

The Inhumane Practice of Targeting Hardworking Individuals and Families Through ICE Raids

The devastating reality of ICE raids continues to tear families apart and target hardworking individuals in our communities. This inhumane practice leaves a trail of fear, heartbreak, and injustice, and it demands our immediate attention and action.

A Heartbreaking Call for Help

On November 11, at approximately 10:30 a.m., I received a distressing phone call while parked near the Brazilian Women's Group in Brighton. A former parent from the school where I once worked urgently informed me of an ICE raid at the Allston Car Wash. "I thought you could warn other families to stay away," She said before the call ended. My heart sank as I thought of the families I knew who worked there. Desperation set in as I tried calling their loved ones, but no one answered. Unable to sit there and wait, I drove to the car wash.

Upon arrival, the scene was devastating. The atmosphere was heavy with fear, sadness, and hopelessness. Employees wore expressions of terror, and the manager, a longtime friend, shared the heartbreaking details: nine employees had been taken by ICE agents, all of whom had immigration status. Some were denied access to their IDs and medications, including an elderly worker with a medical condition. The cruelty was unimaginable.

A History of Injustice Repeating Itself

Since the current administration came into power, there has been a deliberate assault on immigrants, particularly those of Latin American descent. Latinos, Latinas, Latinx individuals, and anyone who looks or sounds like us have become targets of government hostility. This is not an isolated event, it is history repeating itself.

We've seen this before:

- When Native Americans were stripped of their rights to raise their children.
- During the Holocaust in Nazi Germany.
- During the civil rights era.
- When Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps.
- As Palestinian students are targeted today.

Now, it is happening again as our immigrant brothers and sisters, hardworking families, students, laborers, business owners, and dreamers are vilified and dehumanized.

A Call for Justice and Unity

What we are witnessing is a failure to learn from history. Families are being torn apart, and individuals who contribute to our society and economy are being treated as criminals. ICE is not targeting criminals; they are targeting mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, and siblings.

These are human beings whose rights are being trampled, their voices silenced, and their dignity stripped away.

The nine employees taken from the Allston Car Wash seven of whom I know personally are exemplary members of the Allston and Brighton communities. They came to this country seeking a better life, only to have their dreams shattered by an administration and a Supreme Court that have branded them as criminals.

But even in the face of fear and heartbreak, we will not be silenced. Our community has come together to ensure that due process and the dignity of immigrants are upheld. We are raising our voices and uniting as one to demand justice. This country is strongest when it embraces diversity, not rejects it. When human rights are under attack, it is only a matter of time before others fall victim, too.

To Our Immigrant Neighbors: You Are Not Alone

To those facing deportation: You are not alone. We are fighting for you. We will defend you. We will make sure your voices are heard.

To those facing discrimination: **Your humanity cannot be denied.** You belong here. Your contributions matter. Your voices shape this nation.

A Message to All: The Time to Act Is Now

To those who have yet to speak out: the time is now. Do not wait until they come for you. When they threaten our immigrant neighbors, they threaten the very foundation of our democracy.

Let us rise together not as divided communities, but as one people, united by justice, compassion, and the unshakable truth that **NO human being is illegal.**

Take Action Today

- Support immigrant families in your local community.
- Contact your representatives to demand humane immigration policies.
- Join organizations advocating for immigrant rights.
- Speak out against injustice in all its forms.

Together, we can create a future built on dignity, equality, and compassion. Let us stand united.

In solidarity,
Nicolasa López