

Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives

Hearing Title: Combatting Gang Violence on Long Island: Shutting Down the MS-13 Pipeline

Testimony Submitted by Mrs. Evelyn Rodriguez

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Any parent's nightmare is calling your child for hours and hours, and they do not answer their phone, then you realize that something is wrong. Your heart races and you think the unimaginable, then the reality hits when you are told that your child's body was found.

My world collapsed to know that my Kayla was brutally murdered by the same group of kids involved in the MS13 gang that have been bullying her in school for the last 2 years. I was left emotionally helpless because I couldn't protect her from these savages that are cold killers. Kayla's death opened the doors to find the bodies of 4 more kids that were missing students from Brentwood High School. Now the MS13 left their mark in communities to be known as the most vicious and brutal gang in history in and outside our schools.

Parents and community residents now live in fear and are afraid to let their kids play outside. The MS13 gang is so unpredictable, you just don't know who is who with them. MS13 is a new breed of murders, they are children, kids killing kids, and as they continue to grow so does their techniques of recruiting helpless kids into their wicked actions. We must change our laws to protect our children and community from these criminals. Bring long term resources and strategic Federal pilot programs that will bring solution to this gang epidemic, however this can't just be done by the law enforcement, local Government, we need the community to come together and be part of this process and take our streets back. We need to eradicate MS13 for good.