

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ROOM 422
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3415

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1105-C CORPORATE DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 931-1003
(800) 351-1697

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

February 21, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I am writing to you with deep concern over recent revelations surrounding the prosecution of U.S. Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean, who entered federal prison on January 17, 2007 to begin serving sentences of 11 and 12 years respectively for wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border in 2005.

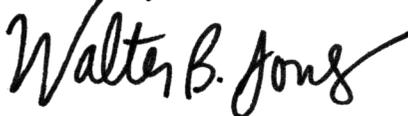
Recently, defense attorneys for the two men have indicated they will seek a new trial based on potentially exculpatory evidence they say was not provided to them in court. Specifically, this evidence includes an April 12, 2005 memo written by Christopher Sanchez of the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General's Office. The memo acknowledges that all nine agents at the scene, including two supervisors, knew about the shooting and failed to report it – information that substantiates the agents' testimony at trial. The failure to disclose this information to the defense suggests a significant violation by the prosecutors in this case.

Mr. President, countless American citizens and dozens of members of Congress have communicated to you over the past six months our concerns about the lack of fairness in the proceedings against these two men – including the prosecution's efforts to seek out and offer immunity to a habitual Mexican drug smuggler, a sealed indictment of the smuggler's drug offenses and insufficient proof of whether or not the smuggler was armed. The disturbing details of this case strongly call into question whether justice was served.

Because denying justice in this case undermines the U.S. Border Patrol's critical mission of enforcing our immigration laws, these former agents should not spend one more day in prison during the appeal of their sentences. These men are not a flight risk, nor are they a danger to their community. As the physical assault on Ignacio Ramos that occurred February 3rd in the Federal Correctional Complex in Yazoo City, Mississippi made clear, the safety of these two men – as law enforcement officers – is in grave danger so long as they are incarcerated.

In light of the most recent developments in this case, and the threats against the agents' safety, I urge you to immediately intervene in this case and allow these men to remain free on bond pending their appeal.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress