

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

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Director Wray:

We write to express our concern and request an immediate and thorough federal investigation into the reported actions along the southwest border by armed militia groups and whether the groups have been assisted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in any manner.

For years, these groups have patrolled the border, armed with guns, in search of migrants. Recent video footage shared online by one of these groups, the United Constitutional Patriots, shows them illegally detaining about 200 migrants seeking asylum who had recently crossed the border near Sunland Park, New Mexico, a city about nine miles west of El Paso. According to other press reports and the group's own social media account, the group has intercepted hundreds of migrants over the past several weeks, many of them children. We are very concerned that this group appears to be operating with impunity and has for months, if not longer, been taking the law into their own hands. The right to stop and detain should remain reserved to law enforcement. Such targeted action by these militia groups strips migrants from their due process and dignity. As a nation, we must end this xenophobic behavior.

It is important that no individual or organization impede a person's legal right to seek asylum in the United States. The FBI must immediately launch an investigation into this unlawful conduct. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Deb Haaland

Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar

Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan

Member of Congress