



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



Secretary Johnson Delivers State of Homeland Security Address

Earlier this month Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Charles Johnson delivered his final State of Homeland Security address. The secretary discussed the past, present, and future of the Department in his remarks, “DHS: Progress in 2015, Goals for 2016.” This event was hosted by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Aspen Institute Homeland Security Group.



Secretary Johnson Delivers State of Homeland Security address (Photo by Barry Bahler, DHS)

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A full transcript and video of Secretary Johnson’s remarks are available [here](#).

Public Notice on the Current Water Emergency in Flint, Michigan

Consistent with their enforcement policies, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are not conducting enforcement operations at or near locations distributing clean water in Flint, Michigan or surrounding areas affected by the current water situation. Moreover, DHS officials do not and will not pose as individuals providing water-related information or distributing clean water as part of any enforcement activities.

Amongst the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's top priorities in the current water emergency in Flint is to support State and local government efforts to distribute clean water and related supplies to individuals in communities who are impacted by the emergency. During the emergency, DHS and its component law enforcement agencies are focused on life-saving and life-sustaining activities and maintaining public order. We stand ready to assist those in need and to support State and local authorities quickly, safely, and efficiently.

[En español.](#)

CRCL Hosts Engagement Town Hall in Charleston

Last week, CRCL staff traveled to Charleston, South Carolina to lead a town hall meeting at Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The event was the second in a series of community meetings to share information, and build awareness of DHS resources available for communities to protect their houses of worship from acts of violence following the shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston in 2015. The event brought together a diverse audience including dozens of local faith community members and representatives from several nongovernmental organizations. Local government and law enforcement representatives were in attendance as well, including Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg, representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office and local FBI, the Charleston Police and fire chiefs, and the city's emergency management director.



CRCL Community Engagement Town Hall at Morris Brown AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina

During the town hall participants discussed building resiliency and strengthening security for faith groups and community organizations.

Statement by Secretary Johnson on Southwest Border Security

In connection with the latest monthly release of the numbers of apprehensions on our southwest border, Secretary Johnson made the following statement:

“In January 2016, overall apprehensions on our southwest border – an indicator of total attempts to cross the border illegally -- declined 36 percent from the previous month, and were at the lowest levels since January 2015. Also, in January 2016, apprehensions of unaccompanied children declined by 54 percent compared to the month before, and apprehensions of those in families declined by 65 percent in the same period.

While the one-month decline in January is encouraging, this does not mean we can dial back our border security efforts. Recent enforcement actions, which focus on those apprehended at the border on or after January 1, 2014, will continue.

I have spoken or met with a number of members of Congress, advocates and attorneys concerned about the enforcement actions that took place on January 2-3. I have great respect for the views expressed and those who expressed them. But, as I have explained in these discussions, immigration enforcement policy must be two sides of a coin.

On the one hand, the new enforcement policy announced by the President and me on November 20, 2014 makes clear that our limited resources for immigration enforcement will not be dedicated to the removal of those who have committed no serious crimes, have been in this country for years, and have families here. Under our new policy, these people are not priorities for removal.

On the other hand, our new policy is focused on public safety and border security, as it should be. Those who commit serious crimes or who are apprehended at the border are priorities for removal. These have been our priorities consistently since we announced them on November 20, 2014, and they have not changed. Our borders are not open to illegal migration. If someone was apprehended at the border, has been ordered deported by an immigration court, has no pending appeal, and does not qualify for asylum or other relief from removal under our laws, he or she must be sent home. We must enforce the law in accordance with our enforcement priorities.

Read Secretary Johnson's [full statement](#).

CRCL Participates in Resolution 16/18 in Madrid

This month, a CRCL representative traveled to Madrid, Spain to lead a training with the Spanish Ministry of Justice as well as community advocates from religious minority communities in the “Country-to-Country” program designed to promote implementation of [UN Human Rights Council \(UNHRC\) Resolution 16/18](#). The Resolution focuses on concrete, positive measures countries can take to combat religious bias and intolerance rather than legal measures to restrict speech. CRCL has participated in the “Country-to-Country” program since 2012, leading a training in Sarajevo, Bosnia. CRCL continued its trainings in Indonesia and Greece and led a follow-up training program in Bosnia in May 2014. Most recently in Madrid, CRCL and experts from the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division discussed best practices in community engagement and offered participants information on how to partner with diverse communities to build trust and establish processes for communication and coordination to facilitate solutions to problems. An American civil society representative who engages with CRCL on a variety of civil rights issues also accompanied the delegation to discuss the value of dialogue with government in combating religious discrimination.



Presenters at the “Country-to-Country” program in Madrid, Spain

DHS Securing Super Bowl 50

On Super Bowl Sunday, while football fans tuned in to see the Denver Broncos and the Carolina Panthers take the field, dozens of components within DHS—both seen and unseen—proudly worked to make sure that Super Bowl 50 was a safe and enjoyable experience for players, employees, and fans alike.

From the stadium and well beyond, DHS components—including TSA, CBP, ICE, Coast Guard, the Secret Service, FEMA, our Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and our National Protection and Programs Directorate—contributed to the security of more than 15 million fans and visitors.

Secretary Johnson [visited the San Francisco area](#) where he met with local law enforcement officials and the National Football League security team to oversee the DHS security operations. Securing the Super Bowl is a shared responsibility, and [all of DHS worked together to do our part](#):

- **Transportation Security Administration** officers, passenger screening canine teams, behavior detection analysis officers, and other specialists secured area airports and mass transit locations.
- The **U.S. Secret Service** supported open-source social media monitoring for situational awareness and assisted with cyber security vulnerability assessments and mitigation. The Secret Service also conducted magnetometer training for security personnel.
- The **U.S. Coast Guard** provided maritime security and interagency support ahead of and during the Super Bowl through increased patrols, ferry security and cruise ship security operations.
- **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** and **Immigration and Customs Enforcement** helped [ensure the legitimacy of game-related merchandise](#) by targeting counterfeit vendors and local merchants of game-related sportswear.
- **CBP’s Air and Marine Operations** [helped secure the skies surrounding Levi’s stadium](#), deploying Black Hawk helicopters, Cessna C-550 Citations and AS350 Astar helicopters to oversee the areas of restricted airspace. CBP also screened entering cargo for contraband such as narcotics, weapons, and explosives.
- The [DHS Blue Campaign](#) is the unified voice for efforts to combat human trafficking. Throughout the bay area – including airports, transit hubs, buses, and hotels – the Campaign [displayed awareness materials](#) to help individuals and communities identify and recognize indicators of human trafficking.

National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin Translations

The most recent [NTAS bulletin is available in multiple languages](#), including Spanish, French, Chinese, and others. The [bulletin expires on June 16, 2016](#).

CRCL on the Road, February

February 11 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

February 18 – Charleston, South Carolina

CRCL convened a community engagement town hall with diverse community organizations.

February 25 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL led community engagement events with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

February 18 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

February 23 – New York, New York

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtables with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations

February 25 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL participated in a community engagement event focused on countering violent extremism.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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