

# ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIMINALS:

## A Threat to Public Safety and National Security

January 20, 2020

Mr. Eric Raines  
2030 W. Baseline Road, Ste. 182-521  
Phoenix, AZ 85041-6574

Dear Mr. Raines:

As a committed Judicial Watch supporter, you don't need me or anyone else to tell you that the virtually uncontrolled wave of massive illegal immigration across our southern border is an absolute disaster for our nation. And you surely don't have to be told that...

- Illegal immigration bleeds our federal, state and local governments of billions of taxpayer dollars annually for law enforcement, public education and public healthcare costs (a reliable study calculates that every year American taxpayers spend a staggering \$134.9 BILLION on illegal aliens).
- The unlawful support that illegal aliens receive from sanctuary cities, counties and states across America also threatens the integrity of our elections by making it easier for non-U.S. citizens to vote.
- And decades of failure by Democratic and Republican presidents and Congresses to enforce our immigration laws have undermined the rule of law in America.

Yes...all extremely important reasons why Judicial Watch fights for immigration law enforcement...

**But another reason...possibly the most important one of all for combatting illegal immigration is the deadly impact on American citizens – the human cost of crimes committed by illegal alien criminals within our communities.**

I'm talking about the human cost of crimes committed by illegal alien criminals who

A Judicial Watch Immigration Law Enforcement Project Special Report

# ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIMINALS: A Serious Threat to Public Safety and National Security

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shouldn't be here in the first place... murder, drunk-driving fatalities, rape, gang violence, human trafficking and drug smuggling.

**I'm also talking about an organization called *The Remembrance Project* whose sole reason for existence is to honor and remember Americans who've fallen victim to violent crime committed by illegal aliens.**

But you won't hear liberal politicians or mainstream media news reports talk about crimes committed by illegal alien criminals...that would upset their far-left base. And you're unlikely to read about a crime committed by an illegal alien in your community or see it covered on your local news programs.

But real-life statistics in 2018 pulled together by the Government Accountability Office blew the lid off the criminal illegal alien issue showing, among other things:

- 1 in 5 federal prison inmates are criminal aliens and 91% of them come from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia and the Dominican Republic
- Between 2011 and 2016 more than 730,000 criminal aliens were in prison or jail
- In this same period there were 4.9 million arrests for 7.5 million offenses by criminal aliens and more than 1 million were drug crimes; more than 663,000 were assaults, sex offenses and kidnappings; and approximately 1,500 were terrorism related crimes

Chilling. If this isn't a public safety crisis, I don't know what is.

Another study by the Texas Department of Public Safety draws an even clearer picture of the scope of the problem: Between June 2011 and April 2018 in Texas alone more than 250,000 criminal aliens were booked in local jails for 663,000 offenses, including 1,351 homicides, 7,156 sexual assaults, 815 kidnappings and 79,900 drug charges...

The way I see it, we're square in the midst of an illegal immigration crime crisis of major proportions, and this massive influx of illegal immigrants and the resulting crime wave must not be allowed to continue.

This exclusive **Judicial Watch Special Report** delves into the crisis and explains how the Left has abandoned all the rules of decency and rule of law on immigration.

It focuses on a subset of aliens, namely illegal aliens who commit crimes – “illegal alien criminals” and details the growth of an illegal-alien crime wave sweeping the country. It also exposes the grave responsibility for that crime wave by the 500-plus sanctuary jurisdictions that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration officials and deliberately allow alien criminals already in their custody (who are subject to immediate deportation under federal law) to be released onto the streets to wreak more havoc and leave more innocent victims to pay the tragic human cost.

Importantly, it features our efforts to expose the open-borders resistance movement for what it really is – a cultural insurgency bent on thwarting U.S. immigration laws and using open borders and mass migration to destroy national sovereignty, annihilate U.S. citizenship and change the American culture as it sees fit – public safety and national security be damned.

Be sure to read the section documenting the mainstream media's conspiracy of silence when it comes to not reporting on crimes involving illegal alien criminals and suppressing information about their immigration status.

**The undeniable fact is that today we are still dealing with the reality and the disastrous impact of a flood tide of illegal aliens crossing our southern border.**

**I am not exaggerating.**

Though you may not have seen any news reports, last year a study of government data undertaken jointly by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale University led their researchers to put the number of illegal aliens now in the United States at **22.1 million**...a much larger total the media usually estimates.

Far more troubling when it comes to the human costs of crimes committed by criminal illegal aliens is a stunning report released late last year by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which analyzed the records of the nearly 800,000 illegal aliens who requested a special Obama-era amnesty for adults under the age of 31 who came to the U.S. as children.

**This DHS report shows that nearly 100,000 of the individuals granted amnesty under Barack Obama's "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" program (DACA) have criminal histories...including crimes like murder, rape, weapons and assault charges!**

Along with everything else we know about criminality and illegal aliens, it is hardly surprising there's been a surge in crimes committed by illegal aliens since DACA was enacted by President Obama in 2012...but incredibly, DACA is still supported even more vociferously by leftists in the media and on the courts today than it was eight years ago!

President Trump tried to end DACA by executive action in 2017, but open borders groups sued to keep it in place. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to decide DACA's fate...but for now this disastrous program is still on the books, shielding nearly 800,000 illegal aliens, including those with criminal histories from deportation!

This flood tide cannot and must not continue. But what will it take...?

...another daughter shot dead in front of you on a pier in San Francisco?

...another son knifed by gang members in Maryland?

...another sister murdered and dumped in an Iowa cornfield?

...more nuns killed in a drunk-driving incident in Virginia?

These and thousands of other horrific crimes have been committed by illegal alien criminals. This is an all-too-frequent reality to crime victims and surviving family members across the country. And inaction by Leftist politicians and the silence of mainstream media not only do nothing to ease their pain, it is also criminal!

**The level of lawlessness and abuse of power by those who hold the public**

**trust must be exposed and responsible parties held accountable.**

**The Leftist mayors and misguided sheriffs who are protecting criminal aliens in so-called “sanctuaries” who prey on American citizens and destroy American lives must answer for their actions.**

And what makes the pain of victims of illegal alien crime even worse is the incontrovertible fact that if America’s immigration laws were being enforced, instead of being ignored, these crimes never would have occurred because the illegal alien criminals who committed them would not have been in the United States!

Crimes committed by illegal alien criminals are always crimes that never would have been committed if our immigration and asylum statutes had been respected and enforced as the law requires.

Crimes committed by illegal alien criminals are completely preventable.

But our Leftist elite can apparently live with all that...

They can live with that from behind community gates where they live and where their only experience with illegal immigration is their friendly, cheap nanny and industrious, cut-rate gardener.

That’s why I included a note from our friend Maria Espinoza, a co-founder and National Director of **The Remembrance Project...an organization founded to remember and honor the victims of murder by criminal illegal aliens** ...to help place more focus on these tragic human costs of illegal immigration that have become all too prevalent. Judicial Watch is proud to work with Maria and her group to raise public awareness at this level.

And thanks to dedicated supporters like you Judicial Watch is doing far more than that...

I’m proud to say that no single organization in America is fighting as hard...and as successfully against the Left in support of our laws against illegal immigration as we are.

**First, we’re using our open records laws to keep the American people informed...**

Back during the Bush administration we forced the release of a U.S. Border Patrol survey of apprehended illegal aliens showing that even talk of “amnesty” in the U.S. resulted in a spike of attempted illegal border crossings...a survey we had to sue the government to acquire and whose release helped turn the tide against an amnesty plan being debated in Congress in 2007.

In the years since, we have used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and other open records laws to break through the wall of government secrecy ...which exists in all presidential administrations...to gain access on behalf of the American people to government documents that shed light on the multiple crises caused by corrupt and arrogant politicians.

In 2019, for example, we scored a huge victory for transparency and public safety when we forced Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to reinstate a valuable Trump administration reporting system (the **Declined Detainer Outcome Report**) that alerted the public about the

release of illegal alien criminals into their communities by naming the responsible local law enforcement agencies. DHS suspended the Report after predictable howls of protest from the Left, but we immediately went into action by launching an investigation, issuing dozens of FOIA requests and eventually a FOIA lawsuit to get to the truth about the decision to suspend the report...and we prevailed recently when DHS announced it was reinstating it.

**We're also using the courts and the legal system to shut down sanctuary policies...**

Back in 2005, we successfully challenged the use of taxpayer funds in Herndon, Virginia (just outside Washington, DC) to support a "day laborer site" that was widely known as a place where illegal aliens gathered to be hired by employers who did not follow the law requiring they verify the legal status of their employees.

We asserted then that taxpayer funds should not be used to support illegal activities...

That same principle, fifteen years later, is still an important component of our legal arguments opposing sanctuary policies. Nevertheless, sanctuaries multiplied across the country and so did our legal actions to overturn them in Arizona, California, Illinois, Texas, and the District of Columbia. In your report, you'll see how we are effectively using courts to tackle this single biggest challenge confronting law-abiding Americans as we deal with the explosion in illegal alien criminal activity...

Sanctuary jurisdictions' refusal to cooperate with federal immigration authorities by failing to honor detainers issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) seeking custody of illegal alien criminals after their release by local law enforcement must be ruled unlawful, and we'll see that happens if we have to take it to the Supreme Court.

And as I write you today,

**We are just weeks away from going to trial in one of the most important legal actions in our 26-year history...our taxpayer lawsuit (*Cerletti v. Hennessey, CGC 16-556164*) seeking to overturn San Francisco's deadly sanctuary policy, which bars local police from cooperating with ICE and honoring ICE detainees.**

On July 1, 2015, 32-year old Kate Steinle was shot to death on a San Francisco pier by an illegal alien criminal from Mexico, Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez. This shooting was so senseless that it made headlines nationally, since Lopez-Sanchez had previously committed no fewer than seven felonies while in the United States...and on the day of Kate Steinle's death he had recently been released from San Francisco police custody on a drug charge.

Yet at the time Lopez-Sanchez was the subject of an ICE detainer asking the police for custody of Lopez-Sanchez so that they could institute deportation proceedings to send him back to Mexico ...but instead of honoring the detainer, the police honored the San Francisco sanctuary policy and released him with tragic results for Kate Steinle and her family.

Let me be very clear: if San Francisco police had followed federal law and honored the ICE detainer, Lopez-Sanchez would have been in ICE custody on July 1, 2015...not free and on the pier where Kate Steinle was killed.

**I expect that the outcome of our lawsuit on behalf of a San Francisco taxpayer seeking to overturn this deadly and, we strongly assert, illegal sanctuary policy will surely have repercussions across America!**

And we are expanding our legal fight...

In August 2019 we filed another taxpayer lawsuit in California's Santa Clara County seeking to overturn that county's sanctuary policy which places the same restrictions on cooperating with ICE as does San Francisco's. This lawsuit (*Howard A. Myers v. Laurie Smith et al, No. 19-CV-353510*) arose out of another tragic and unnecessary death, this one of Barbi Larson in her San Jose home at the hands of an illegal alien criminal, Carlos Arevalo-Carranza.

In the case of Arevalo-Carranza, ICE had filed six separate requests with the county, asking that he be detained so that ICE could take him into custody for removal proceedings. All six requests were ignored...perhaps not surprisingly, since in 2014 Santa Clara County had the dubious distinction of refusing the largest number of ICE detainees in the country!

It has taken us over four years of hard work...investigations, open records requests, and lengthy legal proceedings against a sanctuary city and county...to get us to trial in San Francisco.

And we are fully prepared to dig in just as hard and for just as long in Santa Clara County, because we believe our laws should be enforced and because we don't want more Americans to die, as Kate Steinle and Barbi Larson did, at the hands of illegal alien criminals who should have been deported or in ICE custody instead of freely walking our streets.

**But we need help as we look at more unlawful sanctuary cities and counties in New Jersey, Illinois, Florida and elsewhere to sue...**

Research, investigations, battling with secretive federal, state and local government bureaucrats, filing lawsuits, preparing for court appearances and appeals...all these cost Judicial Watch real time and money!

So, too, does educating the American public about what we discover...with reports like the one you're about to read. The American people urgently need to learn the facts about the scope and nature of crimes committed by illegal alien criminals in our nation.

I'm hoping you will sign the enclosed **Judicial Watch Member Authorization** and return it with a special tax-deductible gift to support this critically important work.

I seek your **Member Authorization** as an important guide for our decisions to undertake the costly work of challenging and overturning illegal sanctuary policies that undermine our laws against illegal immigration...and led to an unprecedented explosion in violent crimes committed by illegal aliens against innocent American citizens.

I also want our **Special Report** in the hands of sheriffs and mayors of sanctuary cities...so they can't claim ignorance about the crisis of illegal alien criminal activity and its tragic human cost.

I also want as many Americans as possible to know the truth...



Thank you for your generous support of our work.

Thanks to you, we begin our 26<sup>th</sup> year as the nation's leading conservative government watchdog group... and I don't believe that our continued commitment to supporting the rule of immigration law has ever been more important.

I hope to hear from you again soon.

Sincerely,

Thomas Fitton  
President

P.S. Mr. Raines, I anticipate more Judicial Watch litigation this year fighting sanctuary policies and the human costs of crimes committed by illegal alien criminals. That's why I hope you can help with a tax-deductible donation. Where others talk, Judicial Watch acts... and with your continued support I know we can continue to be the most effective force in the U.S. fighting to oppose illegal immigration. Thank you, again, for all you do to help.

P.P.S. I am sure you share my frustration with our country's inability to secure our borders ... and I am sure you share my frustration that illegal sanctuary policies cripple federal immigration authorities' ability to work with local law enforcement to identify, detain and begin deportation proceedings against criminal illegal aliens... and I'm sure you share my frustration that when law-abiding citizens like you and me raise our voices to enforce our laws against illegal immigration, the mainstream media calls us "racists!"

But serious immigration reform and honest debate over illegal immigration doesn't appear to be on our horizon any time soon, so that leaves our legal system as the only battleground where we can work to secure our borders, shut down sanctuary policies and make certain that only eligible American citizens can vote in our elections and that our communities are protected by the rule of law against senseless violent crime.

We're regularly in court battling taxpayer-funded government lawyers (as we have been for the past three years in our hugely important sanctuary litigation in San Francisco) and leftist groups like the ACLU. We could not have dug in for the long haul and fight as effectively as we do without the committed and generous help of patriotic members like you.