

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
425 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20536



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

August 8, 2008

The Honorable Luis Gutierrez
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gutierrez:

I write to express my extreme disappointment with recent remarks you made concerning the law enforcement agents at my agency, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security. You are quoted as saying, "You know who is in charge now? The Gestapo agents at Homeland Security." These comments cross any line of decency and are an affront to the men and women at this agency who perform their sworn duties, often at great personal risk. Most troubling, irresponsible comments like these, vilifying law enforcement officers, can have a significant impact on officer and public safety.

Anything less than a full retraction of these comments and apology to the men and women of this agency would be insufficient. I understand that you may not want certain laws enforced, and I fully recognize you may seek to change those laws. However, I do not expect you to attack those who are enforcing our nation's laws. Our professionally trained agents and career civil servants deserve far better than that from our nation's representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Myers".

Julie L. Myers
Assistant Secretary
Department of Homeland Security