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**Stand by Immigrants: Weekly News, Resources, and Actions**

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**Oberlin Community Supporting Immigrants** <steven.volk@oberlin.edu>  
To: johnsoner94@gmail.com, steven.volk@oberlin.edu

Mon, May 25, 2026 at 4:51 PM

## Stand by Immigrants: News, Resources, and Actions



**Week Ended May 23, 2026**

Edited by Steve Volk ([svolk@oberlin.edu](mailto:svolk@oberlin.edu))

*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.*

**CONTACT OCSI:**

**Email:** [ocsi.general.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ocsi.general.outreach@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://oberlincommunitysi.org/>

**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, Ohioans are holding [a week of prayer and action](#) outside of every single ICE detention center in Ohio.** We are saying we don't want our tax dollars used to cage people who belong at home, with their families. We want Congress to do their job and fix our immigration laws, instead. The vigils started on May 23 outside the Seneca County Jail, and move on to the Mahoning and Geauga County Jails on May 28. They crescendo on May 30, with three vigils at NEOCC, Butler County Jail, and CCNO. **Get all the details [here](#), and hit as many as you can.**

**Protect Immigrant Workers:** Sign on to keep ICE out of the World Cup. FIFA is requiring stadium workers — as a non-negotiable condition of employment — to disclose highly sensitive personal information, including Social Security Numbers, residential addresses, nationality, and country of birth. In addition, these terms of employment authorize FIFA to share this data with law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies like ICE and DHS. [Sign the letter here](#).

## PICK THREE

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

[Green Card Seekers Must Leave US to Apply, Trump Administration Says](#) (New York Times, May 22, 2026):  
The change is likely to affect hundreds of thousands of people. It could also lead to more family separations as spouses or relatives wait for application decisions, immigration lawyers said.

[Over 100,000 Family Separations in Deportation Push, Report Estimates](#) (New York Times, May 18, 2026):  
The Brookings Institution suggests that federal statistics are an undercount because immigrant parents are not being asked about or not disclosing their American children.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Rsicardo Hernandez-Navarette, 18, and his mother, Martha Liliana Navarette, were detained at a routine immigration court check-in in March. They have been separated in detention. ([Story here](#))

## LOCAL AND OHIO NEWS

[Ohio ICE Detentions Soar in Trump's Second Term](#) (Ohio Capital Journal, May 22, 2026): While 117 people were detained in Ohio on the average day in 2024, that number soared to 656 in 2025 — the first year of Trump's second administration.

[Records Show Cleveland's Flock Network Used for Immigration Searches. City Blames Flock and Drones](#) (Cleveland.com, May 20, 2026): More than 160 immigration-related searches appeared in Cleveland's Flock camera audit logs over a 30-day period — months after the city says it turned on protections designed to block such searches. City officials say the fault isn't theirs. It's Flock's.

[Nearly 8,000 Ohioans Detained for ICE in Trump's First 15 Months](#) (Ohio Immigrant Alliance, May 16, 2026): Only 5% have been charged with violent offenses.

[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.

## RESISTING, PROTESTING, AND ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

[Immigration Activists Whose Homes Were Raided Accuse Federal Agents of Intimidation Campaign](#) (Guardian, May 20, 2026): VC Defensa organizes ICE patrols, a hotline and community support for immigrants in Ventura county, California.

[Border Bishops Have Grave Concerns about \\$72 Billion Immigration Enforcement Funding](#) (OSV News, May 20, 2026): A group of U.S. bishops, most from the U.S.-Mexico border region, wrote a May 20 letter to members of Congress expressing "grave concern" with budget legislation that would provide an additional \$72 billion for immigration enforcement.

[Instead of Proms and Parties, She Spent Senior Year Fighting an ICE Warehouse](#) (Washington Post, May 18, 2026): Cali Overs spent her senior year lobbying local, state and federal officials after Homeland Security bought a warehouse near her Arizona high school.

[Conspiracy Trial Will Test Trump's Aggressive Tactics Against Protesters](#) (New York Times, May 17, 2026): Prosecutors in Spokane, Wash., are trying three activists who they say conspired to impede federal officers. Legal experts call it a stretch.

## THE COURTS AND LEGAL ACTIONS

[Judge Dismisses Criminal Case Against Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia](#) (May 22, 2026): The move deals an embarrassing blow to the Trump administration, which made the Maryland man, Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, the face of its deportation campaign.

[How a Centuries-Old Legal Tool Helped Immigrants Leave ICE Detention](#) (Iowa Public Radio, May 21, 2026): An analysis by The Marshall Project and The Midwest Newsroom found that habeas corpus filings in four Midwestern states have been overwhelmingly successful thus far.

[Trump Administration Onboards Largest-Ever Class of New Immigration Judges in Bid to Speed Up Deportation Cases](#) (CBS News, May 21, 2026): More than 80 new immigration judges brought on.

[Immigration Judges' 'Anxiety' Dialed Up Amid Mass Exodus](#) (Emma Cueto, Law 360, May 21, 2026): Current and former immigration judges spoke on a web panel about threats to the independence of immigration judges and the strains on the immigration system.

[Judge Bars ICE from Making Immigration Arrests at Courts in New York](#) (New York Times, May 18, 2026): The Trump administration's practice of detaining migrants at federal courthouses had stirred outrage.

## ICE BUCKET

[Video Shows ICE Violently Arresting Oregon Farm Workers and Using Facial Recognition](#) (Guardian, May 21, 2026): Body-cam footage shared with the Guardian shows agents forced workers out of a van in what a judge has called 'unlawful' arrest.

[ICE Arrests Grandfather Who Was Helping Cops Investigate His Daughter's Murder](#) (Independent, May 19, 2026): "It's absolutely atrocious," Erasmo Zavala Almanza's attorney says, claiming ICE's behavior will disincentivize cooperation with law enforcement.

[ICE Agent Charged in Shooting of Man in North Minneapolis During Operation Metro Surge](#) (Minnesota Star Tribune, May 18, 2026): The Hennepin County Attorney's Office issued a nationwide arrest warrant, saying agent shot the man and then lied about it. The Department of Homeland Security has referred to the charges as an unlawful "political stunt."

[Memphis Is 'Under Full-Blown Occupation' by ICE. Here's Why You May Not Know That](#) (Mother Jones, May 18, 2026): Community members face retaliation for trying to spread the word out, a lawsuit alleges.

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

### **Targeting Children**

We Were Accidentally Send Contract Details for Texas' Dilley Detention Center. Here's What We Found (Houston Chronicle, May 20, 2026): The Trump administration's politically-divisive decision to detain and house immigrant families in Texas is costing at least \$13.1 million per month, plus another \$2.5 million for medical care, even as the population at the Dilley Immigration Processing Center ebbs and flows.

She Was Deported without Her Toddler. Then ICE Blamed Her for His Killing (Washington Post, May 16, 2026): ICE accused Wendy Hernandez Reyes of leaving her child with a violent uncle, but she says her son would still be alive if officers hadn't detained and deported her.

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

Sierra Leone Becomes Latest African Country to Receive Deportees from US (BBC, May 20, 2026): Last week, Foreign Minister Timothy Musa Kabba told the Reuters news agency his country had agreed to accept up to 300 people a year expelled by the United States.

ICE Is Arresting, Detaining, and Deporting Veterans. Here's Why It's Personal (Austin Kocher Substack, May 18, 2026): I'm a veteran who studies immigration enforcement. I still didn't understand how badly our immigration system treats veteran families — and it's getting worse.

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

ICE Makes Courthouse Arrests Despite Judge's Order (New York Times, May 19, 2026):

A Honduran man was taken into custody on Tuesday in New York City, which his lawyers said violated a prohibition imposed a day earlier. Hours later, the man was released.

U.S. Claims 'Emergency Refugee Situation' as It Admits 10,000 More White South Africans (Guardian, May 19, 2026): Trump has repeatedly made false claims that white Afrikaners facing genocide with costs of resettling them at \$100million.

Federal Agents Raid Homes of Ventura County Immigration Activists (Los Angeles Times, May 18, 2026): Federal agents searched the homes of immigrant rights activists in an early morning raid that activists allege was retaliatory and part of an ongoing harassment campaign for their work patrolling and monitoring immigration

operations in Ventura County.

One Clinic Tracks the Heavy Toll Trump's Immigration Crackdown Takes on Mental Health (NPR, May 17, 2026): As the Trump administration's immigration crackdown stretches into its second year, researchers and health care workers say that it is creating a mental health crisis in immigrant communities.

A Texas Town May Offer a Preview of a Trump Plan to Force Noncitizens from Public Housing (AP, May 15, 2026): The impact was not limited to undocumented immigrants, but to immigrants who are here legally as well as people within their families who are citizens.

### **Attacks on All Immigrants**

Trump Moves to Tighten Banking Access for Non-Citizens (Time Magazine, May 20, 2026):

On Tuesday, Trump signed an executive order, titled "Restoring Integrity to America's Financial System," that would require banks to treat a customer's immigration status as a factor in evaluating potential financial risk.

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.

## **IMMIGRATION AND THE ECONOMY**

American Immigration Council: Fewer than two dozen of the 200 anti-immigrant bills proposed during state legislative sessions this year have been signed into law, in large part thanks to the pushback from local businesses that understand the value of their immigrant workforce. Watch the video here.

Trump's Deportations Are Costing Americans Jobs (New York Times, May 19, 2026): According to a new study, construction was impacted more than any other industry studied, with American-born workers losing more jobs than immigrants as a result of the deportations.

Trump's Immigration Crackdown Could Cost Up to \$479bn in Lost Taxes over 10 Years (Guardian, May 18, 2026): Proposed IRS data sharing with immigration authorities and ICE raids have made filing risky for those who are undocumented.

## **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.

**OCSI**

[ocsi.general.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ocsi.general.outreach@gmail.com)

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