

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20536



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

MAY 25 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: Field Office Directors

FROM: John P. Torres
Acting Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Torres".

SUBJECT: Removal of Criminals to El Salvador

Purpose

This memorandum advises the field of new procedures regarding the removal of criminals to El Salvador. These procedures apply to the removal of all criminals to El Salvador and are effective June 3, 2006.

Background

Since the inception of the Secure Border Initiative, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) have participated in significant negotiations with various Central American countries for the purpose of increasing the removal of individuals to those countries.

In an April 19, 2006 meeting between Secretary Michael Chertoff and Minister Rene Figueroa of El Salvador's Ministry of Governance, the Government of El Salvador (GOES) agreed to increase the passenger loads of the Justice Prisoner Alien Transportation System (JPATS) or chartered aircraft flights to El Salvador. Historically, ICE has been limited to flights of (b)(7)(E). Discussions on April 19th resulted in the agreement to increase passenger loads to a maximum of (b)(7)(E) per flight. On the DHS side of the agreement, ICE will operate criminal and non-criminal JPATS/chartered flights separately. The GOES has advised DHS that the removal of criminal deportees to El Salvador must be done solely via JPATS/chartered aircraft and that consular processing for this criminal population will be carried out for the present only at three locations – Los Angeles, Houston and Nogales.

Discussion

Effective June 3, 2006 the removal of criminal aliens to El Salvador must be executed solely via JPATS or chartered aircraft. Furthermore, GOES consular representatives in Los Angeles, Houston or Nogales must conduct in person interviews for those criminal El Salvadoran nationals requiring travel documents. Furthermore, these three consular offices will continue to interview non-criminal final order detainees.

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Field offices should continue to contact JPATS to schedule those individuals to be removed via JPATS. The field should also coordinate the transfer of these individuals with the appropriate field office having jurisdiction over the JPATS staging site. The receiving field office will be responsible for setting up interviews for criminal deportees with the consulates in Los Angeles, Houston and Nogales.

Questions in relation to this memorandum may be referred to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Chief, Travel Document Unit at (202)732-(b)(6),(b)(7)(C). Questions in relation to JPATS issues may be referred to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Chief, Air Transportation Unit at (202)732-(b)(6),(b)(7)(C).