

Truth, Justice, and Accountability

Statement of Sean P. Murphy on behalf of Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero

Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero is a young man from Bucaramanga, Colombia, whose life was violently ripped and stolen from him in the early morning hours of July 13, 2026. He left his house that morning, as he did every morning, thinking primarily of the minute that he would return to hug his lovely wife, Karolina, and his beautiful, sweet daughter, Dulce. The night before that morning was a night like any other. Karolina was folding laundry, he announced that he was going to bed and they shared a kiss. Neither of them had any clue that kiss was to be their last.

Ranking Member Blumenthal and Ranking Member Garcia, thank you both for your dedication to and your relentless pursuit of truth, justice, and accountability.

My name is Sean P. Murphy and together with Ben Gideon, we are honored to represent the family and estate of Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero. I am similarly honored to sit here today and add my voice to

those of the friends, families, and community members that are here on behalf of Ruben Ray Martinez, Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and Lorenzo Salgado Araujo. This is an exclusive club whose membership dues no one would ever want to pay, a congregation whose baptism by hellfire no one should ever have to endure.

Regrettably, I did not have the privilege of knowing Johan Sebastián when he was alive. It is an odd and beautiful thing to only know Johan Sebastián through those he left behind.

I am grateful for the opportunity to preserve his memory in the records of the United States of America. I am proud to declare that although he was not a citizen of this country, he was an American in the purest sense of that word. He was a true patriot.

I knew him through his parents, Omar and Dora. They traveled here from Colombia to collect their son's body and fly it home. While they were here, I accompanied them to the funeral home in Portland where Johan's body lay. I stepped outside the room, but the cries of a mother over the body of her murdered son pierced those walls. In some sense I

believe those cries pierced space and time. As a side note, I believe that there is a parking spot in hell reserved especially for anyone who is a but-for factor in the causal link of those laments.

It was a lamentation that I never wanted to hear, and it is one that I never want to forget. I'm not sure if I felt her agony more with my ears or through my soul.

I have known Johan through his older sister, Daniela, who was the first to come to America and who loved her brother. I know that as any older sibling would, Daniela carries much guilt. I state for the record here today that Daniela, this is not your fault. You are not to blame. We know who the parties responsible are.

Finally, I have known Johan Sebastián through his partner, Karolina, and his daughter, Dulce. Karolina, I am amazed at your resilience. I would sacrifice greatly for even a fraction of the strength of character you possess. This country has taken so much from you, and I am sorry.

To spend two minutes with Dulce is to know that the fire of Johan Sebastián lives on. The world is a darker place for having extinguished his flame, but there is hope for a brighter future as Dulce's fire grows.

The loss of Johan Sebastián is a tragedy. In the past two months, Ben and I have been fighting for him. We will continue to fight for him and his legacy. We will continue to fight for truth, justice, and accountability.

And while I desperately want to keep this focused on the tragedy of losing even one life to the world, I would be remiss if I did not address the political elephant in the room, that on the other side of Johan's life lost is the nefarious decision by this administration to steal and take that life.

In doing so, I will tell you about one thing we recently learned. It's a detail of the shooting of Johan Sebastian that I am revealing publicly for the first time to you today. Karolina, Daniela, and I recently attended a meeting with representatives from the Maine AG's office, accompanied by immigration attorneys and community support representatives. By the way, the Maine AG's office is the first and only governmental agency that

has confirmed that they are investigating the deadly use of force by a federal agent.

Part of the purpose of the meeting was to return property that was found to have no evidentiary value. One item that was not returned was Dulce's car seat. After Karolina asked if that was going to be returned, she was told that it would not. Why? Because just as bullets fired by a federal agent struck and killed Johan Sebastián, a bullet fired by a federal agent struck and pierced Dulce's car seat. I would remind you that early reporting was that Dulce was in the car with Johan at the time of the shooting. She was not, thank God, but if she had been . . .

The only justification given for Johan's death was that it was in the interest of public safety. You know what actually keeps the public safe? Not shooting innocent and law-abiding fathers whose only dream is to build a better life for his family.

I will say this next part quietly but with the hope and belief that just as the grieving of Johan Sebastián's mother permeated the walls of the funeral home, this next declaration permeates the walls of this building

and reaches if not the ears, the soul of any public servant who has a soul left to receive it: Anyone who would defend the murder of Johan Sebastián is not a true patriot.

But because anger rings hollow unless accompanied by hope, allow me to conclude with a message of hope.

As every Mainer that has passed through the dead of winter knows, even the harshest cold must eventually yield to spring. And while according to the calendar, we are just now heading into winter, it is my hope and prayer that with the upcoming midterm elections, our nation will begin charting its path into spring.

I am sorry. I am sorry to all those around me. I am sorry to the people of Bucaramanga and the people of Colombia that we so gravely mistreated one of your own. I hope you'll allow me just a moment to express my thoughts in Spanish.

Esto no representa lo que somos como estadounidenses. Tenemos que ser mejores. Este presidente que quiere ser rey tiene que dejar inmediatamente de violar nuestro derecho a la vida.

The English language translation of this is:

This is not who we are as Americans. We have to do better. And this president and wannabe king must immediately stop violating our right to life.

I am sorry that neither Karolina nor Daniela can be here to properly honor Johan themselves. Although my voice and words are a poor substitute for their own, Karolina and Daniela have asked me to share the following statements with you and with the people of America:

From Daniela:

En nombre de mi familia y yo, queremos que la investigación de mi hermano Johan Sebastián sea transparente, y que su muerte no quede sin aclarar. El era un buen hombre que estaba en regla con sus documentos y no tenía ninguna orden de deportación. Ningún inmigrante merece ser tratado así.

The English translation of this is as follows: On behalf of my family and I, we want the investigation into the death of my brother, Johan Sebastián, to be transparent so that the details surrounding his death are not left unclear. He was a good man that was following the rules with his documents. He did not have a deportation order. No immigrant deserves to be treated this way.

From Karolina:

Ningún inmigrante debería ser asesinado de esta forma. En nombre de la familia de mi esposo de mi y de mi hija exigimos justicia.

In English: No immigrant should be murdered in this way. On behalf of my husband's family, my daughter, and myself, we insist on justice.

Senator Blumenthal and Representative Garcia, I hope that we can meet again soon after the midterms with renewed hope for truth, justice, and accountability.