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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recent media coverage of a leaked memorandum and official statements relative to Congressman Silvestre Reyes' role in involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the investigation of a relative's kidnapping in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, are cause for concern, particularly when the victim was not a United States citizen, ICE clearly lacks jurisdiction in crimes that occur in foreign countries, and Reyes has failed to make similar efforts for other victims of crimes in his congressional district.

Add to that the statement by Reyes that the investigation was compromised with the release of the ICE memorandum to the press, and that the Inspector General has begun an investigation of the leaked memorandum, and we have yet another all too common occurrence in federal law enforcement -- a government conspiracy to retaliate against a whistleblower.

Congressman Reyes' actions in this case, as well as the official statements released by his office and by ICE, are the height of hypocrisy when considering that in January 2004 it was learned that ICE and the U.S. Attorney's Office in El Paso were allegedly involved in allowing the murders of at least 12 Mexican citizens and one U.S. Permanent Resident in Ciudad Juarez, with the participation of a U.S. informant controlled by ICE.

There was no coordination whatsoever by ICE with Mexican authorities during that murder spree, and Congressman Reyes, who as a retired Border Patrol Chief knows better, and whose district covers the city and county of El Paso, has to this date said and done nothing about this darkest of chapters in U.S. federal law enforcement history.

The Federal Hispanic Law Enforcement Officers Association (FHLEOA) applauds the efforts of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) in calling for an investigation of Congressman Reyes' actions, and we join the Friends of the Border Patrol (FOBP) in their request for an ethics probe by the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

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