

- BACKGROUND ONLY -

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** National LULAC and Green Card Veterans Council  
**RE:** Background on Deportation of Combat U.S. Marine Veteran  
**DATE:** October 25, 2019

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U.S. Marine Jose Segovia-Benitez, raised in Long Beach, California, was deported to El Salvador without notice to his attorneys, ICE Officials or his family. His military records reflect he served honorably in combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan and received multiple awards and decorations. Following his two tours, he returned home with traumatic brain injury and severe PTSD.

Segovia-Benitez was wrongly convicted of felonies and transported out of the United States after a five-day stay of his deportation. He did not receive the medical care to keep him out of a courtroom, a fate faced by many other combat veterans.

In 2008, during a criminal trial in Los Angeles, the judge prohibited medical evidence, including detailed PTSD evidence, to be submitted as part of Segovia-Benitez's defense. Due to financial constraints, Segovia-Benitez was unable to hire a lawyer to adequately defend himself against misdemeanor offenses convictions. These charges ultimately led to the deportation order.

Segovia-Benitez is no longer in any form of detention or incarceration. The Law Offices of Roy Petty & Associates in Dallas, are working diligently on his immigration case. The Law Office of Steve Seiden in Los Angeles, has begun to work on post-conviction relief of Segovia-Benitez's felony convictions in CA that make him inadmissible.

**TOM SANCHEZ DEFENDS JOSE SEGOVIA-BENITEZ IN COURT AND AGAINST DHS OFFICIALS**

Tom Sanchez, A USMC Veteran and Texas Attorney who has been designated by LULAC Green Card Vets to represent Segovia-Benitez was outraged by the accusations made from the Department of Homeland Security officials. The DHS painted a picture that is not supported by the actual incidents of this case, such as the underlying issue of why he was convicted of felonies in the first place. It is still unclear who ordered his deportation.

Sanchez believes the extensive criminal history described by DHS officials is only a result of Mr. Segovia-Benitez's inability to hire a lawyer during his single state court criminal trial, as the court barred any mention of him being a former Marine to the jury.

**CARLOS LUNA MAKES CLEAR THAT VETERANS ARE SUBJECT TO ABUSE BY ICE GUARDS**

Carlos Luna, the President of LULAC Council #5310, a green card veteran, stated the deportation was a deceptive tactic by ICE officials to silence him.

A GAO report published in June of this year revealed that DHS agencies do not adhere to their protocols when faced with non-citizen veterans. The same can be said for Segovia-Benitez's criminal convictions.

The GAO report failed to disclose the constant harassment and verbal abuse veterans like Segovia-Benitez are subjected to by ICE guards throughout their detention. Had Jose Segovia-Benitez received the appropriate resources and legal team needed to defend him, the court would have inadequate reasons to order his deportation.