

NORMA J. TORRES
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2444 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-6161
FAX: (202) 225-8671

3200 INLAND EMPIRE, SUITE 200B
ONTARIO, CA 91764
PHONE: (909) 481-6474
FAX: (909) 941-1362

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
REGIONAL WHIP

The Honorable Sean O'Donnell
Acting Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350

October 19, 2021

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

I write to request the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General review the investigation and response to the death of Paratrooper Enrique Roman-Martinez, a 21-year-old paratrooper stationed at Fort Bragg who was murdered in May of last year. Enrique Roman-Martinez and his family are my constituents in California's 35th congressional district. Regrettably, the Army declared the investigation closed this summer, with no justice for Roman-Martinez or his family.

As we look forward to the holiday season, Specialist Roman-Martinez should be with his family. He should have been already discharged from the military and settling into his new life. Instead, his family has spent over 16 months painfully waiting for justice with no end in sight. During this time, the family has lost all confidence in the Army Criminal Investigation Command. That is why I urge the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General to conduct a full and independent examination of the response to and investigation of Roman-Martinez's murder.

In particular, I urge you to review the following:

1. The timeline of the investigation, including the length of time it took investigators to arrive at the scene, as well as when investigators decided to conduct various searches such as diving in nearby waters;
2. Whether any logistical or jurisdictional hurdles impacted the speed of the investigation or any other material portions of the investigative process;
3. The adequacy of coordination with other government law enforcement entities at the local, state, and federal level;
4. Communication with the family, including how language barriers were addressed and the notification of the family of the disappearance and later death of their loved one;
5. The current requirements for soldiers to report a missing member/co-worker; and

6. The Army's treatment of any people of interest during the investigation, including if the Army unduly delayed reducing base privileges of persons of interest who were members of the Army.

I thank you for your unwavering commitment to our servicemembers and their families, and I look forward to your swift attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can assist you in this ongoing effort. I look forward to any additional updates you can provide me and the Martinez family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norma J. Torres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress