

Secretary


U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland  
Security**

September 12, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: Kevin K. McAleenan   
Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: Protecting Our DHS Law Enforcement Partners

The recent violent assault against our U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in San Antonio, Texas has clarified a stark and undeniable reality: Our ICE law enforcement partners are coming under increased and ever more violent assault for merely doing their jobs. This is not just a threat to the law enforcement professionals within DHS but an affront to the rule of law itself.

The incident in San Antonio is only the latest among other recent examples of violence and hostility directed toward our DHS personnel. In July 2019, a violent criminal armed with a rifle and incendiary devices attacked our ICE facility in Tacoma, Washington. Thankfully, with the assistance of our local law enforcement partners, the attacker was stopped and no innocent bystanders were harmed.

This trend of violence against our ICE officers and agents must not continue unabated. We must work to prevent this violence against ICE now.

The men and women of ICE are an invaluable part of the DHS family and play an essential role in securing the safety and welfare of the American people. Their selfless dedication to the fair and equitable application of the rule of law is a model for the entire law enforcement community to emulate.

Despite this reality, ICE continues to come under increasingly hostile and inflammatory rhetoric within the public discourse, offering a distorted view of who they are and what they represent. Sadly, irresponsible and unfair criticisms against the law enforcement community have the potential to lead to violence, as we have seen in recent years with the tragic targeted violence against police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge.

Make no mistake: Peaceful protest is a constitutionally protected, time-honored American tradition, firmly woven into the fabric of our shared American rights and values. But violence will not be tolerated.

In my charge to lead this Department, my expectation is that any person who pursues violent or unlawful resistance against our law enforcement officers will be arrested and referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Period.

Further, I have directed professionals at the Federal Protective Service, whose responsibilities include the protection of our federal facilities, with presenting a detailed plan for securing all of our ICE facilities nationwide and ensuring that the hardworking employees of ICE can do their jobs in a safe and secure environment, free from the threat of violence. I am requesting that this operational plan be presented to me within two weeks of the issuance of this memo.

Under my leadership, and with the support of this administration, we will always and emphatically stand with and support our heroic law enforcement community. An attack on one of our own is an attack on ALL OF DHS.