

Office of Inspector General

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

December 8, 2004

The Honorable Kendrick Meek
U.S. House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0917

Dear Congressman Meek:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 2004, requesting an Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation into the circumstances of the death of a Department of Homeland Security detainee seeking asylum from Haiti, Joseph Danica. We have already begun a review of this matter, and we will be glad to report our findings to you or your staff at the conclusion of our review.

I should mention that in addition to our examining the discrete issue of the treatment of the Reverend Danica, a team of OIG auditors is examining the issue of whether there are systemic problems of abuse in DHS detention facilities. Among the facilities to be visited during the course of this review is the Krome facility in Miami, where the Reverend Danica was detained. If, as a result of this review, systemic changes are deemed necessary in this facility, we will make recommendations to that effect in the report that our auditors will prepare at the conclusion of their work.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me, or your staff may contact my congressional liaison, Tamara Faulkner, at (202) 254-4100. Again, thank you for writing to bring this serious matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clark Kent Ervin".

Clark Kent Ervin
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Tom Ridge