

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

March 31, 2016

Sarah R. Saldaña
Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Director Saldaña:

I respectfully write to inquire about the continued detention of three young men from El Salvador that reside in the 12th District of North Carolina, which I represent. These three individuals include:

- Pedro Salmeron-Salmeron (A206794982): resides in Charlotte, NC and detained since January 26, 2016.
- Alexander Josue Soriano-Cortez (A206731549): resides in Thomasville, NC and detained since February 1, 2016.
- Yefri Sorto-Hernandez (A206766187): resides in Charlotte, NC and detained since January 27, 2016.

These individuals have received temporary stays of deportation from the Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and while I am pleased that they will remain in the country as their cases move forward, I have serious concerns. From watching videos of Pedro and Yefri, it is clear that detention has taken a severe emotional toll on them and I do not want these young people to continue to suffer.

It is my understanding that their legal proceedings could take several months to be completed, during which time, if these young men remain in detention, they will endure further psychological and physical harm. Additionally, Yefri and Pedro will be prohibited from continuing their education and fulfilling their dreams of graduating from high school. This is especially concerning because neither Yefri, Pedro, nor Alexander, have criminal records or pose a threat to public safety or national security.

In short, I would specifically like to know if you intend on releasing these three young men from Stewart Detention Center as their attorneys continue their ongoing legal proceedings. And if not,

I would like a thorough explanation as to why these young men should be detained as they go through this process. In the past, ICE has released detained individuals who were granted stays by the BIA.

These cases are a high priority for my office and for the communities that I represent. I respectfully request that in the absence of sound reasoning for their continued detention that you do all that is in your power to reunite Alexander, Pedro, and Yefri with their families. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alma Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security