

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY,
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
TRAINING

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

WEBSITE: <http://grijalva.house.gov/>

1511 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2435 | FAX (202) 225-1541

738 N. 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 110
TUCSON, AZ 85705
PHONE (520) 622-6788 | FAX (520) 622-0198

146 N. STATE AVENUE
P.O. BOX 4105
SOMERTON, AZ 85350
PHONE (928) 343-7933 | FAX (928) 343-7949

13065 WEST McDOWELL ROAD, SUITE C-113
AVONDALE, AZ 85392
PHONE (623) 536-3388 | FAX (623) 748-0451

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva](https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva)
TWITTER: [Twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva)

July 14, 2015

Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
12th & C Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Secretary Johnson:

I write to express concern over the alarming number of detainee deaths that have taken place at Eloy Detention Center, located outside of Phoenix, Arizona. Since October 2003, there have been 14 reported deaths at the center – most recently, José de Jesús Deniz-Sahagún on May 21, 2015. Mr. Deniz-Sahagún's death was deemed a suicide, however detainees at the facility report that he was beaten by guards and imprisoned in solitary confinement prior to his death. This, along with other incidents, such as the suicides of Elsa Guadalupe-Gonzalez and Jorge Garcia-Mejia just two days apart from each other in April 2013, have me deeply concerned that a culture of harsh treatment has developed at Eloy Detention Center, contributing to the desperation of its detainees and ultimately leading some to take their own lives.

In accordance with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy, the circumstances surrounding every detainee death are subject to review by the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). I respectfully request that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement make public its review of Elsa Guadalupe-Gonzalez and Jorge Garcia-Mejia's deaths from 2013. Furthermore, I request that ICE make public its report into José de Jesús Deniz-Sahagún's death upon its completion as well.

As the Eloy Detention Center is privately run, for-profit facility contracted by the Department of Homeland Security, it is truly essential that its operations are transparent and at parity with the high standards the American people expect.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this request. If you have further questions please contact Norma Salazar in my office at Norma.Salazar@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-2435.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Cc:

Sarah Saldaña
Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Timothy Moynihan
Assistant Director, Office of Professional Responsibility