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6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

September 15, 2006

Attorney General Gonzalez
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 1145
Washington, DC 205350

General Gonzalez,

Media reports yesterday indicate that the U.S. marshals raided the Hawaii home of Duane "Dog" Chapman. Apparently he has been detained at the behest of the Mexican government, and is linked to the capture Chapman made in Mexico. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Marshals Office told that an arrest warrant was signed Wednesday by a federal magistrate in Hawaii. He could be extradited to Mexico, where bounty hunting is a violation of the law.

Chapman was detained briefly in Mexico after he captured Max Factor heir Andrew Luster in Puerto Vallarta in 2003. Luster, who was wanted in the United States for rape is now serving a 124-year sentence. After a few days in jail, Chapman, his son and another colleague posted bail and returned to the United States.

Now, three years later, at the request of the regularly uncooperative Mexican government, your department has decided to use taxpayer resources to send marshals to Hawaii for Dog Chapman? This Administration routinely tells Congress that they cannot secure our borders and immigration system due to a lack of resources. We are told that the U.S. Attorneys offices in Border States are simply overwhelmed with cases and cannot prosecute all the violations – even some of the serious ones. Yet somehow they have plenty of time to track down a Mexican drug smuggler and give him immunity so he can testify against our Border Patrol agents.

We are told that ICE can't possibly tackle the task of deporting illegal aliens from the interior of our nation. Yet the reality is that even in high-profile cases – such as illegal alien Elvira Arellano, who completely exhausted her due process options and has been given final orders for deportation – ICE continues to show unwillingness to enforce the law rather than impotence. We are apparently supposed to accept presence the roughly 100,000 criminal aliens inside our borders – a number that is growing every year – while the U.S. marshals track down successful bounty hunters instead, on orders from a foreign master.

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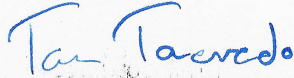
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Frankly, it is becoming increasingly clear that the real problem is not so much a lack of resources as it is one of misplaced administration priorities.

I'm beginning to wonder who is in charge of prioritizing assignments at DOJ. Is it this administration – or the one in Mexico City?

Sincerely,



Tom Tancredo, M.C.