

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We are writing to you with extreme concern about an internal federal memorandum, obtained by the *Daily Caller*, which revealed that an Al-Shabaab terrorist entered the United States illegally and lived freely in Minnesota for nearly a year until he was recently arrested on January 20, 2024. Secretary Mayorkas, your southern border policies, which encourage the free entry of military-aged, foreign national men, are directly endangering Minnesotans and all Americans.

While this unnamed terrorist was apprehended in January 2024, he had been in the country since March 13, 2023, after illegally crossing the southern border in San Ysidro, California. When apprehended at the border, the Terrorist Screening Center determined that the screening results concluded this individual was misidentified as an affiliate of Al-Shabaab and he was subsequently released. On January 18, 2024, the Terrorist Screening Center corrected its mistake and redetermined that the individual is a confirmed member of Al-Shabaab. Throughout the ten months this terrorist was loose in the United States, reports state that he was involved in arms trafficking.¹

It is unacceptable that the Department of Homeland Security wrongly allowed this terrorist into our country through the southern border after identification concluded he was on the terrorist watch list. Sadly, this is just one example of the Biden Administration's policies that have led to this crisis. Since President Biden took office, 361 individuals on the terrorist watchlist have been encountered at the country's border.²

However, these statistics are only from individuals who were screened at the border and do not account for all the illegal immigrants who were not. Since the Biden Administration took office, there have been 1.7 million individuals who evaded apprehension and entered our country, their affiliations unknown.³ Bad actors are exposing vulnerabilities in national security policies

¹ Taer, J. (2024, January 29). Exclusive: Terrorist caught illegally crossing the border was allowed to roam free for nearly a year, Memo says. *The Daily Caller*. <https://dailycaller.com/2024/01/29/exclusive-terrorist-caught-illegally-crossing-border-allowed-roam-free-nearly-year-memo-says/>

² U.S. Customs and Border Protection. (2024, January 26) CBP Enforcement Statistics. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

³ Border Sector Chiefs confirm operational impacts of Border Chaos: Increased Gotaways, closed checkpoints, and empowered cartels. Committee on Homeland Security . (2023, December 20). <https://homeland.house.gov/2023/12/20/border-sector-chiefs-confirm-operational-impacts-of-border-chaos-increased-gotaways-closed-checkpoints-and-empowered>

created by the Biden Administration and our constituents, as well as everyday Americans, have to pay the price.

Given the news of the apprehension of the Al-Shabaab terrorist in Minnesota, we respectfully request the answers to the following questions:

1. To provide transparency, will the Department of Homeland Security release the internal federal memorandum that the *Daily Caller* obtained to Congress?
2. What factors led the Terrorist Screening Center to conclude the individual was misidentified as an Al-Shabaab terrorist at the southern border and justified his release?
3. What factors led the Terrorist Screening Center to determine that their initial assessment at the border was incorrect and a reassessment was needed?
4. Does the Department of Homeland Security have any information of what the Al-Shabaab terrorist was doing in the United States, including his activities in the State of Minnesota or his involvement in arms trafficking, between entering the country in March 2023 and his arrest in January 2024?
5. Are you willing to provide a briefing, either classified or unclassified, to the Minnesota congressional delegation about the events surrounding the arrest of the Al-Shabaab terrorist?
6. What steps is the Department of Homeland Security taking to prohibit this from occurring again and to ensure terrorists are detained at the border?

Again, we are extremely troubled by the recent news of the known Al-Shabaab terrorist being in the country for almost a year. We thank you for your prompt consideration of our questions to provide transparency to our constituents and the American people.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress