



Lourdes M. Rosado  
President and General Counsel

February 6, 2025

Mr. Thomas D. Homan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Unlawful Targeting of Puerto Rican U.S. Citizens & Latino-Owned Businesses

Dear Mr. Homan,

We write to express our grave concerns over recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations that have disproportionately and unlawfully targeted Puerto Rican U.S. citizens and Latino-owned businesses under the pretense of immigration enforcement. The latest reported ICE raid [on a Puerto Rican-owned restaurant in Philadelphia](#) follows a disturbing pattern of racial profiling and biased-based policing, including the unlawful questioning, detention, and harassment of Puerto Rican individuals in multiple jurisdictions.

As you are well aware, Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens by birth. Any ICE operation that presumes otherwise and subjects them to unwarranted scrutiny, detention, or intimidation raises serious constitutional and civil rights violations. The incidents we have documented—ranging from the unlawful questioning of a [Puerto Rican veteran in Newark, NJ](#), media outlets also reported the possible wrongful detention of a [Puerto Rican family in Milwaukee, WI](#), and recent raids disproportionately affecting Latino communities—demonstrate a clear pattern of discriminatory enforcement practices.

These actions are not only legally indefensible but also erode public trust in law enforcement institutions. We demand an immediate explanation for ICE's targeting of Puerto Rican individuals and businesses and call for a full review of agency practices to ensure compliance with constitutional protections against racial and national origin discrimination.

Additionally, we urge ICE to issue immediate guidance clarifying that Puerto Rican U.S. citizens should not be subject to immigration enforcement actions and to implement safeguards preventing further civil rights violations. Clear guidance should also prevent ICE and other federal agents enforcing immigration laws from targeting individuals based on real or perceived national origin, ethnicity, or language.

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We request a response to this letter within fifteen (15) business days, outlining what steps ICE will take to prevent future instances of racial profiling and unlawful enforcement actions. Failure to address these issues will compel us to pursue all available legal and advocacy avenues to hold ICE accountable.

Sincerely,

Roberto Cruz  
Managing Attorney, Southeast Regional Office  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF

cc Sec. Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland  
Security

Caleb Vitello, Immigration Control and  
Enforcement