relating to the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan from January 1, 2021, to the present;
2. All documents and communications between or among employees of DHS referring or relating to CBP's screening, vetting, or inspection of Afghan evacuees at U.S. Ports of Entry, including, but not limited to, "facilitation document[s],"<sup>11</sup> travel document data, or records in CBP's Treasury Enforcement Communications System considered to establish an evacuee's identity from January 1, 2021, to the present; and
3. Documents sufficient to justify why DHS has not concurred with the two recommendations from the DHS OIG's September 6, 2022, report OIG-22-64, which remains open over six months later.

The Committee is evaluating the need for potential legislative reforms in the House of Representatives, including but not limited to closing any gaps in the refugee and evacuee vetting process.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special

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22, 2021, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/afghan-refugee-resettled-in-montana-by-biden-administration-charged-with-rape>.

<sup>7</sup> Press Release, Dep't. of Homeland Sec., DHS Announces Upcoming Re-parole Process for Afghan Nationals (May 5, 2023), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/05/05/dhs-announces-upcoming-re-parole-process-afghan-nationals>; Dep't of Homeland Sec., Re-Parole Process for Certain Afghans (June 8, 2023), <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals/re-parole-process-for-certain-afghans>.

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oversight functions of “all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.”

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, MD  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security



AUGUST PFLUGER  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,  
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence



CLAY HIGGINS  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Border Security  
and Enforcement



Dan Bishop  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight,  
Investigations, and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Seth Magaziner, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

The Honorable Lou Correa, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement

The Honorable Glenn Ivey, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability