Hi Sarah,

Thank you for your patience. Please see below response from an ICE Spokesperson. If needed, you can attribute it to me.

“U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforces the nation's immigration laws in a fair and effective manner and holds our employees to the highest standards of professional responsibility. As we carry out our mission, the safety of our staff and those in our custody is our highest priority. ICE is firmly committed to carrying out the agency’s sworn duty to enforce federal law as passed by Congress professionally, consistently, and in full compliance with agency policies. ICE takes very seriously all allegations of employee misconduct and detainee mistreatment. However, unsubstaniated allegations are irresponsible and should be treated with the greatest of skepticism.”

**Background:**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is charged with enforcing federal immigration laws enacted by Congress. Officers with ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) are sworn law enforcement officers who carry out the arrest, detention, and removal of illegal aliens found to be in the United States unlawfully. ICE allocates the agency’s finite immigration enforcement resources by prioritizing public and national security threats, immigration fugitives and illegal reentrants. However, all of those in violation of immigration laws may be subject to immigration arrest, detention and, if found removable by final order, removal from the United States.
ICE Air Operations conducted 113 removal flights in October 2020, which was the highest amount of removal flights in 2020. ICE Air Operations has two contracted service vendors that provide support towards Special High Risk Charters (SHRC).

Deportees who are single adults and not pregnant, are restrained by the use of handcuffs, waist chains, and leg irons on ICE Air missions. Only during the instances when a deportee on an ICE Air flight becomes non-compliant, poses a risk to himself and/or others onboard the flight, is the deportee placed in the ICE authorized WRAP soft restraint device for the safety and security of all onboard the aircraft.

When a deportee on board an ICE Air flight becomes non-compliant, poses a risk to himself or others onboard the flight, for the safety and security of all onboard the aircraft, the detainee is placed in the ICE authorized WRAP restraint device. The WRAP is a safe soft restraint system, designed to protect deportees, officers, and staff by reducing the possibility of injury.

Aliens processed for removal may receive their legal due process from federal immigration judges in the immigration courts, which are administered by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). EOIR is an agency within the U.S. Department of Justice, and is separate from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and ICE. Immigration judges in these courts make decisions based on the merits of each individual case, ICE officers carry out the removal decisions made by the federal immigration judges. For more information on EOIR, visit: https://www.justice.gov/eoir/.

The immigration laws of the United States allow an alien to pursue relief from removal; however, once they have exhausted all due process and appeals, they remain subject to a final order of removal issued by the agency, an immigration judge or the Board of Immigration Appeals, and that order must be carried out.

ICE works directly with foreign governments to coordinate the return of their nationals with final orders of removal from the United States to their home countries. Likewise, the United States itself routinely cooperates with foreign governments in documenting and accepting our citizens.

World events or country conditions can sometimes impact a country’s willingness to accept its citizens with final orders of removal back to their home countries, and when these events occur, ICE works both directly with foreign governments and through the Department of State to address the situation. ICE’s expectation is that
each country will continue to meet its international obligation to accept its own nationals.

Kind regards,

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