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To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Describing Alien Status in a press release.

All,
Please follow the guidelines below issued by Main Justice in drafting press releases. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]
Sent: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Describing Alien Status in a press release.

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]
Sent: [Redacted]
To: USAEO-PublicInformationOfficers <USAEO-PublicInformationOfficers@usa.doj.gov>
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Describing Alien Status in a press release.

Dear PIO Colleagues:

To clear up some confusion and to be consistent in the way we draft our releases, the following is OPA's guidance on describing alien status in the U.S.:

PIOs should follow definitions in 8 U.S. Code § 1101 to describe status. Specifically, when a defendant's illegal presence in the U.S. is an established fact in the public record, or when it has been provided to the court to help it determine whether to detain a defendant, they should be referred to as an "illegal alien." For instance:
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtx/pr/illegal-alien-sentenced-drug-trafficking-east-texas>
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndal/pr/illegal-alien-indicted-illegal-gun-possession-and-distributing-ice>
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndia/pr/illegal-alien-convicted-possession-and-use-false-identity-documents-and-false-claim>

The word "undocumented" is not based in U.S. code, and should not be used to describe someone's illegal presence in the country. If an alien is legally present in the U.S., or that alien's legal status in the U.S. is *unknown, unclear, or absent* from the public record at the time a press release is being issued, it is appropriate to describe their country of citizenship, such as "Canadian National Convicted of Human Trafficking." They should *be described* according to their citizenship, not their city or state of residence. For instance "a Honduran citizen residing in Toledo" is correct. "Toledo Man" doesn't accurately describe his residency.

All individuals having U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status in the U.S. should be described as a resident. For instance, "Ohio Man, or Miami Resident, etc." It is permissible to point out in the release what their citizenship or legal status is if it is part of the established factual record. Some examples:

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/brooklyn-man-arrested-attempting-provide-material-support-isis>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/florida-man-pleads-guilty-conspiring-provide-material-support-isis>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/lawful-permanent-resident-uzbekistan-charged-immigration-offenses>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/bosnian-human-rights-abuser-residing-north-carolina-pleads-guilty-possession-fraudulently>

If you have any questions or wish to discuss a specific matter or circumstance, please don't hesitate to call me.

Have a great weekend,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]