

January 17, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20515-0001

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Turner
Chair, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
2183 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Warner
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Green
Chair, Committee on Homeland Security
2446 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chair, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: The United States is Facing a New and Imminent Danger

Dear Mr. Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and Chairmen,

As former senior executives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with deep experience combatting dangers to the nation, we write to express our concern about a current, specific threat that may be one of the most pernicious ever to menace the United States.

The danger arises from the nature of the threat itself. Wars and espionage and bombings and riots are sadly familiar delivery systems of instability, intimidation, and insecurity. The country

has faced these and more throughout its history and has held together, though not without struggle.

The threat we call out today is new and unfamiliar. In its modern history the U.S. has never suffered an invasion of the homeland and, yet, one is unfolding now. Military aged men from across the globe, many from countries or regions not friendly to the United States, are landing in waves on our soil by the thousands — not by splashing ashore from a ship or parachuting from a plane but rather by foot across a border that has been accurately advertised around the world as largely unprotected with ready access granted.

It would be difficult to overstate the danger represented by the presence inside our borders of what is comparatively a multi-division army of young single adult males from hostile nations and regions whose background, intent, or allegiance is completely unknown. They include individuals encountered by border officials and then possibly released into the country, along with a shockingly high estimate of “gotaways” — meaning those who have entered and evaded apprehension.

In light of such a daunting, unprecedented penetration by uninvited foreign actors, it is reasonable to assert that the country possesses dramatically diminished national security at this time. The nation’s military and laws and other natural protective barriers that have provided traditional security in the past have been thoroughly circumvented over the past three years.

In 2021, the demographics of those crossing the porous southern boundary started to shift. Young men from around the world traveling alone and holding questionable motivations dramatically increased in number to become the most common profile of those breaching the nation’s borders. A startling number have been found on the terrorist watchlist or are from countries designated as State Sponsors of Terror distinctly unfriendly to the United States.

This is particularly alarming in light of the Hamas terror attack on Israel last October 7. Those of us who have fought terrorism know that, historically, successful terror attacks invite mimicry. We know, as well, that terror leaders intentionally cultivate throngs of young men possessing a certain easily-manipulated personality type to carry out atrocities.

It is stark to say so, but having a large number of young males now within our borders who could begin attacking gatherings of unarmed citizens, in imitation of 10/7 and at the behest of a foreign terror group, must be considered a distinct possibility. We would be remiss not to call out this potentially grave threat in the most direct terms. The warning lights are blinking.

And yet, this very real concern does not seem to be getting the focus it logically deserves. The Director of the FBI has correctly assessed an elevated threat level since 10/7. But relatively little discussion has followed highlighting unsecured borders as a significant cause of this increasingly dangerous environment. It is a troubling concern that needs illumination, not avoidance.

Any violation of the nation's immigration laws increases risks, but the surge in numbers of single, military aged males descending upon American cities and towns is alarming and perilous. Additionally, they are not just from terror linked regions, but from China and Russia as well — hostile adversaries of the U.S. with aspirations to devastate national infrastructure.

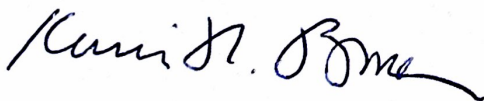
For these reasons, elements of this recent surge are likely no accident or coincidence. These men are potential operators in what appears to be an accelerated and strategic penetration, a soft invasion, designed to gain internal access to a country that cannot be invaded militarily in order to inflict catastrophic damage if and when enemies deem it necessary.

This new reality, this "never seen before" threat deserves greater attention. The borders need to be secured against these young men and those already here illegally must be identified and removed without delay. This will take the coordinated, cooperative efforts of the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and the rest of the Intelligence Community to achieve.

We encourage these actions and much greater Congressional attention to this threat. The country has been invaded, an invasion that will continue as long as the nation's enemies perceive it will be tolerated. Until it is stopped, the United States is extraordinarily less safe and secure. Knowing all of this, it would be a shameful travesty if some terrible attack, a preventable attack, were to occur against innocent Americans or the infrastructure that keeps the nation safe and functioning.

The government will have failed grievously in its duty to protect.

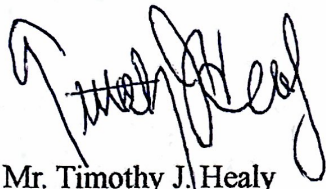
Sincerely,



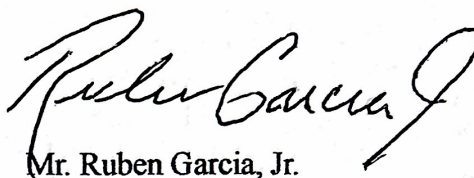
Mr. Kevin R. Brock
Assistant Director, Directorate of Intelligence
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)
Principal Deputy Director,
National Counterterrorism Center (Former)



Mr. Chris Swecker
Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative
Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)



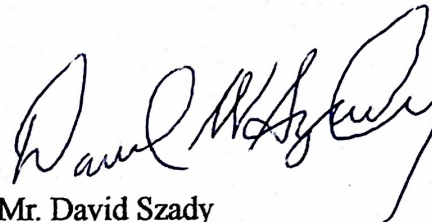
Mr. Timothy J. Healy
Director, Terrorist Screening Center
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)



Mr. Ruben Garcia, Jr.
Executive Assistant Director, Criminal,
Cyber, Response, and Services Branch
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)



Mr. Mark Morgan
Assistant Director, Training Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)
Acting Commissioner, Customs and Border
Protection (Former)
Chief, U.S. Border Patrol (former)



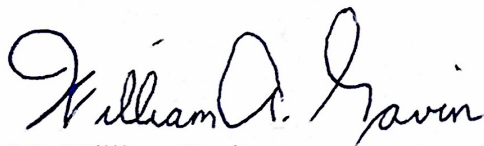
Mr. David Szady
Assistant Director, Counterintelligence/
Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)



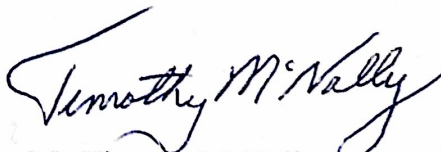
Mr. Jody Weis
Special Agent in Charge, Philadelphia
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)
Superintendent, Chicago Police Department
(former)



Mr. David Mitchell
Special Agent in Charge, Milwaukee
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)
Commissioner of Safety, Tennessee
Director of Homeland Security, Tennessee
(former)



Mr. William Gavin
Assistant Director, Inspection Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)



Mr. Timothy McNally
Assistant Director, Los Angeles Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.)