

GINNY BROWN-WAITE
5th District, Florida

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August 25, 2008

Robert E. O'Neil
United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida
400 N Tampa St, Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

It is clearer now than ever that the United States has failed in its fight against illegal immigration. Throughout the month of July, several young women in our community paid the full cost of that failure. The St. Petersburg Times has reported that three armed men, at least one of whom, Rigoberto Moron Martinez is a known illegal immigrant, have been on a seven week rampage stretching from St. Petersburg to Apollo Beach. In their wake, they have left broken homes, a burned out car, and lifelong scars from battery and sexual assault.

Despite having been arrested twice, Martinez and his two accomplices have continued their violent crimes. After eleven years of living in this country illegally, Martinez was released the second time on August 6, 2008, following arrest on charges of domestic violence. He now faces multiple counts of armed home invasion robbery, sexual battery, false imprisonment, armed kidnapping and grand theft.

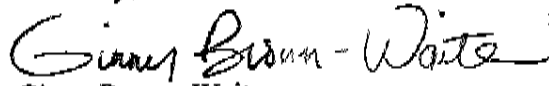
According to the investigation by the St Petersburg Times, jail records show that there is also a federal immigration hold on one of his accomplices, Vicente Ejias Reyes-Carbajal. His immigration hold follows a prior arrest for driving without a valid license. To my knowledge, even days after being picked up for these heinous crimes, the immigration status of Mr. Reyes-Carbajal is still unknown.

Every day, local law enforcement is expected to send information regarding foreign-born prisoners to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A response must come promptly. ICE has been given the resources to make sure this happens. The total budget for ICE has increased from \$3.5 billion in 2005, to over \$5.5 billion in 2008. It is not a question of committing resources, this is a matter of will.

It remains unclear why these men were released. Given the terrible costs of this failure, the federal government owes it to the rape victims, and to all law-abiding citizens, to determine how this happened, and to make sure that it never happens again. Therefore, I am asking that the United

States Attorney's Office conduct an immediate investigation into any possible instances where federal laws may have been violated or ignored by any agency, in the handling of these criminals.

Sincerely,



Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress

CC: Steven E. Ibison, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Tampa Division
CC: Robert Webber, Special Agent in Charge, ICE Tampa