

# Stand by Immigrants: News, Resources, and Actions



Oberlin Community Supporting  
Immigrants (OCSI)

Standing With Our  
Immigrant Neighbors

**Week Ended May 16, 2026**

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*Oberlin Community Supporting Immigrants (OCSI) does not endorse or oppose candidates for elected office. We aim to provide information, education, and analysis regarding the U.S. immigration system.*

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**Know Your Rights:** You can't protect your rights unless you know what they are. Here's a [2-page handout](#) prepared by OCSI. If you want a comprehensive resource library of KYR information, updated for 2026, Austin Kocher provides one [here](#).

*Previous issues of this newsletter are archived [here](#).*

## OCSI CORNER

**Do you need a speaker on immigration of “know your rights” for your local church, synagogue, or community group?** Contact us at the email below. We can help!

## ACTION ITEMS

Between May 23 and May 30, communities across Ohio are coming together for a statewide week of interfaith vigils in solidarity with people held in civil immigration detention (a.k.a. ICE jail). Faith leaders, organizers, and community members will raise their voices, hold space for reflection, and stand in collective action. This coordinated week of action calls for: An end to ICE detention, transparency on detention facility funding, and an end to 287(g) agreements. More information [here](#).

U.S. deportations to El Salvador nearly doubled since early 2026 (see story [here](#)). Join the National Immigration Law Center in urging Congress to demand the immediate return of those disappeared to the country's notorious CECOT prison. [Sign petition here](#).

## PICK THREE

(No time for all the reporting? Here are three important stories from the past week that you might have overlooked):

[10,000 Rulings: The Courts' Overwhelming Rebuke of Trump's ICE Policies](#) (Politico, May 13, 2026): A POLITICO analysis reveals judges have ruled against ICE detention practices in roughly 90 percent of cases since the agency mandated that millions of immigrants must be locked up while they face deportation proceedings [see graph below as “Image of the Week”]

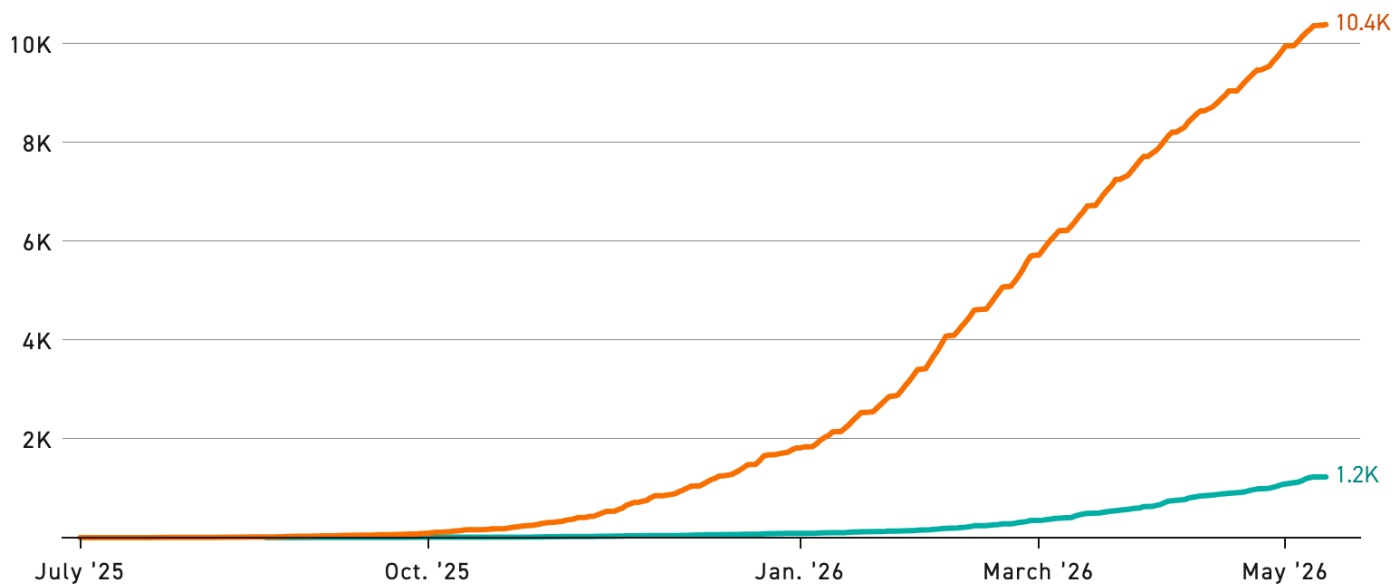
[Where Was Nurul Amin Shah Alam?](#) (Dan Barry, New York times, May 11, 2026): A refugee with little sight and no English, he had been jailed for a year, intercepted by federal agents and delivered to a merciless Buffalo winter.

[Inside the ‘Rebel Alliance’ Fighting a Massive ICE Detention Center](#) (HuffPost, May 9, 2026): A fiery resistance has sprung up in a conservative Maryland county after the Trump administration quietly bought a warehouse to hold detainees. They have a lot of determination — and some drones.

# PHOTO OF THE WEEK

## Judges have ruled more than 11,600 times on ICE detention decisions

Cumulative court rulings [for](#) or [against](#) the Trump administration in legal challenges by ICE detainees



Note: POLITICO has manually compiled a database of detention rulings beginning on July 7, 2025. It is possible some rulings are not reflected in the data above. Data is as of May 11, 2026, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Source: POLITICO reporting

Jessie Blaeser/POLITICO

## LOCAL AND OHIO NEWS

[Unauthorized ICE 'Wellness Checks' by Police at Ohio Schools Draw Outrage](#) (Guardian, May 14, 2026): Community members and rights groups criticize police arriving at Cincinnati schools on behalf of ICE.

[Guatemalan Teen Has Wish for High School Graduation: Release from ICE](#) (Cincinnati Enquirer, May 12, 2026): An 18-year-old high school senior, Nelbi Chun De Leon, is being held by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. De Leon, a Guatemala native seeking asylum, was arrested in Northern Kentucky on April 15.

[Rural Ohio Police Signed Up to Help ICE. But Staffing Shortages Limit Their Role](#) (Kendall Crawford, Ohio Newsroom, May 11, 2026): Unlike major cities, who have been rethinking cooperation with ICE, 10 rural Ohio police departments have signed voluntary 287(g) Task Force Model agreements. The largest has a population of 2,052.

# RESISTING, PROTESTING, AND ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

'A Mask Can't Hide Your from God': Can You Shame an ICE Agent into Quitting? (Guardian, May 16, 2026): Some activists believe protesting against ICE is ineffective, instead appealing to agents' morality through both guilt and compassion. But are ICE agents capable of remorse?

How Three Young Adults in LA Are Protecting Their Undocumented Parents During Trump's Presidency (LA Taco, May 13, 2026): Hobbies and aspirations are put on hold as families reconfigure their lives to avoid deportation and familial separation, deeply aware of how ICE targets working class immigrants.

Minnesota Senate Votes to Unmask Immigration, Agents, Allow Residents to Sue (Minnesota Star Tribune, May 11, 2026): The bill faces dim prospects in the Minnesota House, which is tied at 67 Democrats and 67 Republicans.

Caught in the Crosshairs: How Augsburg University Mobilized to Protect Students during ICE Surge (Sahan Journal, May 11, 2026): University officials knew the diverse campus in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood would be a target as immigration enforcement escalated. And the school was ready with a plan.

'I Will Keep Defending Immigrants': New Who Bishop Was Smuggled into the US as a Teen, Joins Pope's Resistance to Trump (Guardian, May 10, 2026): The Right Rev Evelio Menjivar-Ayala vows to 'keep talking' as West Virginia bishop, amid tension between Trump and the Vatican.

'This Doesn't Feel Like Public Safety': Daytonians Call for Removal of Flock Cameras (Dayton Daily News, May 7, 2026): "I'm not sure that I've ever been as angry as I was Friday," said Dayton City Commissioner Matt Joseph. He was among officials to call for an immediate shutdown of the Flock cameras which can be accessed for immigration enforcement.

## THE COURTS AND LEGAL ACTIONS

ICE Detainees Drive Up Immigration-Related Lawsuits to Record High, Report Says (Border Report, May 14, 2026): A total of 9,911 new federal lawsuits were filed in March involving immigration matters.

Federal Judge Halts Texas Immigration Law the Day Before It Was Set to Take Effect (Texas Tribune, May 14, 2026): A U.S. judge on Thursday granted a preliminary injunction against sections of Senate Bill 4, which would have allowed local police to arrest suspected illegal border crossers.

Immigrants Detained in Chicago Military-Style Raid Seek Millions in Damages (ProPublica, May 13, 2026): New accounts from 17 men, women and children taken in a midnight raid paint a violent, terrifying portrait of the federal agents' alleged actions. These descriptions form the basis of claims filed this week against DHS and other federal agencies.

Judge Orders U.S. to Return Colombian Woman Deported to Congo (New York Times, May 13, 2026): The unusual ruling came after the judge found that the Trump administration had most likely violated the law by deporting the 55-year-old woman to the African country despite its refusal to take her.

[Federal Judge Orders ICE Agents to Get More Training to Prevent Unlawful Arrests](#) (Colorado Public Radio, May 12, 2026): Senior U.S. District Court Judge R. Brooke Jackson ordered in a 60-page ruling that ICE develop training within two weeks on the parameters for agents to follow when arresting and detaining undocumented immigrants.

[Third Federal Appeals Court Rejects ICE's Mandatory Detention Push](#) (Politico, May 11, 2026): The 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit, based in Ohio, said detainees must have a chance to argue for their release.

## **DETENTION WAREHOUSES AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS**

[Georgia Town Sues Over ICE Plan for Vast Immigration Detention Center](#) (Guardian, May 15, 2026): Officials of Social Circle, population 5,000, file lawsuit over plan to turn warehouse into 10,000-capacity facility.

[ICE Moving Forward with Warehouse Detention Plan Despite Lawsuits, Probe](#) (Washington Post, May 14, 2026): New warehouse contracts in Texas are expected to be awarded after DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin initially called for a review of the plan.

['Failed Experiment in Human Suffering': Alligator Alcatraz Immigration Jail to Close](#) (Guardian, May 13, 2026): State officials told vendors at the facility to prepare for a breakdown of the tented camp beginning next month.

## **ICE BUCKET**

[ICE Is Ramping Up in Maine Again, Locals Say](#) (Boston Globe, May 15, 2026): In the past month, reports of ICE sightings and arrests have increased in the same region where ICE carried out the January surge, according to the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition.

[U.S. Border Patrol Head Announces Resignation in Latest Leadership Shakeup](#) (PBS News, May 14, 2026): It was not clear who will replace Michael Banks led an agency at the forefront of Trump's high-profile immigration enforcement efforts but kept a lower profile than some other officials such as Gregory Bovino, a now-retired commander who became a public face of the immigration crackdown.

[Longtime ICE Official David Venturella Chosen to Head Agency](#) (NBC News, May 12, 2026): Venturella had served as senior vice president of the GEO Group.

[Trump Wants to Rebrand ICE as NICE. Not Everyone Agrees](#) (CNN, May 12, 2026): Both rank-and-file ICE officers and Tom Homan are not enthusiastic. They "like their image of being strong."

[They Called 911 for Help. Police Sent Them to ICE Detention Instead](#) (The Marshall Project, May 11, 2026): As more local police collaborate with ICE, even some crime victims and people who call 911 are facing arrest.

18-Year-Old Chicago Cancer Patient Dies Day after Reunion in Mexico with Parents Detained by ICE (ABC, May 10, 2026): Kevin Gonzalez diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer, parents held in custody in Arizona after trying to cross border to say goodbye.

## **EMERGING POLICY AND THREATS TO IMMIGRANTS**

### **Detention and Deportation and Death**

U.S. Migrants Deported to Congo: 'Where on Earth Is This Place?' (New York Times, May 15, 2026): They were shackled and sent to Kinshasa by the Trump administration. Now they face a dangerous choice: Go back to Latin America or stay in Africa.

US Deportations to El Salvador Nearly Double in Early 2026 (AP, May 13, 2026): The U.S. deported 5,033 Salvadorans back to their country in the first three months of 2026 compared with 2,547 deportees in the same period in 2025.

Dominican Republic Agrees to Take Third-Country Migrants Deported by U.S. (New York Times, May 12, 2026): The agreement, which reverses President Luis Abinader's previous stance, is part of President Trump's efforts to find governments willing to accept deportees.

Democrats Express 'Grave Concerns' Over Secretive ICE Deportation Flights (Guardian, May 11, 2026): In a letter 40 lawmakers demand the FAA address allegations of mistreatment of immigrants and the 'urgent need for transparency.'

She Fled Genital Mutilation in Togo. The US Deported Her (Washington Post, May 10, 2026): A judge ruled that the woman should not be deported there, so the Trump administration sent her to Ghana — which returned her to Togo.

### **Authoritarianism, Lawlessness, Racism, Stupidity, and Cruelty**

ICE Violently Arrested a US Citizen and Filmed It 'Like a Documentary', Videos Reveal (Guardian May 15, 2026): DHS made social media posts out of a protester's arrest at gunpoint. Christian Cerna speaks out about the lengthy prosecution that derailed his life.

Why Have Immigration Agents Detained American Leo Garcia Venegas Three Times? (ProPublica, May 15, 2026): Leonardo Garcia Venegas, a U.S. citizen whose prior detentions went viral, was recently detained for a third time - and shackled.

Trump Administration Pushes IRS to Identify Undocumented Immigrants (New York Times, May 13, 2026):

The deliberations are a sign that the Trump administration may once again try to harness the power of the I.R.S. to advance its immigration agenda.

The Obscure Rules Change That Could Drive More Foreign Students Away (Chronicle of Higher Education, May 12, 2026): The Trump administration wants to impose fixed deadlines for international students to leave the United States. Colleges fear the new regulation could cause havoc at the height of visa season — and discourage students from coming in the first place.

Lawyers for the Global Elite Aren't Buying Trump's Gold Card Visa (Washington Post, May 10, 2026): Even Melania Trump's former lawyer is warning people away from Trump's program designed to make immigration easier for the wealthy.

Senate Pushes Ahead with \$70 Billion More for ICE and CBP, Excluding Accountability Measures (American Immigration Council, May 8, 2026): This week, Congress moved closer to advancing legislation that would add about \$70 billion in funding to immigration enforcement agencies through 2029, which is in addition to the \$170 billion already provided last year.

Mahmoud Khalil Hurtles Toward Potential Deportation as U.S. Speeds Case (New York Times, May 8, 2026): A key judicial decision in Mr. Khalil's immigration case was expedited significantly and included the recusal of multiple judges.

## **Attacks on All Immigrants**

The End of Refugee Resettlement (Annie Hylton, New Yorker, May 14, 2026): What happened when the Trump Administration turned its back on the world's most vulnerable.

The Trump Administration's \$1 Billion Immigration Swindle (Philadelphia Inquirer, May 11, 2026): Hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants find themselves in limbo, many losing their jobs and risking deportation, after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services refuses to process their cases.

## **IMMIGRATION AND THE ECONOMY**

Companies Are Making Big Bucks from Immigration Crackdowns (Economist, May 14, 2026): And startups are piling in with whizzy new technologies.

The Economic Chilling Effect of Trump's Immigration Crackdown (Greg Rosalsky, Planet Money, May 12, 2026): The mass deportations in Trump 2.0 are not helping the labor market overall and not creating more job opportunities for U.S.-born workers.

## **BY THE NUMBERS**

More of the Men Being Deported Now Have Lived in the U.S. for Years (Washington Post, May 12, 2026): Men account for nine out of every 10 people who have been deported; almost 25% of the 300,000 men removed since January have lived in the US for at least three years.

## BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

A New Kind of Family-Separation Crisis (Caitlin Dickerson, The Atlantic, May 15, 2026): At the airport in La Lima, Honduras, planeloads of people arrive every day—many without their children.

Keys to the Kingdom: Immigration Control and the Accretion of Executive Power (Jennifer M. Chacón, Harvard Law Review, May 2026): By treating noncitizens as an enemy within, administration officials are abrogating power to themselves at the expense of the individual liberties of citizens and noncitizens, of the authority of the co-equal federal branches, and of the power of local and state officials who do not share the views of the Trump administration.

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