

November 18, 2025

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Attorney General of California
1300 "T" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2919

Nathan J. Hochman
Los Angeles County District Attorney
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Request for Investigations into Unlawful Immigration Actions Against
U.S. Citizens in California

Dear Attorney General Bonta and District Attorney Hochman,

We write to ask your offices to open criminal investigations into the unlawful arrests and detentions of U.S. citizens by federal immigration authorities in California. Federal immigration officers are targeting Latino communities, and in their patrols and raids are subjecting members of your communities to unnecessary force, threats, coercion, kidnapping, and unlawful detention in violation of California state criminal laws; and they repeatedly have victimized U.S. citizens during their operations. To be clear: if federal officers commit a crime against *any* resident of California, your offices should investigate regardless of the victim's documentation or immigration status. But this letter focuses on clear evidence that U.S. citizens are being subject to unlawful violence, arrest, abuse, and/or detention because federal immigration officers refuse to conduct basic due diligence, including refusing to listen to the citizens' protestation of citizenship or attempts to provide documentation.

Their status as federal officers does not immunize them from investigation and prosecution in California. Nor is President Donald Trump immune from investigation and prosecution in California for offenses that do not qualify as official acts. We respectfully ask your offices to immediately investigate the alleged offenses, ensure the preservation of relevant evidence, and, where appropriate, prosecute all of those involved as authorized by state and local law.

Background

Since taking office, President Trump has significantly ramped up efforts to detain and deport immigrants. The administration has recorded more than 400,000

deportations so far and is arresting between 1,000-2,000 people each day.¹ Despite a purported goal of arresting and deporting individuals with serious criminal records, an increasing majority of detainees have no criminal records at all, and only 8% convicted of any violent crime.² The White House set an arbitrary goal of 3,000 arrests per day and continues to pressure immigration enforcement agencies, such as the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), to increase their arrest rates through any means necessary.³ Between January 20, 2025 and June 26, 2025, ICE arrested approximately 8,460 immigrants across California, a 212% increase compared to the five months before Trump's inauguration.⁴

In June 2025, Trump unlawfully deployed 2,000 National Guard troops to California in defiance of Governor Newsom's objection,⁵ ostensibly to quell civilian protests against ICE's violent and disruptive raids in Los Angeles.⁶ During this unlawful occupation of the Los Angeles, federal immigration troops escalated their already aggressive immigration enforcement tactics and attacks on protesters.⁷ Trump has also threatened—and vacillated in his decision—to deploy federal agents to the Bay Area.⁸

¹ Priscilla Alvarez, *ICE has deported nearly 200K people since Trump returned to office, on track for highest level in a decade*, CNN (Aug. 28, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/28/politics/ice-deportations-immigrants-trump>; Press Release, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *New Milestone: Over 2 Million Illegal Aliens Out of the United States in Less Than 250 Days* (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/23/new-milestone-over-2-million-illegal-aliens-out-united-states-less-250-days>.

² Julia Ingram, *ICE detentions of non-criminal immigrants spike; about 8% have violent convictions, analysis of new data shows*, CBS News (June 30, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-detentions-non-criminal-immigrants-violent-crime-convictions-analysis>.

³ Alvarez, *supra* note 1.

⁴ Jenny Jarvie & Gabrielle LaMarr LeMee, *Texas, Florida hit with far more ICE arrests than California. But that's not the whole story*, L.A. Times (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-10/california-was-center-stage-in-ice-raids-but-texas-and-florida-each-saw-more-immigration-arrests>.

⁵ Nigel Duara, Jeanne Kuang & Sergio Olmos, *Gavin Newsom asks Trump to withdraw troops from Los Angeles as protests intensify*, CalMatters (June 8, 2025), <https://calmatters.org/justice/2025/06/national-guard-los-angeles>.

⁶ Presidential Memoranda, *Department of Defense Security for the Protection of Department of Homeland Security Functions* (June 7, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/06/department-of-defense-security-for-the-protection-of-department-of-homeland-security-functions>.

⁷ Megan Lebowitz, *California Democrats push back on Trump's decision to mobilize the National Guard*, NBC News (June 8, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/california-democrats-push-back-trumps-decision-mobilize-national-guard-rca211718>; Reis Thebault & Molly Hennessy-Fiske, *'He's waging a war on us': As Trump escalates, Angelenos defend their city*, Wash. Post (June 9, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/06/09/los-angeles-protests-residents-trump-ice>.

⁸ Maanvi Singh, *Trump poised to send scores of federal agents to San Francisco*, Guardian (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/22/trump-federal-agents-san-francisco>; Hamed Aleaziz & Soumya Karlamangla, *Federal Surge Called Off Across the Bay Area, Officials Confirm*,

Immigration officials are blatantly disregarding federal rules around immigration enforcement and may well be violating California state criminal laws, including crimes of kidnapping, assault and battery, false arrest and imprisonment, and theft. Immigration officers—often while actively obscuring or failing to disclose their identities and affiliations—have physically harmed people and property before even beginning to ask questions, responded skeptically and violently to honest assertions of U.S. citizenship, and severely mistreated detained individuals in their custody and control.⁹

This behavior has been officially sanctioned by Trump himself, who actually believes that his immigration agents have not gone far enough: “I think they haven't gone far enough because we've been held back by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in by Biden and by Obama.”¹⁰ He also stated his comfort with the current tactics “because you have to get the people out.”¹¹

Ordinary citizens are paying the price for Trump's aggressive immigration strategies.¹² They have been kidnapped from their neighborhoods, on their commute, and outside schools, subjected to baseless and unlawful immigration detention, targeted in each case because of their race or ethnicity or because they were present near anti-ICE protests. Examples, which are by no means exhaustive, include:

- Cary López Alvarado,¹³ who was arrested in Hawthorne, CA and detained for several hours by CBP agents while she was in her final weeks of pregnancy. Despite the fact that Ms. Alvarado told the CBP agents that she was a U.S.-born citizen and in her final weeks of pregnancy, CBP agents shoved her, placed in shackles that weighed on her abdomen, arrested her, and detained for several hours. Experiencing sharp abdominal pain after her release, she was hospitalized and went into labor prematurely. Ms. Alvarado was not charged with any crime.

N.Y. Times (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/24/us/bay-area-san-francisco-trump-immigration.html>.

⁹ J. David McSwane & Hannah Allam, *Unfettered and Unaccountable: How Trump is Building a Violent, Shadowy Federal Police Force*, ProPublica (Oct. 18, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-dhs-ice-secret-police-civil-rights-unaccountable>.

¹⁰ Aliza Chasan, *Trump says ICE raids “haven't gone far enough,”* CBS News (Nov. 2, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-says-ice-raids-havent-gone-far-enough-60-minutes>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Nicole Foy & Sarahbeth Maney, *We Found That More Than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held by Immigration Agents. They've Been Kicked, Dragged and Detained for Days*, ProPublica (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will>.

¹³ Julia Marnin, *Pregnant US citizen arrested by ICE went into labor prematurely in CA, claim says*, Sacramento Bee (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article311854422.html>; Will Conybeare, *Pregnant US citizen detained by Border Patrol agents: ‘We didn’t do anything wrong,’* Hill (June 19, 2025), <https://thehill.com/latino/5359169-pregnant-us-citizen-border-patrol-agents>.

- Andrea Guadalupe Velez,¹⁴ who was heading to work in Los Angeles when a federal immigration agent grabbed her and slammed her to the ground, claiming that she was interfering with the agent's work. Despite stating that she was a U.S. citizen and trying to seek help from nearby L.A. police officers, she was forcibly placed in an ICE vehicle and detained in substandard conditions for two days. Though she was initially and baselessly charged with assaulting a police officer, the charges were summarily dropped with no explanation after her attorney requested body-worn camera footage and witness statements, which she never received. In fact, authorities never provided any evidence proving Ms. Velez's culpability.
- George Retes,¹⁵ a disabled 25-year-old Army Veteran who works as a security guard in Camarillo, California. He was on his way to work when he encountered an ICE roadblock. Officers broke his car window, sprayed him with pepper spray and tear gas, and forcibly removed him from the vehicle. Two officers placed a knee on his back while another knelt on his neck, despite his compliance and repeated attempts to identify himself as a U.S. citizen. He was transported to a Navy base and then to the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown L.A., where he remained in custody for three nights. His jailers denied him medical care, showers, or fresh clothing and did not permit him to contact his family or an attorney. He was placed on suicide watch after becoming emotionally distraught. Officials provided no explanation for his detention and released him without charges.
- Baldomar Gutierrez,¹⁶ a 15-year-old with disabilities, who was waiting in the car with his mother, Andreina Mejia, outside his high school in Los Angeles when a white truck drove up and two masked men with guns approached on each side of the car. With no reason or basis, the officers pulled them both from the car and separated them and placed her son in handcuffs. Baldomar stated that he was a U.S. citizen, 15 years old, and a student. Ms. Mejia volunteered to get identification for her son from their home, but agents refused the offer. After seven minutes, the officers decided they had detained the wrong person. An officer callously joked that the boy would now have an exciting experience to tell his friends about. No charges were filed against him.

¹⁴ Sam Levin, *US citizens jailed in LA Ice raids speak out: 'They came ready to attack,'* Guardian (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/05/us-citizens-jailed-ice-los-angeles>.

¹⁵ Angelique Brenes, *U.S. Army vet detained by ICE during California cannabis raid takes on federal government*, KTLA 5 (Aug. 18, 2025), <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/army-vet-detained-by-ice-takes-on-federal-government>.

¹⁶ Howard Blume, *ICE detention of student was 'unconstitutional racial profiling,' family alleges in claim*, L.A. Times (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-26/family-of-student-arrested-outside-arlete-high-allege-racial-profiling-trump-administration>.

- Javier Ramirez,¹⁷ who was working at an auto body shop in Montebello, CA when masked and armed CBP agents in an unmarked white SUV appeared in the parking lot. One agent pointed him out and said, “Get him, he’s Mexican.” Though Mr. Ramirez told the officers that he could show them his passport, they violently continued their arrest. Two agents tackled and forced Mr. Ramirez facedown to the ground. While Mr. Ramirez begged for an ambulance and blood dripped down his forehead, they forced him up and drove him to a federal detention center. They also refused to take Mr. Ramirez’s medication with him, despite his brother trying to hand it to the officers and explain that Mr. Ramirez needs it to treat his diabetes. While imprisoned, detention center officials refused to allow Mr. Ramirez to speak with his lawyer. After four days in detention, Mr. Ramirez was released on bond, and the charges were later dropped without explanation.

These are just samples of a much longer list of citizens who have been wrongly targeted by immigration officials. Free Speech For People has gathered public reports of federal officers wrongly arresting and/or detaining 26 U.S. citizens in California. Descriptions, along with links to the public sources of information, are included in the appendix to this letter. Each of these incidents—and any other attacks on citizens that have not been publicly reported but which your offices may have knowledge of—merit a full investigation by your offices to determine whether federal officers violated California criminal laws in violently arresting and detaining these U.S. citizens.

Basis for Criminal Investigation

Federal Immigration Officers Violated State Criminal Laws

Your offices should investigate or order investigations to determine whether federal immigration officials may have violated California state criminal laws in the course of conducting illegal arrests and detentions. Potential criminal violations include, but are not limited to, kidnapping, assault and battery, false arrest and imprisonment, and theft:

- **Kidnapping**, California Penal Code § 207(a) (“Every person who forcibly, or by any other means of instilling fear, steals or takes, or holds, detains, or arrests any person in this state... is guilty of kidnapping.”):
 - Though arrests carried out “in the manner authorized by law” by a peace officer are exempt from the kidnapping statute, Cal. Penal Code § 207(f)(2) (West); Cal. Penal Code § 834 (West); *see also* Cal. Penal Code § 830.8 (West) (permitting federal law enforcement officers to

¹⁷ Marnin, *supra* note 13; Jennifer Medina, *I’m an American, Bro!': Latinos Report Raids in Which U.S. Citizenship Is Questioned*, N.Y. Times (June 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/15/us/hispanic-americans-raids-citizenship.html>; RAW: CA: *Javier Ramirez / U.S. Citizen Detained by ICE*, Local 3 News (Aug. 20, 2025), https://www.local3news.com/regional-national/raw-ca-javier-ramirez-u-s-citizen-detained-by-ice/video_aa4ac13d-a8ec-5e46-9196-4f31d22aba0e.html.

exercise the powers of arrest of a peace officer in specific circumstances), arrests carried out *outside* the manner authorized by law are not exempt. *E.g.*, *People v. Alvarez*, 246 Cal. App. 4th 989, 1004, 201 Cal. Rptr. 3d 468, 481 (2016) (“At the point at which defendant began to offer an alternative to jail while driving the patrol car, he was not ‘acting under’ a lawful arrest but to pursue his own prurient interests. Accordingly, there is substantial evidence to support a finding that the lawful arrest defense did not apply to absolve defendant of criminal liability.”).

- As detailed in the section below explaining why immunity does not apply, federal immigration officials are operating outside the manner of law in their interactions with U.S. citizens.
- **Assault**, Cal. Penal Code § 240 (West) (“[A]n unlawful attempt, coupled with a present ability, to commit a violent injury on the person of another.”), and **Battery**, Cal. Penal Code § 242 (West) (“[A]ny willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another.”):
 - “Under California law, a defendant cannot be convicted of both assault and battery, as every battery includes an element of assault, ‘and is, in fact, a consummated assault.’” *Garcia v. City of Merced*, 637 F. Supp. 2d 731, 748 (E.D. Cal. 2008) (quoting *People v. Lopez*, 47 Cal. App. 3d 8, 15, 120 Cal. Rptr. 562, 566 (Ct. App. 1975)).
 - “To sustain a claim of assault and battery against a police officer under state law, plaintiffs must provide evidence that the officer used unreasonable force.” *Phillips v. City of Fairfield*, 406 F. Supp. 2d 1101, 1117 (E.D. Cal. 2005).
 - Immigration officials are not permitted to use threats, coercion, or physical abuse—yet, nearly all of the incidents involve the aggressive use of force against relatively passive or cooperative individuals.
- **False Arrest**, Cal. Penal Code § 146 (West) (“Every public officer... who, under the pretense or color of any process or other legal authority, does any of the following, without a regular process or other lawful authority, is guilty of a misdemeanor: (a) Arrests any person or detains that person against his or her will....”), and **False Imprisonment**, Cal. Penal Code § 236 (West) (“[T]he unlawful violation of the personal liberty of another.”):
 - “False arrest and false imprisonment are not separate torts, the former being one way to commit the latter.... A false imprisonment claim based upon an arrest without a warrant merely requires an allegation that there was an arrest without process, an imprisonment occurred and damages.” *Garcia v. City of Merced*, 637 F. Supp. 2d 731, 752 (E.D. Cal. 2008).

- Barbara Stone’s arrest exemplifies false imprisonment under California law, as immigration officers arrested the 71-year-old grandmother at the San Diego courthouse and placed her in a small room in the courthouse for eight hours, denied her access to an attorney, and ultimately released her with no explanation.¹⁸
- Immigration agents also took Adrian Andrew Martinez to a parking structure near the federal jail instead of the jail itself for several hours while officers tried to get him to admit he assaulted them.¹⁹
- **Theft**, Cal. Penal Code § 484(a) (West) (“Every person who shall feloniously steal, take, carry, lead, or drive away the personal property of another, or who shall fraudulently appropriate property which has been entrusted to him or her, or who shall knowingly and designedly, by any false or fraudulent representation or pretense, defraud any other person of money, labor or real or personal property, ... is guilty of theft.”):
 - In several of these incidents, immigration officers have confiscated and never returned individuals’ phones, belongings, or identification, as with Jason Brian Gavidia’s identification;²⁰ Barbara Stone’s phone;²¹ and Angelica Guerrero’s shoelaces, phone, and wallet.²²

Where facts indicate that immigration officials violated any of these or other state criminal laws while targeting U.S. citizens (or indeed any California resident), further investigation and potentially prosecution is warranted.

Immunity Does Not Preclude Prosecution

The immunity available to federal officials under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution is not available in all circumstances and does not preclude criminal investigation and prosecution here. The Supremacy Clause “is designed to ensure that states do not ‘retard, impede, burden, or in any manner control’ the execution of federal law.” *New York v. Tanella*, 374 F.3d 141, 147 (2d Cir. 2004) (quoting *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 17 U.S. (4 Wheat.) 316, 436 (1819)). It does not protect federal officers who act outside the law or beyond what is subjectively and

¹⁸ Matthew Bowler, *A volunteer legal observer says she was left bruised after being detained by ICE agents at federal courthouse*, KPBS (July 11, 2025), <https://www.kpbs.org/news/border-immigration/2025/07/10/a-volunteer-legal-observer-says-she-was-left-bruised-after-being-detained-by-ice-agents-at-federal-courthouse>.

¹⁹ Brittney Mejia, *Former Walmart worker indicted after trying to intervene in immigration arrest*, L.A. Times (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-20/walmart-worker-indicted-immigration-arrest>.

²⁰ Jennifer Medina, *I’m an American, Bro!?: Latinos Report Raids in Which U.S. Citizenship Is Questioned*, N.Y. Times (June 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/15/us/hispanic-americans-raids-citizenship.html>.

²¹ Bowler, *supra* note 18.

²² Luz Pena, *Federal agents arrest US citizen for 24 hours after ICE protest outside SF immigration building*, ABC7 News (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://abc7news.com/post/federal-agents-arrest-us-citizen-24-hours-ice-protest-outside-san-francisco-immigration-building/17609890>.

objectively necessary and proper. *Cunningham v. Neagle*, 135 U.S. 1, 75 (1890); *Kentucky v. Long*, 837 F.2d 727, 744 (6th Cir. 1988) (“Under *Neagle*, a state court has no jurisdiction if (1) the federal agent was performing an act which he was authorized to do by the law of the United States and (2) in performing that authorized act, the federal agent did no more than what was necessary and proper for him to do.”); *Battle v. State*, 252 Md. App. 280, 258 A.3d 1009, 1021 (2021) (rejecting Supremacy Clause immunity for a Department of Homeland Security officer who was prosecuted for assaulting a civilian outside the scope of his duties and beyond what was necessary and proper). To satisfy the “necessary and proper” prong, “two conditions must be satisfied: (1) the actor must subjectively believe that his action is justified; and (2) that belief must be objectively reasonable.” *Tanella*, 374 F.3d at 147 (citing *Whitehead v. Senkowski*, 943 F.2d 230, 234 (2d Cir. 1991); *Long*, 837 F.2d at 744).

If a criminal investigation finds even one of the following—that federal officials lacked legal authority, did not believe their actions were authorized, or could not have reasonably believed so—then state prosecution may proceed. Even if some individual agents are found to have genuinely not understood the law, their superiors—who have ordered, approved, and defended such actions—clearly did, and should be held accountable for violating state criminal laws. The fact that this conduct could involve senior officials in the Trump Administration provides no shield to appropriate investigation and prosecution for criminal acts that do not satisfy the *Neagle* test.

Federal Immigration Likely Lacked Legal Authority

The law circumscribes the authority of federal immigration officers, including CBP and ICE, to arrest and detain U.S. citizens. Federal immigration officials exceeded the bounds of the law in their warrantless arrests and detentions of U.S. citizens in California and could not have reasonably believed that their actions were authorized under law.

Federal immigration officers are authorized to question people believed to be aliens about their presence in the United States. 8 U.S.C.A. § 1357 (West). “An immigration officer, like any other person, has the right to ask questions of anyone as long as the immigration officer does not restrain the freedom of an individual, not under arrest, to walk away.” 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(b)(1) (2025) (emphasis added). In numerous instances involving U.S. citizens in California, immigration officials have restrained the freedom of the individual first and asked questions afterwards, if at all, and only when prompted by the citizen’s assertions that they are a U.S. citizen. Indeed, immigration officials repeatedly have ignored the citizen’s protestation of their citizenship, refused to allow them to provide evidence, and violently arrested and imprisoned them anyway.

For example, immigration officials tackled Mr. Ramirez and detained him for four days without access to a lawyer or medication, despite being told during his arrest that he could provide them with proof of his citizenship. Heidi Plummer, an

attorney and U.S. citizen, was detained in an immigration raid in a park and only permitted to provide her identification *after* being transported to a detention facility.²³ CBP agents also pushed Jason Brian Gavidia against a wall and physically manhandled him before the agents ultimately confiscated his identification after verifying he was a citizen.²⁴ Immigration agents also followed the “attack first, ask questions later approach” with George Retes,²⁵ Angel Piña,²⁶ Andreina Meijia’s minor son,²⁷ and Rodrigo Almendarez.²⁸

A federal immigration officer is permitted to briefly detain a person for questioning if the immigration officer has a “reasonable suspicion, based on specific articulable facts, that the person being questioned is, or is attempting to be, engaged in an offense against the United States, or is an alien illegally in the United States.” 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(b)(2) (2025). This regulatory language effectuates the full force of traditional Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable search and seizure in immigration enforcement. *Sanchez v. Sessions*, 904 F.3d 643, 652 n.9 (9th Cir. 2018); *Sanchez v. Barr*, 919 F.3d 1193, 1200 (9th Cir. 2019) (Paez, J., concurring).

Public reports indicate that while conducting immigration raids, federal immigration officers are detaining bystanders, observers, and protestors without any reasonable suspicion of the person’s undocumented immigration status or criminal activity. These detentions appear to be motivated by racial stereotyping, false assumptions based on the victim’s proximity to other potentially undocumented individuals, and anger at victims who are lawfully documenting the raids or lawfully exercising their First Amendment rights to oppose the Trump Administration’s policies and practices. There are reported instances of federal officers ordering or carrying out an arrest solely because they assume that a Hispanic-presenting individual is not a citizen, as in the incidents involving Cary López Alvarado²⁹ and Javier Ramirez.³⁰ Other officers may be using false

²³ Douglas Saunders Sr., *OC attorney says she was detained in ICE raid at Santa Ana park*, Daily Journal (June 19, 2025), <https://www.dailyjournal.com/articles/386228-oc-attorney-says-she-was-detained-in-ice-raid-at-santa-ana-park>.

²⁴ Medina, *supra* note 20.

²⁵ Brenes, *supra* note 15.

²⁶ Jory Rand, *US citizen detained after federal agents show up at Ontario Stater Bros. store*, ABC 7 Eyewitness News (July 22, 2025), <https://abc7.com/post/us-citizen-detained-federal-agents-show-ontario-stater-bros-store/17238509>.

²⁷ Blume, *supra* note 16.

²⁸ Gina Silva, *US citizen says he was racially profiled as federal agents detained him outside his job*, Fox 11 L.A. (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://www.foxla.com/news/us-citizen-detained-by-ice-simi-valley-rodrigo-almendarez>.

²⁹ Nicole Acevedo, *A pregnant U.S. citizen went to the hospital after immigration agents detained her*, NBC News (June 10, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/pregnant-us-citizen-went-hospital-immigration-agents-detained-rcna212033> (“OK, your baby is going to be born here, but you’re from Mexico, right?”).

³⁰ Marnin, *supra* note 13 (“Get him, he’s Mexican.”).

accusations to arrest individuals on the ground, as may be the case with Adrian Andrew Martinez,³¹ Andrea Guadalupe Velez,³² and Barbara Stone.³³

None of these motivations qualify as “reasonable suspicion.” Mere assumptions about race,³⁴ physical proximity to undocumented immigrants or protests,³⁵ and the exercise of protected First Amendment rights³⁶ are not grounds for “reasonable suspicion” that a person is undocumented or otherwise warrants arrest. Though the recent Supreme Court emergency stay in *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* raises unanswered questions about the role that race may play in identifying undocumented immigrants, even Justice Kavanaugh’s concurrence underscores that “apparent ethnicity alone cannot furnish reasonable suspicion” and that questioning of individuals, even with reasonable suspicion, is expected to be brief and minimally disruptive once they clarify that their legal status. No. 25A169, 2025 WL 2585637, at *1, 5 (U.S. Sept. 8, 2025).

It does not appear that any of the publicly reported instances of U.S. citizens being detained and arrested by federal immigration officials in California meet the basic standard of reasonable suspicion, making such arrests and detentions unlawful and outside the authority of the officers conducting the arrests.

Beyond overstepping constitutional and statutory authority, the conduct of immigration officials also contravenes the regulations that circumscribe their actions, including 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(iii, v)(2025) (immigration officers must identify themselves as an immigration officer authorized to execute an arrest, state

³¹ Mejia, *supra* note 19.

³² Levin, *supra* note 14.

³³ Lillian Perlmutter, *When ICE arrests US citizens, there’s little clear path for what happens next*, Stocktonia (Aug 25, 2025), <https://stocktonia.org/news/immigration/2025/08/25/ice-arrests-us-citizens>.

³⁴ *United Farm Workers v. Noem*, No. 1:25-CV-00246 JLT CDB, 2025 WL 1235525, at *46 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2025) (quoting *United States v. Montero-Camargo*, 208 F.3d 1122, 1134 (9th Cir. 2000)) (“The Ninth Circuit has held for at least 25 years that ‘Hispanic appearance is of little or no use in determining which particular individuals among the vast Hispanic populace should be stopped by law enforcement officials on the lookout for illegal aliens.’”).

³⁵ *Perez Cruz v. Barr*, 926 F.3d 1128, 1138 (9th Cir. 2019), quoting *Ybarra v. Illinois*, 444 U.S. 85, 86, 100 S. Ct. 338, 339, 62 L. Ed. 2d 238 (1979) (“[A] person’s mere propinquity to others independently suspected of [unlawful] activity does not, without more, give rise to probable cause to search [or seize] that person.”).

³⁶ *Askins v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 899 F.3d 1035, 1044 (9th Cir. 2018) (“The First Amendment protects the ... right to record law enforcement officers engaged in the exercise of their official duties in public places.”); *Hartman v. Moore*, 547 U.S. 250, 256, 126 S. Ct. 1695, 1701, 164 L. Ed. 2d 441 (2006), cited in *Nieves v. Bartlett*, 587 U.S. 391, 398, 139 S. Ct. 1715, 1722, 204 L. Ed. 2d 1 (2019) (“[T]he First Amendment prohibits government officials from subjecting an individual to retaliatory actions, including criminal prosecutions, for speaking out.”), *City of Houston, Tex. v. Hill*, 482 U.S. 451, 461, 107 S. Ct. 2502, 2509, 96 L. Ed. 2d 398 (1987) (“[t]he First Amendment protects a significant amount of verbal criticism and challenge directed at police officers.... [Only] fighting words... [that] produce a clear and present danger of serious substantive evil that arises far above public inconvenience, annoyance, or unrest [can be reasonably criminalized].”).

the reason for the arrest, and advise the arrested person of their rights as soon as possible, just like all law enforcement officers); 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(vi) (2025) (anyone arrested by immigration officers on a criminal violation are to be brought “without unnecessary delay” to the appropriate judicial officer); 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(vii) (2025) (“The use of threats, coercion, or physical abuse by the designated immigration officer to induce a suspect to waive his or her rights or to make a statement is expressly prohibited”).

If a criminal investigation finds even one of the following—that federal officials lacked legal authority, did not believe their actions were authorized, or could not have reasonably believed so—then state prosecution may proceed. Here, there is strong evidence that at least one—if not all three—of those conclusions is met in many of the circumstances described above. Therefore, federal law enforcement would not be entitled to immunity from prosecution for violating California criminal law.

Conclusion

We applaud the actions that California officials have already taken to oppose the Trump Administration’s unlawful immigration enforcement tactics. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, Rep. Robert Garcia of Long Beach (Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee), and Senator Richard Blumenthal (Ranking Member of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations) are working together to investigate the immigration crackdown’s impact on U.S. citizens.³⁷ Attorney General Robert Bonta has taken critically important steps to challenge the Trump Administration’s attempt to militarize L.A. in response to protests against immigration enforcement actions.³⁸ We also applaud Attorney General Bonta for leading multistate coalitions in amicus briefs in support of California cities against Trump Administration’s mass immigration raids³⁹ and in

³⁷ Noah Goldberg & Rachel Uranga, *L.A. to host congressional hearing on arrests of U.S. citizens in immigration raids*, L.A. Times (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-10-20/mayor-immigrant-rights-demand-accountability-unlawful-detentions>; Press Release, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform – Democrats, *Ranking Member Robert Garcia Launches Investigation Into DHS with Sen. Blumenthal, Joins LA Mayor Karen Bass to Demand Accountability for Unlawful Detentions of U.S. Citizens and Immigrants by Federal Agents* (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/news/press-releases/ranking-member-robert-garcia-launches-investigation-dhs-sen-blumenthal-joins-la>.

³⁸ Amy Goodman, *“They Will Be Held Accountable”: California AG Takes Trump to Court for Deploying National Guard*, Democracy Now! (Aug. 11, 2025), https://www.democracynow.org/2025/8/11/trump_california.

³⁹ Press Release, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, *Attorney General Bonta Continues Support of Litigation Challenging Unconstitutional Immigration Stops in Southern California* (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-continues-support-litigation-challenging-unconstitutional>.

support of the individual plaintiffs suing against immigration officials' unconstitutional and unlawful stops of L.A. residents during immigration sweeps.⁴⁰

Also noteworthy is San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins's vocal support for using state criminal laws to hold immigration officers responsible for their transgressions: "I have an obligation to ensure that any law enforcement that deployed to San Francisco federally abides by the laws of our state and does not engage in harassment or uses of excessive force or anything else that crosses the boundaries of the law."⁴¹ Speaker Emerita and Rep. Nancy Pelosi has also supported using state criminal laws to arrest federal agents where appropriate.⁴²

The path forward is clear: where federal officers violate California state criminal law to harm any of its residents—citizens or not, regardless of documentation or status—local and state law enforcement have the authority and obligation to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute. This applies whether the offender is an ICE agent, supervising official, or the President himself. The crimes listed here are particularly egregious because the federal officers had every opportunity to correct their erroneous assumptions and instead chose, at every turn, to subject citizens to violence, abuse, and illegal detention.

We therefore strong urge your offices to initiate investigations into whether charges should be brought against those responsible for the unlawful assault, arrest, and detention of U.S. citizens in California.

Sincerely,

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⁴⁰ Press Release, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, *Attorney General Bonta Celebrates Court Order Blocking Federal Agents from Violating Angelenos' Civil Rights During Immigration Raids* (July 11, 2025), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-celebrates-court-order-blocking-federal-agents-violating>.

⁴¹ Raj Mathai, *Watch: San Francisco DA discusses Trump's plan to send National Guard*, NBC Bay Area (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/video/news/local/brooke-jenkins-da-sf-national-guard/3967731>; Heather Knight & Kellen Browning, *Pelosi Says Police May Arrest Federal Agents Who Violate California Law*, N.Y. Times (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/22/us/politics/nancy-pelosi-ice-agent-arrest.html>.

⁴² Nancy Pelosi (@SpeakerPelosi), X (Oct. 22, 2025, at 11:50 PM), <https://x.com/SpeakerPelosi/status/1981206596815639007>.

APPENDIX

Almendarez, Rodrigo	A-1
Castillo Jr., Jose Manuel	A-2
Doilez, George & Esmerelda	A-3
Dominguez, Isaac	A-4
Garcia, Job	A-5
Gavidia, Jason Brian	A-6
Guerrero, Angelica	A-7
Gutierrez, Baldomar	A-8
Hernandez Virmontes, Jorge	A-9
López Alvarado, Cary	A-10
Martinez, Adrian Andrew	A-11
Martinez, Leonardo Espartaco	A-12
Medina, Sabrina	A-13
Piña, Angel	A-14
Plummer, Heidi	A-15
Ramirez, Javier	A-16
Ramirez Diaz, Juan	A-17
Retes, George	A-18
Sandoval, Alberto	A-19
Shouhed, Rafie Ollah	A-20
Siemons, Rachel	A-21
Stone, Barbara	A-22
Treback, Amanda	A-23
Velez, Andrea Guadalupe	A-24
Wong, Jeane “Blue”	A-25

Name: Rodrigo Almendarez

Incident Date: 8/21/2025

Location: Simi Valley

Length of Detention: Arrested but not detained

Charged: No

Description: Almendarez, who works as a driver for JB Wholesale Roofing and Building Supplies, was handcuffed outside his job by federal immigration agents. They did not say who they were, who they were looking for, or what Almendarez did wrong. Agents let him go only after seeing his ID and hearing his coworker yell that Almendarez was a U.S. citizen. Agents were so eager to detain Almendarez that they left their SUV in drive and the vehicle rolled forward as an agent ran after it. Almendarez said, “I am dark skin, I am Mexican, I am brown. It makes me mad. Really mad. Like I said, I’m American. You know, my background is Mexican, but I was born in this country. They would have got off and asked me, ‘hey, sir, we have a question.’ I could have answered, but they didn’t. They profiled me, just tried to grab me like if I was a criminal.” Almendarez has said he plans to file a lawsuit.

Sources:

- Gina Silva, *US citizen says he was racially profiled as federal agents detained him outside his job*, Fox 11 L.A. (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://www.foxla.com/news/us-citizen-detained-by-ice-simi-valley-rodrigo-almendarez>.
- Billal Rahman, *US Citizen Says ICE Agents Tried to Detain Him Because ‘I Am Brown,’* Newsweek (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.newsweek.com/us-citizen-detained-ice-agents-immigration-2119223>.

Name: Jose Manuel Castillo, Jr.

Incident Date: 7/17/2025

Location: Sacramento

Length of Detention: 12 hours

Charged: Yes

Description: Castillo is a volunteer for the organization NorCal Resist, which opposes the immigration raids and seeks to document them. CBP agents wearing black masks and camouflage gear chased him through the parking lot of a Home Depot store in Sacramento, where they were conducting an immigration raid targeting day laborers. His wife recorded the incident and yelled to the officers that he was a U.S. citizen. CBP agents still wrestled Castillo to the ground and detained him at a facility in Stockton for 12 hours, where they allegedly beat him. CBP claims that Castillo was chased and detained because he punctured a tire on one of their vehicles. He has since been charged with a misdemeanor of vandalism, which carries a sentence of up to one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine and year of supervised release.

Sources:

- Sharon Bernstein, *Federal officers arrested a US citizen in Sacramento raid — was it legal?*, Sacramento Bee (July 18, 2025), <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article310948360.html>.
- Jonathan Ayestas, *Sacramento man accused of puncturing Border Patrol vehicle tire during Home Depot raid*, KCRA 3 (July 28, 2025), <https://www.kcra.com/article/sacramento-home-depot-raid-man-charged-cbp-tire/65530654>.
- Sharon Bernstein, *US citizen arrested in Sacramento immigration raid faces vandalism charge*, Sacramento Bee (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article311774222.html>.

Names: George and Esmerelda Doilez

Incident Date: 8/6/2025

Location: Boulevard

Length of Detention: 30 min (encounter only, no detention)

Charged: No

Description: George and Esmeralda Doilez were heading to a dental appointment and took time on the way to explore Jacumba and the surrounding area for the first time. A dark-colored SUV started following them near McCain Valley Recreation Area, put on a siren, and pulled them over. CBP agents approached wearing masks. Esmeralda recorded the interaction. CBP claimed that they stopped them because “you did U-turns and there’s a known alien out in the area.” George did not consent to a search and stated that he and his wife were avid campers exploring on their way to the dentist. The agent said, “If you have a dentist appointment, it probably wasn’t the best decision to be out in the middle of nowhere.” The CBP called a K-9 unit, which detected a small amount of legally purchased cannabis. The agent then said they now had probable cause and that the couple would be arrested if they did not get out for a full search of the vehicle. They conducted a full search, after which the agent stated that he could seize their vehicle and ticket them for having marijuana, but that he would let them off with a warning.

Sources:

- Shelby Bremer, *Couple alleges racial profiling in Border Patrol stop they recorded on video*, NBC 7 San Diego (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/couple-alleges-racial-profiling-in-border-patrol-stop-they-recorded-on-video/3883679>.

Name: Isaac Dominguez

Incident Date: 8/16/2025

Location: Anaheim

Length of Detention: 6 hours

Charged: No

Description: Federal officers arrested Dominguez outside the Euclid Car Wash in Anaheim. He had pulled over because he noticed immigration agents at the business. He saw 3-4 black SUVs and a white van blocking access to the car wash. He was watching the scene and “pump-faked” (pretended to throw) a water bottle. Agents threw a smoke canister and chased him down. Video shows uniformed, masked agents tackling him to the ground as he tried to flee through the parking lot. Video shows Dominguez calling out that he “can’t breathe” as an agent pins him down. After being held for several hours, Dominguez was released without charges.

Sources:

- Hannah Fry, *Anaheim warns of ‘most significant and disruptive’ immigration raids as feds swarm city*, L.A. Times (Aug. 18, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-18/weekend-immigration-raids-prompt-concern-from-anaheim-officials>.
- KCalNews - CBS News L.A. (@kcalnews), Instagram (Aug. 18, 2025), <https://www.instagram.com/kcalnews/reel/DNgTX-pBLcS>.
- Tracey Leong & Karla Rendon, *US citizen recounts being detained by federal agents in Anaheim*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/us-citizen-recounts-being-detained-by-federal-agents-in-anaheim/3766138>.
- Elizabeth Chavolla, *Arrests made in multiple immigration raids over the weekend in Anaheim*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/arrests-made-in-multiple-immigration-raids-over-the-weekend-in-anaheim/3766049>.

Name: Job Garcia

Incident Date: 6/18/2025

Location: Hollywood

Length of Detention: 1 day

Charged: No

Description: Garcia, a 37-year-old doctorate student at Claremont Graduate University, works as a Home Depot deliveryman on the weekends to earn extra money for school. Federal agents conducted an immigration raid outside the Home Depot in Hollywood, surrounding the store's parking lot and blocking people from exiting. Garcia was in the parking lot picking up a delivery order and began recording the raid activity. He and others saw agents order a man in his 50s or 60s to step out of his truck and then used a baton to smash the driver's side window. Garcia exclaimed that those agents had no right to be doing that. Garcia and others walked over to the man being detained and began informing him of his rights. Agents lunged at Garcia, and he pushed one of their hands off of him. The agents tackled him and pinned him to the ground, causing him to sustain several injuries. Agents transported him to Dodger Stadium where they verified his U.S. citizenship. Despite this verification, they then transported him to the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown L.A. where he was held for 24 hours before being released. Garcia has begun the Federal Tort Claims Act process to bring claims.

Sources:

- Leanne Suter, *US citizen says his arrest by federal agents was worth it if others got away*, ABC7 Chicago (June 6, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/job-garcia-us-citizen-says-arrest-during-hollywood-home-depot-ice-raid-was-worth-others-got-away/16809821>.
- Brittny Mejia & Rachel Uranga, *'A good day': Detained U.S. citizen said agents bragged after arresting dozens at Home Depot*, L.A. Times (June 20, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-20/border-patrol-agents-brag-in-front-of-detained>.
- Vivian Chow, *U.S. citizen detained in Hollywood immigration raid speaks out*, KTLA 5 (June 20, 2025), <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/u-s-citizen-detained-in-hollywood-immigration-raid-speaks-out>.
- Elizabeth Ahern, *U.S. Citizen Job Garcia Sues Department of Homeland Security for Unlawful Arrest by ICE Agents*, L.A. Magazine (July 11, 2025), <https://lamag.com/news-and-politics/us-citizen-job-garcia-sues-department-of-homeland-security-for-unlawful-arrest-by-ice-agents>.
- Cerise Castle, *Border Patrol and ICE Agents Are Arresting U.S. Citizens in Immigration Raids*, Am. Prospect (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://prospect.org/justice/2025-08-05-border-patrol-ice-arresting-us-citizens-los-angeles>.

Name: Jason Brian Gavidia

Incident Date: 6/12/2025

Location: Montebello

Length of Detention: No detention beyond sidewalk encounter

Charged: No

Description: Gavidia runs an auto body shop in Montebello. Masked and armed CBP agents in an unmarked white S.U.V. appeared in the parking lot and pressed him against a black metal fence. A federal agent pushed him against a wall and demanded proof of citizenship, asking him the name of the hospital where he was born. Gavidia shouted that he was born in the U.S. in East L.A. Agents confiscated Gavidia's Real ID and his phone. The phone was returned to him when he was released, but not his identification. A DHS spokesperson said Gavidia was detained on the street for investigation for interference but was released after being confirmed to be a U.S. citizen. Agents also violently took his friend, Ramirez (also a U.S. citizen) into custody during the same incident. Gavidia has joined a lawsuit challenging immigration enforcement tactics.

Sources:

- Jennifer Medina, *'I'm an American, Bro!': Latinos Report Raids in Which U.S. Citizenship Is Questioned*, N.Y. Times (June 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/15/us/hispanic-americans-raids-citizenship.html>.
- Billal Rahman, *Trump Supporter Detained by ICE Agents Regrets Vote: 'Were All Brainwashed'*, Newsweek (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://www.newsweek.com/trump-supporter-detained-ice-agents-immigration-2112676>.

Name: Angelica Guerrero

Incident Date: 8/20/2025

Location: San Francisco

Length of Detention: 24 hours

Charged: Yes

Description: Guerrero, a transgender woman, was protesting ICE with a small group outside one of the immigration buildings in San Francisco when an agent tackled and detained her. No one read her rights to her. She was taken to Alameda County Santa Rita Jail, where the walls were covered in feces and blood. Her friends and family were unable to find her after she was detained until the next morning. Her jailers did not permit her to make any phone calls. When she was released, they did not return her shoelaces, phone, and wallet—those items were allegedly kept as evidence. She was charged with misdemeanors interfering with federal agents and destruction of property.

Sources:

- Abigail Vân Neely, *Feds charge ICE protester with destroying property, assault in S.F.*, Mission Local (Aug. 21, 2025), <https://missionlocal.org/2025/08/ice-protester-charged-with-federal-misdemeanors-s-f>.
- Luz Pena, *Federal agents arrest US citizen for 24 hours after ICE protest outside SF immigration building*, ABC7 News (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://abc7news.com/post/federal-agents-arrest-us-citizen-24-hours-ice-protest-outside-san-francisco-immigration-building/17609890>.

Name: Baldomar Gutierrez

Incident Date: 8/11/2025

Location: Los Angeles

Length of Detention: 7 minutes

Charged: No

Description: Baldomar Gutierrez, a 15-year-old with disabilities, was waiting in the car with his mother, Andreina Mejia, outside of Arleta High School. A white truck drove up and two masked men with guns approached on each side of the car. The officers pulled them both from the car and separated them. Gutierrez had difficulty removing his seatbelt and then was immediately placed in handcuffs. He stated that he was a U.S. citizen, 15 years old, and a student. Mejia volunteered to get identification for her son from their home, but agents refused the offer. After seven minutes, the officers decided they had detained the wrong person. An officer joked that the boy would have an exciting experience to tell his friends about. No charges were filed. Mejia is suing on behalf of Gutierrez and appears to have started a Federal Tort Claims Act case.

Sources:

- Howard Blume, *ICE detention of student was 'unconstitutional racial profiling,' family alleges in claim*, L.A. Times (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-26/family-of-student-arrested-outside-arlete-high-allege-racial-profiling-trump-administration>.
- Lolita Lopez & Karla Rendon, *Mom of teen detained in front of Arleta school announces legal action against feds*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/legal-claim-arleta-teen-detained/3770321>.
- Julia Marnin, *15-year-old US citizen held at gunpoint by ICE agents at CA school, claim says*, Sacramento Bee (Aug. 29, 2025), <https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article311889096.html>.
- Cesar Arredondo, *Petition Asks United Nations to Investigate Human Rights Violations of Latinos in the U.S.*, San Fernando Valley Sun/El Sol (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://sanfernandosun.com/2025/09/24/petition-asks-united-nations-to-investigate-human-rights-violations-of-latinos-in-the-u-s>.

Name: Jorge Hernandez Viramontes

Incident Date: 6/18/2025

Location: Orange County

Length of Detention: 30 minutes

Charged: No

Description: Hernandez Viramontes, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico, was working at a car wash when immigration arrived for the third time since June 9, 2025. The agents did not identify themselves or show a warrant. Agents asked him if he was a citizen, and he said yes. They asked for an ID, which he provided. Because he did not have a passport with him, the agents decided to take him. The agents placed him in a vehicle and transported him away. Agents verified his citizenship and brought him back 20 minutes later. Shortly thereafter, another group of agents raided the car wash again.

Sources:

- First Am. Pet. for Writ of Habeas Corpus and Compl. for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief at 8, 41-42, *Vasquez Perdomo v. Noem*, No. 2:25-cv-05605 (C.D. Cal. filed July 2, 2025), https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/vasquez_perdomo_v_noem_-_first_amended_petition_and_complaint.pdf.

Name: Cary López Alvarado

Incident Date: 6/8/2025

Location: Hawthorne

Length of Detention: Hours

Charges:

Description: López Alvarado is a 28-year-old woman who was in her final weeks of pregnancy at the time of the incident. Her cousin is Alberto Sandoval, who was picked up during the same incident. Masked CBP agents pulled up to a building's private parking lot after following a white pickup truck with two undocumented workers, including López Alvarado's partner. López Alvarado and Sandoval opened the parking gate for her partner and a co-worker. The agents tried to force their way into the parking area, but López Alvarado stated that this was private property. The agents arrested her, Sandoval, and the two undocumented workers. During the arrest, López Alvarado lost her balance as agents shoved her, and she crouched down, holding her belly. During the arrest, López Alvarado told the agents she was due on June 17. An agent responded, "Ok, your baby is going to be born here, but you're from Mexico, right?" She explained that she was born in L.A. at Hollywood Hospital. The agents put her in chains that weighed on her abdomen. She started experiencing sharp pains in her abdomen after she was released and went to the hospital. She gave birth 4 days later. She has not been charged.

Sources:

- Nicole Acevedo, *A pregnant U.S. citizen went to the hospital after immigration agents detained her*, NBC News (June 10, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/pregnant-us-citizen-went-hospital-immigration-agents-detained-rcna212033>.
- Will Conybeare, *Pregnant US citizen detained by Border Patrol agents: 'We didn't do anything wrong,' Hill* (June 19, 2025), <https://thehill.com/latino/5359169-pregnant-us-citizen-border-patrol-agents>.
- Mekahlo Medina & Karla Rendon, *5 US citizens, permanent resident sue federal agencies over detainments*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.nbctlosangeles.com/news/local/5-us-citizens-permanent-resident-sue-federal-agencies-over-detainments/3767282>.
- Julia Marnin, *Pregnant US citizen arrested by ICE went into labor prematurely in CA, claim says*, Sacramento Bee (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article311854422.html>.

Name: Adrian Andrew Martinez

Incident Date: 6/17/2025

Location: Pico Rivera

Length of Detention: 3 days

Charged: Yes

Description: Martinez was a 20-year-old employee at Walmart. On a work break, he saw ICE agents detaining an older janitor. Martinez spoke up and said that the janitor was a hard worker. Five officers pushed Martinez to the ground and grabbed him by the neck as they forced him into their car. Martinez's knee, shoulders, and back were injured and bruised from the arrest. Martinez was taken to a parking structure by the federal jail, where he was held for hours while officers attempted to get him to admit he assaulted them and did not permit him to call his mother. He was then taken to jail for three days, where he had to sleep on a metal bed. After initially claiming Martinez punched an officer in the face (which is not supported by the video footage), prosecutors charged him with "conspiracy to impede a federal officer." He has been indicted by a grand jury. Martinez ultimately lost his job at Walmart. One of the officers involved in Martinez's arrest was separately arrested off-duty for an incident at a restaurant.

Sources:

- Sam Levin, *US citizens jailed in LA Ice raids speak out: 'They came ready to attack,'* Guardian (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/05/us-citizens-jailed-ice-los-angeles>.
- Brittny Mejia, *Former Walmart worker indicted after trying to intervene in immigration arrest*, L.A. Times (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-20/walmart-worker-indicted-immigration-arrest>.

Name: Leonardo Espartaco Martinez

Incident Date: 10/16/2025

Location: Oxnard

Length of Detention: 6-8 hours

Charged: No

Description: Martinez, an activist with the watchdog group VC Defensa, was driving around Oxnard looking for four ICE cars that were allegedly patrolling an industrial area. He followed and observed the agents but remained at a distance. He was turning around when the agents tried to keep him from leaving by ramming his car with an ICE vehicle. ICE claimed Martinez intentionally assaulted them with his pickup. He was detained by agents, taken to a hospital at his request, and then brought to the Metro Detention Center in downtown LA. He was held in the back of an SUV for several hours before releasing him with “charges pending.” No charges have been publicly reported.

Sources:

- Ruben Vives, *‘They smashed into me’: Activist says video shows ICE rammed his truck. Agents claim the opposite*, L.A. Times (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-10-16/agents-accuse-activists-of-slamming-into-their-vehicle>.
- Sid Garcia & Amy Powell, *Immigration rights activist says federal agent rammed his truck in Oxnard*, ABC7 (Oct. 17, 2025), <https://abc7.com/post/dhs-vehicle-reportedly-rams-truck-takes-us-citizen-custody-sparking-protest-oxnard/18021400>.
- Laurie Perez & Matthew Rodriguez, *Video shows federal agent ramming immigration activist's truck in Ventura County*, CBS News (Oct. 17, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/video-federal-agent-immigration-ventura-county>.
- Aisha Wallace-Palomares & Izzy Ramirez, *EXCLUSIVE: Dash Cam Footage Shows ICE Vehicle Rear-Ending Rams Community Observer In Oxnard*, L.A. Taco (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://lataco.com/oxnard-dash-cam-ice-crash>.

Name: Sabrina Medina

Incident Date: 8/6/2025

Location: Los Angeles

Length of Detention: Arrested, but taken to hospital and released

Charged: No

Description: Medina is a 28-year-old pregnant woman. ICE agents arrested her and her undocumented mother while exiting a medical appointment. During the arrest, agents roughly pushed her belly against the car in the process. She threw up and complained of abdominal pain. Agents took her to a hospital. ICE's justification for the arrest was an alleged outstanding warrant from a shoplifting charge from 12 years ago that Medina was not aware of. She has not been charged.

This was her fourth encounter with ICE agents and her first arrest. The first time she encountered ICE, on June 12, 2025, agents busted in and caused damage to her home looking for her husband, while Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem observed. ICE agents searching for her undocumented husband have repeatedly harassed and followed her. Medina has not been in touch with her husband since that initial encounter.

Sources:

- Gio Insignares, *Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem joins ICE operation in L.A. County*, CBS News (June 12, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/secretary-kristi-noem-ice-operation-la-county>.
- Mekahlo Medina & Missael Soto, *Pregnant US citizen speaks out after being detained by ICE agents searching for her husband*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/pregnant-us-citizen-speaks-out-ice-immigration/3761282>.

Name: Angel Piña

Incident Date: 7/21/2025

Location: Ontario

Length of Detention: Arrested, but not detained

Charged: No

Description: Piña was at a Stater Bros. Markets store when federal agents showed up. Piña ran towards an S.U.V. looking for help, but the agents grabbed him and shoved his head against the ground. They used a baton to hit his side. He tried to explain that he was a U.S. citizen. He was released when a supervisor showed up. Piña was hospitalized after he passed out twice and could not stop vomiting. Piña's family believes he was given a concussion by the agents as they placed him under arrest.

Sources:

- Jory Rand, *US citizen detained after federal agents show up at Ontario Stater Bros. store*, ABC 7 Eyewitness News (July 22, 2025), <https://abc7.com/post/us-citizen-detained-federal-agents-show-ontario-stater-bros-store/17238509>.
- Mekahlo Medina & Karla Rendon, *5 US citizens, permanent resident sue federal agencies over detainments*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/5-us-citizens-permanent-resident-sue-federal-agencies-over-detaimments/3767282>.

Name: Heidi Plummer

Incident Date: 6/14/2025

Location: Santa Ana

Length of Detention: 1.5 hours

Charged: No

Description: Plummer, an attorney, was walking through Centennial Park when she was detained by ICE officers. When she saw ICE vans pull up, she began telling the people around her in Spanish not to answer questions and to ask for an attorney. Agents then handcuffed her and put her in a vehicle with several other women. They separated children from their families. The agents asked for her identification, which she provided, and then she was told she was free to go and find her own way home.

Sources:

- Douglas Saunders Sr., *OC attorney says she was detained in ICE raid at Santa Ana park*, Daily Journal (June 19, 2025), <https://www.dailyjournal.com/articles/386228-oc-attorney-says-she-was-detained-in-ice-raid-at-santa-ana-park>.
- Wendy Fry & Sergio Olmos, *'Brazen, Midday Kidnappings:' L.A. Immigration Sweeps Violate Constitution, Lawsuit Says*, Santa Barbara Independent (July 3, 2025), <https://www.independent.com/2025/07/03/brazen-midday-kidnappings-l-a-immigration-sweeps-violate-constitution-lawsuit-says>.

Name: Javier Ramirez

Incident Date: 6/12/2025

Location: Montebello

Length of Detention: 4 days

Charged: Dropped

Description: Ramirez was working at an auto body shop in Montebello when masked and armed CBP agents in an unmarked white S.U.V. appeared in the parking lot. One agent pointed him out and said, “Get him, he’s Mexican.” Ramirez stated that he had his passport with him and he could show him, but they did not halt their arrest. Two agents forced him facedown to the ground. Video footage shows him being tackled. His friend Jason Brian Gavidia stated that Ramirez was loudly begging for an ambulance and that blood was dripping down his forehead. and then driven to a federal detention center. Ramirez has diabetes and was taken into custody without his insulin, despite his brother trying to give agents his medicine as they arrested him. Detention center officials refused to allow Ramirez’s lawyer to speak to his client. Ramirez was released on bond, and on or about July 6, 2025, the charges were dropped.

Sources:

- Jennifer Medina, *‘I’m an American, Bro!’: Latinos Report Raids in Which U.S. Citizenship Is Questioned*, N.Y. Times (June 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/15/us/hispanic-americans-raids-citizenship.html>.
- Lexis-Olivier Ray, *U.S. Attorney’s Office Quietly Drops Case Against American Citizen Arrested In Montebello*, LA Taco (July 11, 2025), <https://lataco.com/javier-ramirez-citizen-case>.
- Mekahlo Medina & Jonathan Lloyd, *U.S. citizen describes day he was detained by federal agents at Montebello tow yard*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/immigration-raid-montebello-us-citizen-detained/3766028>.
- Mekahlo Medina & Karla Rendon, *5 US citizens, permanent resident sue federal agencies over detainments*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/5-us-citizens-permanent-resident-sue-federal-agencies-over-detainments/3767282>.
- RAW: CA: *Javier Ramirez / U.S. Citizen Detained by ICE*, Local 3 News (Aug. 20, 2025), https://www.local3news.com/regional-national/raw-ca-javier-ramirez-u-s-citizen-detained-by-ice/video_aa4ac13d-a8ec-5e46-9196-4f31d22aba0e.html.
- Julia Marnin, *Pregnant US citizen arrested by ICE went into labor prematurely in CA, claim says*, Sacramento Bee (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article311854422.html>.

Name: Juan Ramirez Diaz

Incident Date: 6/16/2025

Location: Oxnard

Length of Detention: 1 day

Charged: No

Description: Ramirez Diaz, an auto body shop co-owner, was filing as ICE agents detained his father, when he was tased and taken by ICE agents. The ICE agents maced, maced, punched, and beat him before transporting him to a local hospital and then to the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown L.A., where he was released around 3:00PM the next day.

Sources:

- Tracy Lehr, *Oxnard Man Released After Being Detained by ICE Agents While Filming Father's Arrest*, Telemundo Costa Central (June 19, 2025), <https://keyt.com/news/ventura-county/2025/06/17/u-s-citizen-held-by-ice-released>.
- Isaiah Murtaugh, *Federal immigration agents arrest Oxnard man, US citizen who tried to shield his father*, Ventura Cnty. Star (June 18, 2025), <https://www.yahoo.com/news/federal-immigration-agents-arrest-oxnard-232810296.html>.

Name: George Retes

Incident Date: 7/10/2025

Location: Camarillo

Length of Detention: 3 days

Charged: No

Description: Retes is a disabled 25-year-old Army veteran who worked as a security guard at Glass House Farms. He was on his way to work when he encountered an ICE roadblock. Officers broke his car window, sprayed him with pepper spray and tear gas, and forcibly removed him from the vehicle. Two officers placed a knee on his back while another knelt on his neck, despite his compliance and repeated attempts to identify himself as a U.S. citizen. After several hours sitting in the dirt, agents transported him to a Navy base and then to the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown L.A., where he remained in custody for three nights. His jailers denied him medical care, showers, and fresh clothing and did not permit him to contact his family or an attorney. He was placed on suicide watch after becoming emotionally distraught. No one provided an explanation for his detention and he was released without charges. He is seeking accountability through the Federal Tort Claims Act.

Sources:

- Images with text posted by UFW (United Farm Workers), Facebook (July 15, 2025, at 6:44PM), <https://www.facebook.com/unitedfarmworkers/posts/my-name-is-george-retes-im-a-25-year-old-us-army-veteran-a-us-citizen-and-i-work/1155289866641972>.
- Angelique Brenes, *U.S. Army vet detained by ICE during California cannabis raid takes on federal government*, KTLA 5 (Aug. 18, 2025), <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/army-vet-detained-by-ice-takes-on-federal-government>.
- Conor Friedersdorf, *What It's Like to Be Detained by ICE as a U.S. Citizen*, Atlantic (Sept. 10, 2025), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/09/george-retes-ice-detained-us-citizen/684152>.

Name: Alberto Sandoval

Incident Date: 6/8/2025

Location: Hawthorne

Length of Detention: Unclear, longer than one day

Charged: Yes

Description: Sandoval is Cary López Alvarado's cousin and was arrested at the same incident as her. There is insufficient information about when and if he was released from custody, but he was held longer than López Alvarado. He allegedly faces assault charges.

Sources:

- Nicole Acevedo, *A pregnant U.S. citizen went to the hospital after immigration agents detained her*, NBC News (June 10, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/pregnant-us-citizen-went-hospital-immigration-agents-detained-rcna212033>.

Name: Rafie Ollah Shouhed

Incident Date: 9/9/2025

Location: Van Nuys

Length of Detention: 12 hours

Charged: No

Description: Shouhed is a carwash owner in Van Nuys. Masked agents entered the carwash in the morning, and one of them pushed Shouhed down as he entered. As one of his employees was being detained outside, Shouhed went outside to prove his employees were authorized to work, but the agents swore at him, pushed him, and violently body-slammed him onto the pavement. Three agents jumped on his back, pulled his arms back, and handcuffed him, despite his protests that he was recovering from heart surgery and needed medical attention. The officers detained Shouhed for nearly 12 hours at the Metropolitan Detention Center in LA, even after agents knew his citizenship status. They did not permit him to call his family. After his release, he was treated at the hospital for broken ribs, post-concussive symptoms of a traumatic brain injury, and injuries to his elbows. His arm had extensive bruising. DHS claims Shouhed impeded the operation and was arrested for assaulting and impeding a federal officer, though no charges were filed.

Sources:

- Dani Anguiano, *LA car wash owner sues for \$50m after being slammed and detained in Ice raid*, Guardian (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/26/los-angeles-car-wash-owner-ice-raid-lawsuit>.
- Doc Louallen, *79-year-old US citizen claims ICE agents body-slammed him at his business, seeks \$50M*, ABC News (Sept. 27, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/79-year-us-citizen-claims-ice-agents-body/story?id=125978834>.

Name: Dr. Rachel Siemons

Incident Date: 9/27/2025

Location: Ladera Heights

Length of Detention: Unknown

Charged: Unknown

Description: Siemons, a physician, is a member of the HILL Network advocacy group and a regular observer of immigration operations. CBP conducted a raid at Home Depot, and Siemons allegedly filmed the detention of an individual. Agents beat her and took her into custody. They transported her to a hospital, and then to ICE detention for an unknown period of time.

Sources:

- Billal Rahman, *American Woman Hospitalized After ICE Detention Raises Questions*, Newsweek (Sept. 29, 2025), <https://www.newsweek.com/american-woman-hospitalized-after-ice-detention-raises-questions-10796463>.
- Union Nurses for Palestine (@union.nurses.for.palestine), Instagram (Sept. 27, 2025), <https://www.instagram.com/p/DPH25DJkiP7>.

Name: Barbara Stone

Incident Date: 7/8/2025

Location: San Diego

Length of Detention: 8 hours

Charged: No

Description: Stone, a 71-year-old grandmother, was documenting ICE arrests at the San Diego courthouse. ICE accused her of pushing an ICE agent and arrested her. The agents placed her in a small room for eight hours. She asked for an attorney right away and repeatedly, but the agents ignored her requests. Agents seized her purse and phone were seized in the process, and only her purse was eventually returned. They refused to return her phone because it had been “used in a crime.” Yet, no charges were pressed.

Sources:

- Joey Safchik, *ICE handcuffs 71-year-old grandmother, a U.S. citizen, at San Diego immigration court*, NBC News (July 10, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-handcuffs-us-citizen-grandmother-san-diego-rcna218107>.
- Matthew Bowler, *A volunteer legal observer says she was left bruised after being detained by ICE agents at federal courthouse*, KPBS (July 11, 2025), <https://www.kpbs.org/news/border-immigration/2025/07/10/a-volunteer-legal-observer-says-she-was-left-bruised-after-being-detained-by-ice-agents-at-federal-courthouse>.
- Lillian Perlmutter, *When ICE arrests US citizens, there's little clear path for what happens next*, Stocktonia (Aug 25, 2025), <https://stocktonia.org/news/immigration/2025/08/25/ice-arrests-us-citizens>.

Name: Amanda Trebach

Incident Date: 8/7/2025

Location: San Pedro

Length of Detention: 2 days

Charged: No

Description: Trebach, a registered nurse and member of a community group Union del Barrio, was participating in a Harbor Area Peace Patrol outside the Terminal Island staging area, a Coast Guard base used by ICE and CBP to prepare for raids across Southern California. Agents pinned her to the ground and taken into a dark-colored van with no visible markings on the vehicle. CBP stated that Trebach was blocking federal agents from doing their jobs at Terminal Island in San Pedro. She allegedly jumped in front of moving vehicles, hit the car with her signs and fists while yelling, and was ultimately arrested for impeding and obstructing federal law enforcement. Union del Barrio representatives stated Trebach did not attack anyone—rather, the federal agents charged at her and she dropped the poster. Officials have not released any evidence of said crimes. Trebach was released from detention after two days without any criminal charges. The local councilmember, Tim McOskey, reported the arrest to the Port Police who have jurisdiction over that area.

Sources:

- FOX 11 Digital Team, *Amanda Trebach: Los Angeles nurse released from ICE custody*, FOX 11 L.A. (Aug. 10, 2025), <https://www.foxla.com/news/amanda-trebach-los-angeles-nurse-released-from-ice-custody>.
- Angelique Brenes, *Los Angeles nurse released from ICE custody without charges*, KTLA5 (Aug. 10, 2025), <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/nurse-released-from-ice-custody-without-charges>.

Name: Andrea Guadalupe Velez

Incident Date: 6/24/2025

Location: Los Angeles

Length of Detention: 2 days

Charged: Dropped

Description: Velez, 32 years old, works in downtown LA as a production coordinator for a shoe company. Her mother and sister dropped her off at work. Before she could go in, a federal agent grabbed her and slammed her to the ground, saying she was interfering with the agent's work. She stated she was a U.S. citizen. She tried to get help from the LAPD nearby but was instead forcibly lifted and carried back into an ICE vehicle, spent two days in detention, and was not provided water for 24 hours. Prosecutors charged her with assaulting an officer, but the charges were dismissed after 16 days with no explanation. Velez's attorney had requested body-worn footage and witness statements before the dismissal, but prosecutors did not provide any such evidence.

Sources:

- Sam Levin, *US citizens jailed in LA Ice raids speak out: 'They came ready to attack,'* Guardian (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/05/us-citizens-jailed-ice-los-angeles>.
- Hetty Chang & Karla Rendon, *US citizen detained by ICE was held without water for 24 hours, she says*, NBC4 News (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/us-citizen-detained-by-ice-was-held-without-water-for-24-hours-she-says/3762874>.
- Mekahlo Medina & Karla Rendon, *5 US citizens, permanent resident sue federal agencies over detainments*, NBC4 L.A. (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/5-us-citizens-permanent-resident-sue-federal-agencies-over-detainments/3767282>.

Name: Jeane “Blue” Wong

Incident Date: 7/2/2025

Location: Linda Wista

Length of Detention: 31.5 hours

Charged: Yes

Description: Jeane “Blue” Wong, a preschool owner, was one of a group of demonstrators protesting ICE agents as they sought to detain a man. The ICE agents were dressed in plain clothes, masked, without any nametags or identifying information. Wong live-streamed the operation while yelling at the agents. Wong allegedly pressed herself against the police tape when an ICE agent grabbed her. Agents arrested Wong and took her into detention for 20 hours. They did not permit her to use the phone to call her wife and they did not provide access to the restroom. An agent finally relented and agreed to call her wife on her behalf after she promised to stop singing in her cell. She pled not guilty to assault charges.

Sources:

- Dorian Hargrove & Kelly Hessedal, *Preschool owner Jeane Wong pleads not guilty after ICE arrest*, CBS8 (July 31, 2025), <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/san-diego-women-plead-not-guilty-to-assaulting-ice-agents-during-linda-vista-raid/509-d0803a6c-24b9-4afa-808e-6931c68010fa>.
- Gabrielle Wallace, *Linda Vista resident, U.S. citizen detained by ICE, raises awareness after court hearing*, Times of San Diego (July 31, 2025), <https://timesofsandiego.com/crime/2025/07/31/linda-vista-citizen-detained-ice-raises-awareness>.