

JASON CHAFFETZ  
3RD DISTRICT, UTAH

COMMITTEE ON  
THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

CHAIRMAN:  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
HOMELAND DEFENSE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4403

1032 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-7751

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
PROVO  
51 S. UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
SUITE 318  
PROVO, UT 84601  
PHONE: (801) 851-2500  
FAX: (801) 851-2509

WEST JORDAN  
3895 W. 7800 S.  
SUITE 201  
WEST JORDAN, UT 84088  
PHONE: (801) 282-5502

[www.chaffetz.house.gov](http://www.chaffetz.house.gov)

December 13, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Madam Secretary:

Yesterday, the Associated Press (AP) first reported the arrest of Luis Abrahan Sanchez Zavaleta by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in New Jersey on December 6 of this year. According to the AP, Sanchez had been residing for sometime in the U.S. illegally after his visitor visa from Peru expired. In early October of this year, Hudson County, NJ authorities notified ICE that they believed Sanchez was in the country illegally and could be eligible to be deported. After being notified, ICE officials in New Jersey alerted superiors at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) because "they considered it a potentially high profile arrest." This appears to be because Sanchez was once employed by Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey as an unpaid intern.

According to a U.S. official cited in the AP story, upon being notified by ICE officials in New Jersey about the possibility of arresting Sanchez, "DHS instructed them not to arrest Sanchez until after the November election." The AP goes on to report that ICE officials then "complained that the delay was inappropriate, but DHS directed them several times not to act."

Another disturbing issue brought to light by the AP was the revelation that Sanchez was not only residing in the United States illegally but also was a registered sex offender. According to the Hudson County, NJ prosecutor's office, Sanchez was found to have violated the law in 2010 which subsequently led to him registering as a sex offender.

So that I may better understand the facts and circumstances surrounding the arrest of Luis Abrahan Sanchez Zavaleta and the number of registered sex offenders currently residing illegally in the United States, I respectfully request that the Department prepare a written response to the following as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, and make the appropriate officials from the Department available for a briefing to me and my staff by the same date:

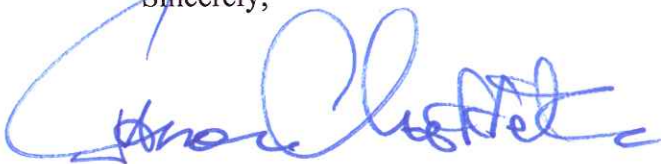
1. Did anyone employed at your Department order ICE agents or other officials not to apprehend Luis Abrahan Sanchez Zavaleta? If officials at DHS did delay the arrest of Sanchez, how many times was ICE ordered by DHS to refrain from apprehending Sanchez? Who at DHS made the decision that ICE should hold off on apprehending

Sanchez and why? Who at DHS ordered ICE not to apprehend him?

2. In deciding when to allow ICE to apprehend Sanchez, did anyone employed at your Department give consideration to the federal, state and local elections held on November 6, 2012 when determining when ICE should arrest Sanchez?
3. How many individuals registered as sex offenders are currently residing in the United States illegally?
4. Since 2003, how many illegal immigrants registered as sex offenders were apprehended by the Department and its principal investigative and immigration enforcement agency, ICE? How many of these individuals were deported out of the U.S.?

If you have any questions about these requests, please contact Ryan Little of my staff at (202) 225-7751. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Chaffetz", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress