

# PAIFUP

News from the fight for freedom, safety and dignity for all immigrants detained in Pennsylvania.

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## JUNE RECAP

In June we received the best news that **PAIFUP funding had been fully restored**. Thank you to everyone that supported us in this effort!

As the COVID-19 crisis develops, we are continuing to support dozens of clients across the state. Our attorneys took on seven new clients this month, five of whom were referred from our community partnerships.

## Client Success: Meet Roberto

Roberto\* has lived in Philadelphia for over a decade. He was detained by ICE after dropping his kids off at school and was taken over 100 miles away to the Pike County Prison. He feared returning to his home country because he had served in the military and had been extorted, threatened, and tortured by gangs because of that.

A few days before his scheduled hearing this spring, his cellmate tested positive for COVID-19, and Roberto felt feverish and fatigued. We repeatedly asked ICE to release him and were repeatedly denied. We pushed back his case, even though it was so hard for Roberto to be away from his family so that he could recover. Finally, his hearing date came several weeks later, and Roberto did amazingly. We won his case, and he has finally left detention and returned to his family.

\*Client's name has been changed to protect anonymity.



**Cinthya Santos-Briones**, Spaces of Detention, Work in Progress

## Staff Highlight

Maggie joined PAIFUP in September 2019

as a Legal Fellow.

### What do you enjoy most about your position?

I love doing merits-blind representation, and that PAIFUP recognizes the importance of each person having a lawyer regardless of the strength of their case. I see every day how people's dignity and basic due process rights are shaped by having an advocate next to them who can help explain this extremely confusing and dehumanizing system.



### We Are Stronger Together: Meet Our Affiliates

Juntos is a community-led, Latinx immigrant organization in South Philadelphia fighting for the human rights of workers, parents, youth, and immigrants. Juntos focuses on arts and culture, food access, youth leadership, community empowerment, [and more](#).

### In Other News



#### The Slur I Never Expected to Hear in 2020

COVID-19 has impacted our immigrant communities in various ways. In this NYT article, Cathy Park Hong discusses the heightened discrimination that Asian-Americans have been forced to endure.

[Read more](#)  
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)



#### Does Black Lives Matter apply to immigrants as well?

"A series of recent immigration policy changes belie the statement that Black Lives Matter, as African individuals have been systematically excluded from entry to the U.S." -Come Nzibarega

[Read more](#)



#### A Difficult Decision For Immigrant Families in Detention

Hundreds of immigrant families in US Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody may have to decide by the end of this week whether they'll separate from their children or stay in detention together.

**The Pennsylvania Family Unity Project (PAIFUP)** is a collaborative of nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania formed in order to achieve universal representation for detained immigrants in removal proceedings in PA.