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**United States Senate**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*  
JENNIFER DUCK, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

October 30, 2018

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION**

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretaries Nielsen and Pompeo:

The Committee continues to monitor and assess the approximately 6,000 member caravans traveling to the United States southern border from the Northern Triangle. As the first caravan is reportedly 1-2 days from the United States, it is important that the Committee is briefed on details on the makeup of the caravan including any potential national security threats that reportedly exist among the members. According to information obtained by my office, several members of the first caravan have significant criminal histories, including assault and sexual misconduct against a child, and membership in the MS-13 gang. Further, the Department of Homeland Security recently reported that several hundred members of the second caravan clashed with Mexican federal police throwing rocks, glass bottles, and even fireworks at Mexican officers in a seemingly criminal altercation.

Information on these groups will help the Committee address the needs of vulnerable asylum-seekers who need humanitarian relief and those Homeland Security officials tasked with processing people at our border, while preventing the entry of caravan members who are national security threats, such as members of transnational criminal organizations.

Therefore, please provide a briefing by the DHS Human Smuggling Cell and the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, as well as current details on the number of migrants in both caravans who have expressed a desire to seek asylum in the United States, the number of migrants who have sought asylum in Mexico, and the country of origin, criminal history,

and age of all caravan members who have been encountered by the Mexican National Institute of Migration.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Katherine Nikas or Aakash Singh of my Committee staff at 202-224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary

cc:

Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary