

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 5, 2025

Don R. Berthiaume
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Inspector General Berthiaume:

I write to demand that you immediately launch an investigation into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) participation in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) unconstitutional and unlawful abduction U.S. citizens off American streets through FBI's secret detention of American citizens in FBI's Chicago Field Office and FBI owned, rented or occupied facilities.

Earlier today, I copied you on a letter to FBI Director Kash Patel detailing constituent stories of American citizens being delivered from DHS to FBI and then held by personnel in FBI owned, rented or occupied facilities. It is outrageous and deeply alarming that my constituents were denied explanations of why American citizens were abducted, and then unable to locate or determine which government agency was even responsible for the kidnapping or detention of that U.S. citizen—let alone receive assurances that the United States Government would ensure the health and safety of the abducted American.

It is imperative that the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ OIG) conduct oversight of the conduct and involvement of DOJ law enforcement components, including FBI, in DHS' alarming and unexplained arrests of U.S. citizens off American streets without identification, explanation, warrants or probable cause.

The ongoing diversion of thousands of FBI employees, including nearly half of its agents working in major field offices, to assist DHS with civil immigration enforcement operations already constitutes a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars. In expanding this support to include holding U.S. citizens who have been arrested without due process and, often, are later released without explanation, FBI may now be aiding and abetting criminal activity.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that DOJ OIG launch an investigation into the troubling pattern and practice of FBI engaging in the unconstitutional and unlawful detention of U.S. citizens as part of Operation Midway Blitz. Specifically, I ask that you launch an investigation to:

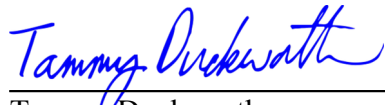
1. Assess whether FBI complied with the Constitution, Federal law and agency regulations and policies in holding U.S. citizens without warrants or criminal charges;

2. Evaluate FBI policies and practice when assuming responsibility for U.S. citizens detained by DHS personnel, housing abducted citizens, responding to requests from members of the public seeking to locate a U.S. citizen being held under FBI supervision and determining when and whether to release U.S. citizens;
3. Recommend corrective actions, including policy reforms, training on the rights of U.S. citizens, disciplinary measures and—when appropriate—make referrals to the appropriate law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution.

As you know, the detention of U.S. citizens without reasonable suspicion, probable cause or due process is unconstitutional. DOJ OIG has a statutory responsibility to ensure that FBI is not engaging in a systematic pattern and practice of violating core constitutional rights, as such activities constitute egregious waste, fraud and abuse by a Federal agency.

I request that you provide my office with a briefing on your plans to launch a formal investigation into FBI's detention of U.S. citizens that DHS unconstitutionally and unlawfully arrested within 14 days of receipt of this letter. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to independent oversight.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator