

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 2025

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Paul,

As you may be aware, the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary has scheduled a vote to advance the nomination of Mr. Emil J. Bove III later this week to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.¹ We are writing to request that the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs exercise its oversight capacity concerning whistleblower allegations that Mr. Bove advised the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to violate a court order against deporting 137 Venezuelans to the Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT) prison in El Salvador.² The allegations, corroborated by evidence the whistleblower provided on July 1 and 7, 2025, raise alarming concerns that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) carried out orders at the behest of Mr. Bove, who sought to defy the court in violation of his professional ethical obligations as well his oath to protect and defend the Constitution.

Mr. Erez Reuveni, the former Acting Deputy Director for the Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL) in the Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Division, outlined the allegations in his disclosures to the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 24, 2025.³ During Mr. Bove's confirmation hearings the next day, Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee asked Mr. Bove about the allegations, which he evaded then, and continues to avoid acknowledging now.⁴ Most concerning was that Mr. Bove ordered subordinates to ignore court orders as the Administration pursued its heartless removal policy of immigrants across the country.⁵

¹ PN346-2 - Nomination of Emil J. Bove III for The Judiciary, 119th Congress (2025-2026), PN346-2, 119th Cong. (2025), <https://www.congress.gov/nomination/119th-congress/346/2>.

² Letter re Protected Whistleblower Disclosure of Erez Reuveni Regarding Violation of Laws, Rules & Regulations, Abuse of Authority, and Substantial and Specific Danger to Health and Safety at the Department of Justice (June 24, 2025) (hereinafter "Disclosure").

³ *See id.*

⁴ Nomination Hearing, Hearing Before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, 119th Cong. (2025) (testimony of Emil J. Bove), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/nominations-06-25-2025>. *See also* Nomination Hearing, Hearing Before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, 119th Cong. (2025) (Questions for the Record) (on file with the Committee).

⁵ *See* Addendum to Disclosure (July 1, 2025) at 2 (quoting Bove's directions to the court), https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/07-01-2025_-_reuveni_batch_1_index_and_evidence_redacted_final.pdf; *see also* Addendum to Disclosure (July 7, 2025) at 2-4 (corroborating Reuveni's allegation that Bove told DOJ it

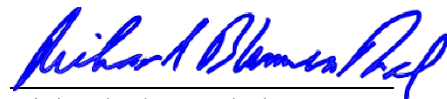
As it has since President Trump assumed the White House, DHS played an integral role in this, and other immigration enforcement operations.⁶ In this specific instance, Mr. Reuveni's disclosures reflect that in response to his emails seeking confirmation that DHS understood the scope of the court's injunction to apply nationwide, Mr. James Percival, a senior counselor to Secretary Kristi Noem, did not explicitly respond.⁷ Further, text messages reflected that DHS, at DOJ leadership's request, delayed providing written guidance to the Department about the injunction's scope.⁸ In the following days, OIL and DHS exchanged additional emails in which DHS appeared to evade ongoing questions from OIL about the deportations to CECOT, and warnings by Mr. Joseph N. Mazzara, DHS Acting General Counsel, that Mr. Reuveni "not make any representations to the court regarding DHS on the matter of this reported flight."⁹

Given the significance of these allegations, we request that the Committee conduct oversight hearings to hold the Department and Mr. Bove accountable for their roles in willfully ignoring the court's explicit order to cease deportations to a prison in a third country notorious for human rights abuses.

Sincerely,



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

would need to consider ignoring court orders), [https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/07-07-2025%20-%20Reuveni%20Batch%20%20Index%20and%20Evidence%20\(REDACTED%20FINAL\).pdf](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/07-07-2025%20-%20Reuveni%20Batch%20%20Index%20and%20Evidence%20(REDACTED%20FINAL).pdf).

⁶ See, e.g., Press Release, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "8 Barbaric Criminal Illegal Aliens Finally Deported to South Sudan After Weeks of Delays by Activist Judges," (Jul. 5, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/07/05/8-barbaric-criminal-illegal-aliens-finally-deported-south-sudan-after-weeks-delays>; Press Release, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "DHS Highlights Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens Arrested in Florida, Including Murderers, Pedophiles, and Rapists Ahead of Opening of Alligator Alcatraz," (Jun. 30, 2025) <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/06/30/dhs-highlights-worst-worst-criminal-illegal-aliens-arrested-florida-including>; Press Release, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "DHS Releases Statement on Violent Rioters Assaulting ICE Officers in Los Angeles, CA and Calls on Democrat Politicians to Tone Down Dangerous Rhetoric About ICE," (Jun. 7, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/06/07/dhs-releases-statement-violent-rioters-assaulting-ice-officers-los-angeles-ca-and>; Press Release, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Members of Congress Break into Delaney Hall Detention Center (May 9, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/05/09/members-congress-break-delaney-hall-detention-center>.

⁷ See Addendum to Disclosure (Jul. 1, 2025) at 28-29; see also Addendum to Disclosure (Jul. 7, 2025) at 9-19.

⁸ Addendum to Disclosure (Jul. 7, 2025) at 23-25.

⁹ See *id.* at 33-35.