



# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 326 Lewisberry, PA 17339

[www.fleoa.org](http://www.fleoa.org)  
(717) 938-2300

## Representing Members Of:

AGENCY for INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AGRICULTURE-OIG and FOREST SERVICE  
COMMERCE

Export Enforcement, OIG  
& NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement

## DEFENSE

Air Force - OIG  
Army - CID  
Defense Criminal Investigative Service  
Naval Criminal Investigative Service  
OIG

## EDUCATION - OIG

ENERGY - OIG & NNSA

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - CID & OIG

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION - OIG

GENERAL SERVICES ADMIN - OIG

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food & Drug Administration & OIG

## HOMELAND SECURITY

Border Patrol  
Coast Guard Investigative Service  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement  
Federal Air Marshal  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Federal Protective Service  
US Secret Service

Transportation Security Administration

## HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT - OIG

## INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Fish & Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
OIG  
U.S. Park Police

## JUSTICE

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
US Marshals Service  
OIG

U.S. Attorney's Office-CI

LABOR- OIG & Racketeering

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMIN. - OIG

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION - OIG

POSTAL SERVICE-OIG & Inspection

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD - OIG

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION - OIG

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - OIG

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION - OIG

## STATE DEPARTMENT

Bureau of Diplomatic Security & OIG

## TRANSPORTATION-OIG

## TREASURY

FINCEN & OIG  
Internal Revenue Service - CI  
TIGTA

## U.S. COURTS (JUDICIAL)

Probation, Parole & Pretrial Services

## VETERANS AFFAIRS -OIG

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

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MARIE CHOPRA

July 22, 2008

Honorable Barrack Obama  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Obama:

On behalf of the 26,000 members of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), I take great exception to your disparaging remark, "...communities are terrorized by ICE Immigration raids." I am referring to the comments you made on July 13th, 2008, at the National Council of La Raza convention.

While the dedicated men and women of ICE endeavor to carry out their dangerous and noble mission, you somehow felt compelled to characterize their efforts as something akin to terrorizing. If, in fact, you possessed specific information to corroborate your claim, then I would expect that you would have shared this information with the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security. Instead, it appears that you opted for indictment by sound bite. Our membership, which is comprised of taxpaying Americans from ethnically diverse backgrounds, would like to know why.

It's one thing to remark intelligently on the need for immigration reform, but it's quite another to berate ICE law enforcement officers who are risking their lives to enforce the laws passed by Congress. To wit, your quotation might have read better if you stated, "...communities are terrorized by the antiquated laws enacted by Congress." You, and your fellow members of Congress, have yet to enact any meaningful legislation that would bring about true immigration reform. Your bi-partisan fumble should not translate into labeling our members as terrorists by implication.

During your same presentation on July 13th, you spoke passionately about how "The system isn't working..." While I am unclear as to the derivation of your assessment, I would like to know if you attempted to meet with ICE law enforcement officers regarding their dangerous mission, or give their Director a fair opportunity to address your concerns? Are you at all interested in learning about your fellow Americans, i.e., ICE law enforcement officers, who sustained injury while attempting to enforce the laws that Congress passed?

Senator Obama, please know that in some respects, we are just as frustrated as you appear to be regarding the need for real immigration reform. However, ICE employs patriotic men and women who are outstanding law enforcement officers, not rampaging home-wreckers.

Many of these same ICE law enforcement officers were a part of our first responder component both during and after the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001. Since then, in an effort to make Homeland Security something real, these brave men and women have made tremendous sacrifices in order to carry out their mission. Do they now deserve to be characterized as marauders who terrorize communities?

Senator Obama, if you are really sincere in your position, and would like to broaden your understanding and incorporate the federal law enforcement perspective, then I invite you to meet with the officers of FLEOA. I think you will come to learn that those carrying the ICE shield are heroes, and not terrorists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Gordon', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Art Gordon  
National President

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