

Video Script: “A Message from the Inspector General: Audit of the Department of Justice’s Use of Immigration Sponsorship Programs,” June 2019

Hello, I’m Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today, we released a report that found that DOJ components needed to more effectively supervise their immigration sponsorship activities. DOJ law enforcement components, including the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sponsor foreign nationals in the US to help support investigations and prosecutions.

We found that DOJ components did not keep adequate information, or effectively coordinate with each other and with the Department of Homeland Security, to oversee these individuals while they were in the US. For example, in 2018, DHS identified over 1,000 DOJ-sponsored foreign nationals for whom it did not have current information. Six months later, DHS still did not have updated information for 665 of those individuals. Additionally, we found that 62 sponsored individuals had absconded from DOJ control. We also found it concerning that some DOJ sponsorships expired or were not renewed in a timely manner, which could hamper the very investigations these individuals were in the US to support.

Our report concluded that DOJ components did not have adequate policies, practices, or management information systems in place to monitor the status and activities of sponsored foreign nationals. Such policies and practices are essential for DOJ components to fulfill their obligations to protect the public and achieve their objectives of furthering investigations and prosecutions.

To read the report, please visit our website, oig.justice.gov, or go to oversight.gov. Thank you for joining us.

(Stock media provided by composer William Pearson and publisher Prolific Two Publishing/ Pond5.com, www.pond5.com.)