

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 19, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to express our concerns regarding the allegations of sexual assault against migrant women at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia.

In a letter sent on July 12, 2022, to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Liberties and ICE leadership, four women share details of alleged sexual assault by a male nurse at the detention facility. As the letter notes, this is not the first time concerns have been raised at Stewart Detention Center regarding its ability to protect individuals from sexual assault.

We ask that you immediately provide us with responses to the following questions:

1. What steps has ICE taken to investigate the allegations of sexual assault made by four women on July 12, 2022? What is the status of the investigation?
2. What are you doing to ensure all individuals are protected at ICE facilities from sexual assault and abuse?
3. What are you doing to ensure there are language appropriate resources as you are conducting interviews and outreach during the investigation?
4. What steps are you taking to determine if there are any other victims?
5. What are you doing to ensure any individual at an ICE facility who comes forward with an allegation of abuse does not face retaliation or threats of retaliation?
6. The letter suggests that the nurse who allegedly committed the assaults was previously the subject of an investigation; he was then briefly reassigned to a different part of the facility, and he is now currently treating patients at Stewart. Please clarify whether this nurse is currently treating patients at Stewart and address ICE's efforts to investigate his alleged misconduct.

ICE facilities in Georgia have already faced deeply concerning allegations of human rights violations, specifically the abuse of women at the now-closed Irwin County Detention Center. Since its closure many of the detained individuals who were at the Irwin County Detention Center have been transferred to Stewart Detention Center.

We ask that you immediately investigate these allegations and provide us with a briefing on your findings no later than August 19, 2022.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock
U.S. Senator



Jon Ossoff
U.S. Senator