



Migrant Center for Human Rights

Protecting the Persecuted

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

San Antonio, Texas (February 14, 2018): DHS Should Release Victor Avendano and Immediately Stop Targeting Other Non-Criminal Immigrants

Victor Avendano was forcibly separated from his family on January 31, 2018 after police picked him up for rolling through a stop sign. The next day he was ordered released from police custody but was held on an ICE detainer, a practice that courts across the nation have found to violate due process. He is now detained at the South Texas Detention Complex in Pearsall, Texas. Our office has filed a request for his release with ICE and is waiting to hear back.

Victor's case is not unique. The Trump Administration has ramped up interior enforcement in a major way. According to the Pew Research Center, ICE arrested 143,470 people in fiscal year 2017, a 30 percent increase over 2016. The Dallas area had the most arrests in the nation, at 16,520 arrests. This represents an increase of 71 percent, the second highest increase in the nation after Florida.

At the same time arrests by CBP have declined by 25 percent, reaching the lowest total in over 45 years. Despite this, the Trump Administration insists in increasing spending on border enforcement and building additional sections of the border wall, at huge cost to the U.S. tax-payer (including \$25 billion for the wall). While Congress considers the 2018 budget, we call on all our elected representatives to consider the other needs of our communities, such as Hurricane Harvey recovery, and ask them to make fiscally responsible choices.

The Administration also recently released its budget proposal for fiscal year 2019, in which it calls for an increase in detention to 52,000 people a day, at a cost to the American tax-payer of 2.8 billion. There are other, better alternatives to processing people's immigration cases than detaining community members and forcibly separating families.

More than 3,000 community members have asked for Victor Avendano's release. The community petition can be found here bit.ly/txicevictor and more information on advocacy efforts in this case can be found here <https://www.facebook.com/ManoAmigaSM/>.

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