



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

1115 N. Imperial Ave.
El Centro, Ca. 92243

February 22, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: DETENTION OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR
PETE YPINA

THROUGH:

FROM: Supervisory Detention Enforcement Officer
Juan J. Ramirez

SUBJECT: U.S. CONGRESSMAN: ROBERT FILNER

Congressman Robert Filner, a member of his staff and two reporters of the Imperial Valley Press arrived at the facility at approximately 1850 hrs. They properly identified themselves at the entry inspection point and then proceeded to the foyer. They took some pictures of the entrance to the foyer and proceeded to enter the foyer. A female by the name of Heather Imran, entered the foyer and asked if she could visit her husband, Detainee Imran, Ahmad A#79-783-303 from Pakistan. She said a reporter from the I.V. Press and Congressman Bob Filner would be speaking to her husband. The foyer officer notified the security supervisor and subsequently notified me.

I made my way up to the control area at approximately 1900 hrs. I spoke with the Congressman, the reporter and the detainees wife. I advised them that the only person who could visit was the detainee's wife. I advised the Congressman and the reporter they would not be allowed to see any detainees because their request had not been approved yet. I made them aware that the request was being expedited, but at this time, there wasn't any approval. Congressman Filner did not accept my response and told me he had the right to see anybody he pleased. He asked me when was the last time I read the Constitution and then told me if I did not let him see his constituent, he would have me arrested. I told him that I would have to check with DOS Jose Pena first, before any visits would take place.

At approximately 1905 hrs. I notified DOS Jose Pena about the situation. I mentioned to DOS Pena of possibly needing the assistance of the Police Department if things worsened. At approximately 1910 hrs. the entry inspection point officer notified me that an individual claiming to be Congressman Filner's Chief of Staff was seeking entry. I advised him not to let him in due to the current situation. Approximately two to three minutes later, the officer called again saying that the Chief of Staff had just run the inspection point. At that time, I instructed the officer to notify the El Centro Police Department. I then instructed two officers to get two vans to block the inspection point's entrance and exit. I stepped outside to talk too the Chief of Staff when Congressman Filner started asking if I was going to let him visit and if not, that he wanted to speak to whoever I was speaking too. I told him he would have to wait because I was not going to let him visit anybody. At that time, he looked over toward IDEO Ruben Garcia's direction and said, "are you going to stop me big man". He then turned over to IDEO Jorge

Bribiesca's direction and said, "are you going to shoot me, are you going to arrest me". IDEO Bribiesca told him those comments were not necessary, but yet, Congressman Filner continued to talk.

I was speaking with DOS Pena on the cell phone, when I noticed Congressman Filner enter the foyer area. At approximately 1915 hrs. we were still outside when IDEO Bribiesca told me to turn to the foyer area and I saw Congressman Filner forcing his way into the control area. Security Supervisor V. Tapia was making his way into the control area when Congressman Filner made his move to make the security breach. I started making my way into the control area when I saw IDEOs Cesar Raya, Erich Anderson, Michael Moore, Bribiesca, Security Officers F. Aguirre, J. Ayala and Security Supervisor Tapia trying to talk to Congressman Filner to go back into the foyer area. Once I entered the control area, I advised the Congressman he needed to exit the control area and go back to the foyer area. He declined to do so. He said, "I am a Congressman and I can do what ever I want, I want to see my constituent and I am not moving from here until I do so". I advised him that what he was doing was unnecessary and that rules and procedures needed to be followed. I then instructed IDEO Moore to call CCTV to start recording the area. The Congressman continued to shout saying he was not moving and that he could do anything he wanted. IDEO Bribiesca tried to reason with him, but only yelled at IDEO Bribiesca and told him to "Shut Up". I told the Congressman he was out of line and that he had no right to be talking to my officers that way. IDEO Bribiesca told the Congressman we were just doing our job and the Congressman responded he was doing his also. Other conversations continued and I decided to update DOS Pena by using the phone out of the supervisor's office.

As I made my way to the supervisor's office, Congressman Filner tried to follow me, but was stopped by Security Supervisor Tapia, Security Officer Aguirre, and IDEO Raya. Congressman Filner tried to push his way through the officers and even tried to go under them, but did not succeed.

I contacted DOS Pena and he told me he had spoken with CDEO M. de Leon about the situation. He told me CDEO de Leon mentioned to call the Police Department, if necessary. I told him that the Congressman had breached into the control area and his Chief of Staff had run the entry inspection point. At that time, I informed him that I had already notified the El Centro Police Department.

I was notified when the police officers arrived and I informed them of the current situation. They had questions about jurisdiction so they called their supervisor. I spoke with Sgt. J. Novak about the situation. Since Congressman Filner was just standing in the control area and not doing much, we decided that the current situation did not require for them to be there. Sgt. Novak gave me his cell phone number and told me that if needed him for anything to give him a call. The police officers departed at that time.

At approximately 2000 hrs. I spoke to OIC Caryl Thompson and notified him of the situation. At approximately 2010 hrs. Robert Culley called and asked to talk to Congressman Filner. At that time, CDEO M. de Leon and DOS J. Pena entered the facility and spoke to the Congressman. They took the Congressman out the foyer area so he could be properly logged in. Once that happened, they took the Congressman over to the OIC's office. Minutes later, District Director Adele Fassano called and asked to talk to the Congressman. Once the conversations with the District Director were over, the Congressman was allowed to speak to Detainee Imran per DD Fassano's instructions. During that time AOIC Daniel Banda arrived at the facility. At approximately 2115 hrs. OIC Thompson arrived at the facility.

Once Congressman Filner finished speaking with Detainee Imran, he exited the foyer area and spoke with OIC Thompson. I then joined the group outside of the foyer. When Congressman Filner saw me he asked to speak to me. He addressed me in front of everyone and said he accepted responsibility for his actions and admitted handling the situation incorrectly. He sent his apologies to everyone who was involved for placing us in a difficult situation. He added that everyone performed his or her duties in a very professional manner.