

ICE says Oregon officers showed 'great restraint' in videoed incidents

By RYAN HAAS
Oregon Public Broadcasting



AP Photo/LM Otero

In this photo made Thursday, March 6, 2015, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents enter an apartment complex during an early morning operation in Dallas. Portland-area Democrats said they were concerned about two incidents in Oregon involving ICE agents.

Federal immigration officials responded Thursday to Oregon lawmakers concerned about a pair of attempted arrests that took place in recent months.

The letter from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Director Raymond Kovacic came in response from concerns lodged by Oregon Reps. Suzanne Bonamici and Earl Blumenauer.

Both Portland-area Democrats said they were concerned about two incidents involving ICE agents: a Sept. 18 interaction outside a Washington County courthouse and an Oct. 20 arrest inside a Portland area home.

Bonomici and Blumenauer said it appeared in videos that ICE officers failed to identify themselves or procure proper warrants. The lawmakers expressed concern the potential violation of constitutional rights could "undermine public confidence in the integrity of the agency."

In his letter Thursday, Kovacic defended the ICE agents involved and said they followed agency policy.

"Any recording that failed to capture the beginning of the encounter when officer self-identification took place should not be relied upon," the assistant director wrote.

In video of the Sept. 18 incident in Washington County, several plainclothes agents approach Isidro Andrade-Tafolla, who is Latino and a longtime county employee.

The agents repeatedly ask Andrade-Tafolla for identification while comparing him to a picture on their cellphones.

Bystanders ask the agents for identification, but they refuse and insist

Andrade-Tafolla is the person in the picture. When another ICE agent arrives on the scene and realizes the Forest Grove resident is not the person they are looking for, the group quickly leaves.

Kovacic wrote that the video doesn't show the whole encounter but "does serve to illustrate the hostile environment that ICE officers must confront every day."

"In spite of being verbally abused, ICE officers demonstrated great restraint and professionalism throughout the encounter," he wrote.

Kovacic also said the officers did not target the two Oregon incidents are under review, how can ICE also conclude that officers followed all policies and procedures?"

Kovacic does not directly respond to questions surrounding the Oct. 20 arrest of Carlos Bolanos, who was later released without charge.

In that encounter, the person filming the video — George Cardenas — repeatedly asks the ICE agents why they are in the home without a warrant, a seeming violation of Fourth Amendment protections.

The Democrats wrote that Oregonians are "deeply concerned by these aggressive actions," and that ICE should be held accountable if there was wrongdoing.

Kovacic said ICE agents are up-to-date on constitutional rights.

"ICE officers participate in mandatory bi-annual Fourth Amendment training," wrote Kovacic, "as well as refresher training prior to participating in large-scale enforcement actions."

The ACLU of Oregon called ICE's letter "alarming."

"It suggests that they are not prepared to do anything differently or take accountability for these violations," ACLU of Oregon Legal Director Mat dos Santos said in a statement.

"They have not even apologized to Mr. Andrade-Tafolla and his wife for unfairly profiling, detaining, and questioning them over a month ago."

CAPITOL: Legislature will hire outside consultant to examine its personnel policies

Continued from 1A

unwanted advances. About 150 women signed the California letter.

Circulation of the Oregon letter follows accusations by Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis, and another unnamed female senator earlier this month that Sen. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg, repeatedly inappropriately touched them. Kruse has denied the allegations to at least two Oregon newspapers.

Gelser's revelation has sparked other women who work at the Oregon Capitol to come forward with other instances of subtle sexism and harassment, as reported Wednesday by Oregon Public Broadcasting.

The letter urges lawmakers and others at the Capitol "to create a culture where it is expected that people (both men and women) will speak up when it is happening in front of them, and ensure that it is safe to report it when it happens in private."

The Legislature will hire an outside consultant to examine its personnel policies, the House Majority office confirmed Friday.

Women who signed the letter include existing and former Democrat and Republican lawmakers, legislative staffers and lobbyists.

"Changing the culture of

any institution starts at the top and that's ultimately what this letter is about," Williamson said. "We are committed, as a bipartisan group, to improving the culture of the Capitol and ensuring that it is a positive work environment for everyone. That starts by ensuring individuals feel empowered to come forward with issues. This isn't about politics — it's about making this institution better."

Rep. Julie Parrish, who signed the letter, said she hopes the letter sparks dialogue about incidents that have stayed largely private until now.

"Oregon has a larger segment of elected women than other states — and in recent years, we have seen an uptick in female lobbyists, but politics is still a male-driven industry," said Parrish, a Republican from West Linn.

A reminder to respect boundaries is "a good check for everybody," she said. "Every woman's threshold for what she thinks is appropriate or inappropriate is going to be different, but hey, if she says no, back off, listen to her. She means it."

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, imposed "unprecedented" sanctions against Kruse Oct. 20, in response to the allegations that Kruse continued to touch

the two senators after he was asked not to. As punishment for that and for Kruse's habit of smoking inside the Capitol building, Courtney ordered the removal of Kruse's office door and stripped him of his committee assignments, which weakens his power to influence legislation. The door was removed early Friday.

Gelser first hinted at the allegations in a tweet in which she asked a Republican Senate aide if he would ensure members of his caucus don't inappropriately touch or grope female lawmakers or staff in the Capitol. Gelser made an informal complaint that Kruse had touched her inappropriately in March 2016. At that time, Courtney followed protocol and reported the allegation to Legislative Counsel Dexter Johnson and Employee Services Manager Lore Christopher. Johnson and Christopher told Kruse to stop touching women at work, Courtney's letter stated. Gelser told The Oregonian that Kruse's behavior didn't stop.

Courtney also has reported the latest accusations by Gelser and the other female senator to Legislative Counsel and Employee Services, and those offices are conducting a fact-finding inquiry.

Seattle judge blocks states' challenge to travel ban

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge in Seattle has put on hold a challenge by Washington and several other states to the Trump administration's latest travel ban.

U.S. District Judge James Robart, who blocked the initial ban on travelers from several predominantly Muslim nations early this year, noted in his decision

Friday that the latest iteration has already been blocked by federal courts in Hawaii and Maryland.

Because the issues raised there are similar to the ones raised by Washington, Oregon, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and California in the Seattle case, he said those challenges should play out before the Seattle case proceeds.

The Trump administration announced the most recent restrictions in September. They affect citizens of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen — and some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

A hearing in the Seattle case had been set for Monday.

INTRODUCING

PHONAK DIRECT

CONNECTIVITY HEARING AIDS



- Direct connectivity to any cell phone *
- Hearing aids used as a wireless headset for hands-free calls
- Excellent TV sound quality¹ with hearing aids turned into wireless TV headphones

Phonak direct connectivity hearing aids offer universal connectivity to any cell phone* regardless of the brand or operating system. With direct connectivity hearing aids, Phonak offers a solution that provides true hands-free functionality just like a Bluetooth® wireless headset. The hearing aids utilize its built-in microphones to pick up the client's voice for phone calls. A call can be heard ringing directly in the hearing aids and with a simple push of a button, can be answered or rejected. This can be done at distance from the telephone e.g. while a client is positioned on the other side of a room.

Direct connectivity also extends to media playing with automatic connectivity to any TV or stereo system through a new and compact, multimedia hub called TV Connector. It delivers excellent stereo sound quality up to 15m away and does not require any additional streaming device.

With Phonak direct connectivity hearing aids, clients can enjoy the freedom of universal connectivity

RENATA ANDERSON M.A.
2237 Southwest • Court Place
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-276-5053






BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Community Forum

We need to hear from you about Mental Health

This Event is FREE
Thursday • November 2nd • 2017
6:30 to 8:00 PM at Blue Mountain Community College
Room ST 200 • 2411 NW Caden Ave. • Pendleton
GO TO: <http://bit.ly/2y0Gw3e>

This 90 minute planning session will focus on patient's experiences with the current system of care and how we can improve these services!

Free Bus Transportation
will be provided through KAYAK • details at <http://bit.ly/2y0Gw3e>

Project Collaborators
Lifeways, Inc • Blue Mountain Community College
Oregon Washington Health Network • CHI St. Anthony Hospital
and Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center

For additional information contact
Blue Mountain Community College
at 541-278-5969



EAST OREGONIAN 

Celebrate your loved ones in our VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE

Honoring those who have served and those who are currently serving our country!

They've served our country with courage and honor. They've left behind loved ones to risk their lives while protecting our country. They've defended our freedoms and ideals. They make us proud to be Americans. Help us honor them.

Free Example:

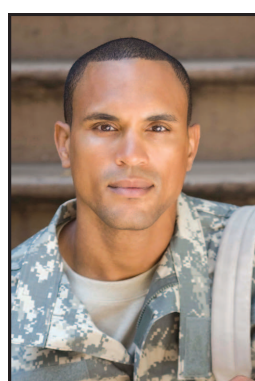


Staff Sergeant
Joel Davis
US Marines
Veteran

This special section will print in the Hermiston Herald on Nov. 8 and in the East Oregonian on Nov. 11, 2017. There is **NO CHARGE** to be included. Bring us or send in photos of servicemen, servicewomen or veterans, along with the information in the form to the right, by **November 2.**


For more information, call 1-800-962-2819

2x3 EXAMPLE




We are so proud of you for serving your country.

Love Evelyn, Joe and Cheryl



JOSEPH B. DAVIS

1x4 EXAMPLE



JOSEPH SMITH

Thank you for your service!

Love always Marcy, Julie & Emily

If you'd like to purchase a larger space to include a special message, border, flags, or stars and stripes, rates are \$40 for a 1x4" space or \$55 for a 2x3" space. Private party only. Please call 1-800-962-2819.

Service Person's Name _____

Military Branch _____ Military Rank _____ Currently Serving Veteran (Check One)

Your Name _____ Deliver to: _____

Your Address _____ East Oregonian | Hermiston Herald
211 SE Byers Ave. | 333 E. Main.
Pendleton, OR 97801 | Hermiston, OR 97830

Your Phone Number _____ or e-mail to classifieds@eastoregonian.com