

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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July 11, 2024

Mr. Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
1800 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Commissioner Grandi:

The Committee on the Judiciary continues to conduct oversight of the Biden Administration's enforcement of federal immigration law. Despite an unprecedented border crisis and the Biden Administration's release of millions of illegal aliens into the United States, the Administration continues to create additional unlawful avenues to fast-track even more arrivals into the country. We write to request information about the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) partnership with the U.S. government to facilitate additional aliens arriving in the United States.

Under President Biden, the State Department has announced its Safe Mobility Offices initiative,¹ which allows illegal aliens to bypass the southwest border and, according to UNHCR, "avoid the risks associated with onward movement."² In other words, this new program fast-tracks aliens into the United States out of sight of the American people and without public transparency of the chaos at the border. Far from simply expanding the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, Safe Mobility Offices give aliens outside the United States "several options" to resettle in the United States, including through "family reunification, labor pathways," and expansion of the Biden Administration's illegal abuses of humanitarian parole.³ Just last month, the Biden Administration announced that more than "21,000 individuals ha[d] been approved to resettle safely and legally in the United States through the Safe Mobility Offices in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Ecuador."⁴

¹ Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Safe Mobility Initiative*, U.S. DEP'T OF STATE, <https://www.state.gov/refugee-admissions/safe-mobility-initiative/> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

² *Safe Mobility Initiative*, UNHCR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, <https://help.unhcr.org/trinidadandtobago/resettlement-and-alternative-pathways-to-safety-and-opportunity/safe-mobility-initiative/> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

³ See Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *supra* note 1.

⁴ *Fact Sheet: Third Ministerial Meeting on the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection in Guatemala*, U.S. EMBASSY IN PANAMA, <https://pa.usembassy.gov/fact-sheet-third-ministerial-meeting-on-the-los-angeles-declaration-on-migration-and-protection-in-guatemala/> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

The State Department works with both UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration as the program’s “implementing partners.”⁵ By mid-April 2024, Safe Mobility Offices already had reached 170,000 individuals,⁶ with 33,500 refugee interviews facilitated through Safe Mobility Offices as of June 2024.⁷ As part of its partnership with the U.S., UNHCR is “responsible for outreach in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Ecuador to adequately reach individuals who might be interested and eligible in registering” for the program through the initiative’s website.⁸ As UNHCR works to ensure more aliens arrive in the United States, American taxpayers continue to fund the organization’s work. Last year alone, for example, U.S. taxpayers gave UNHCR \$1.9 billion in funding, and U.S. taxpayers have provided more than \$6.3 billion in funding to UNHCR from the beginning of 2021 to the present.⁹

Given the vast resources that Americans provide to UNHCR annually, and in light of an unprecedented border crisis in the United States, the Committee is conducting oversight of UNHCR’s partnership with the U.S. federal government to support the Biden Administration’s Safe Mobility Offices. Accordingly, to assist the Committee with its continued oversight of the enforcement of federal immigration law, we ask that you provide the following information:

1. All documents and communications between or among UNHCR and the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Executive Office of the President, or any of their components, referring or relating to Safe Mobility Offices for the period January 20, 2021, to the present;
2. The amount of funding UNHCR has devoted to Safe Mobility Offices, including the sources of such funding, since January 20, 2021;
3. The amount of funding UNHCR has spent on, and has allocated for, outreach to individuals to utilize Safe Mobility Offices since January 20, 2021, including but not limited to:
 - a. Copies of all advertisements, social media posts, photos, videos, and other materials used to promote Safe Mobility Offices; and
 - b. The countries in which the advertisements and promotional materials appeared.
4. All documents and communications between or among UNHCR and other implementing partners, including the International Organization for Migration, referring or relating to Safe Mobility Offices, for the period January 20, 2021, to the present.

⁵ Briefing from U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. and U.S. Dep’t of State to Comm. staff (Apr. 19, 2024).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Briefing from U.S. Dep’t of State to Comm. staff (June 21, 2024).

⁸ Email from Bureau of Leg. Affs., U.S. Dep’t of State, to Comm. staff (May 3, 2024) (on file with Comm.).

⁹ *Donor Profiles: United States of America*, UNHCR, <https://reporting.unhcr.org/donors/donor-profiles?donor=GOV-US&year=2024> (last accessed June 13, 2024).

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Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 25, 2024. Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration policy and procedures.¹⁰ If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

¹⁰ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2023).