

February 17, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave. NW,
Washington, D.C. 20016

The Honorable Thomas Homan
Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW,
Washington, D.C. 20536

RE: REQUEST TO RELEASE DACA RECIPIENT DANIEL RAMIREZ MEDINA FROM ICE CUSTODY

Dear Secretary Kelly and Acting Director Homan:

On behalf of the 412 undersigned national, state, and local religious, civil rights, ethnic, and immigrant rights organizations, we ask you to direct U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to immediately release Daniel Ramirez Medina, an immigrant with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and father of a U.S. citizen child, from custody and terminate any removal proceedings against him. As you know, on February 10, 2017, ICE, while conducting an immigration raid, collaterally encountered Mr. Ramirez Medina.¹ While Mr. Ramirez Medina clearly indicated he possessed a current grant of deferred action and work permit under DACA, ICE nevertheless placed him into custody. Later, reports circulated that “he was repeatedly pressured by [ICE] agents to falsely admit [gang] affiliation.”² Both Mr. Ramirez Medina and his attorney strongly deny any gang affiliation and ICE’s conduct is now subject to a lawsuit alleging violation of Mr. Ramirez Medina’s constitutional rights.³

Mr. Ramirez Medina, as evidenced by his grant of DACA, has twice undergone exhaustive and extensive national security and public safety background checks by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). These background examinations involve Mr. Ramirez Medina paying close to \$1,000 in fees and submitting his fingerprints, biographical, and biometric information for extensive vetting through various U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) databases. Critically, a subcomponent of DHS, USCIS, after careful and painstaking review concluded that Mr. Ramirez Medina warranted an exercise of prosecutorial discretion through deferred action not once, but *twice*.

Initially, we believe that noncitizens—regardless of their criminal history background—should not be prioritized for deportation but instead should have their circumstances, equities, and family ties considered on an individualized basis. The targeting of Mr. Ramirez Medina, however, demonstrates that even under the President’s new, flawed, and overly expansive enforcement priorities, ICE officers have the unfettered ability to designate *anyone* as an enforcement priority, regardless of their circumstances or background. If ICE can detain Mr. Ramirez Medina, a DACA recipient, with impunity, it can detain every single noncitizen in this country. Such framework is wholly unacceptable, as can be seen by statements condemning

¹ Ariane de Vogue, et al., *Immigrant protected under Obama's 'Dreamer' program is detained*, CNN, Feb. 15, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/14/politics/daniel-ramirez-medina-daca-detention/>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

ICE's arrest of Mr. Ramirez Medina, including statements from elected officials in the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and a wide range of other voices.⁴

In light of the above, we strongly urge you to immediately release Mr. Ramirez Medina from custody and terminate removal proceedings against him.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Jose Magaña-Salgado of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center at jmagana@ilrc.org or 202-777-8999 or Greisa Martinez Rosas of United We Dream at greisa@unitedwedream.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Adjunct Justice

African Communities Together

Alliance for Citizenship

America's Voice

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

CASA

Catholic Charities Trenton, NJ

Center for Community Change

Center for Employment Training

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for New Community

Center for Popular Democracy (CPD)

Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Christian Students of Conscience

CODEPINK for peace

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)

Daughters of Charity - USA

Degrees of Change

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries

⁴ *Id.*

Dominicans of Sinsinawa
Educators for Fair Consideration, a project of Community Initiatives
Equal Rights Advocates
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement
Farmworker Justice
Food Empowerment Project
Fuerza Mundial
Global Exchange
Grassroots Leadership
Hispanic Federation
Iglesia Del Nazareno
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Justice Corps
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Interfaith Worker Justice
International Rescue Committee
InterReligious Task Force on Central America
isters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Jewish Voice for Peace
Jose Angel Rodriguez
Jus Semper Global Alliance
Justice Strategies
KIPP Bay Area Schools
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MALDEF
Mi Familia Vota
Movement of Immigrants in America (Mia)
Mundo Maya Foundation
NAPAFASA
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza

National Education Association
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Justice for Our Neighbors
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latina/o Psychological Association
National Lawyers Guild
National Partnership for New Americans
Our Revolution
Oxfam America
People's Action
Pre-Health Dreamers
Project South
Research Institute Without Walls
Salvadoran American National Network (SANN)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
SHARE El Salvador
Sisters of the Precious Blood, CPPS, Dayton, Ohio
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network
Southern Border Communities Coalition
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
The Episcopal Network For Economic Justice
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United for a Fair Economy
United We Dream
W. Haywood Burns Institute
We Belong Together
Western States Center
Witness for Peace
WOLA (Washington Office on Latin America)
Women's Refugee Commission

State Organizations

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ACIJ)
Americans for Refugees & Immigrants

Arkansas Justice Collective
Arkansas United Community Coalition (AUCC)
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition
Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa
Causa Oregon
Centro de Amistad
Centro Legal de la Raza
Church Women United in New York State
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
Coloradans For Immigrant Rights, a project of the American Friends Service Committee
Colorado
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Colorado People's Alliance (COPA)
Columbia Legal Services
Comunidades Unidas (CU) /Communities United
Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
Connecticut Students for a Dream
Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas (COFEM)
Council on American-Islamic Relations of WA (CAIR-WA)
DC-Maryland Justice for Our Neighbors
El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos
Empire Justice Center
End Domestic Abuse WI
Equal Access Legal Services
Equal Justice Center (TX)
Equality New Mexico
Equality Ohio
Equality Texas
Faith Action Network
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC)
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama
Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN)
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
International Rescue Committee Seattle
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI)
Irish International Immigrant Center
Junta for Progressive Action
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Latin American Coalition (LAC)
Latino Community Fund of Washington State
Legal Aid at Work
Legal Aid Justice Center
Maine People's Alliance
Make the Road New York
Make the Road Pennsylvania
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
Michigan United
Migrant Justice / Justicia Migrante
Mississippi Center for Justice
Montana Organizing Project (MOP)
Musli Pucet Sound (MAPS)
Nebraska Appleseed
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Hampshire Alliance for Immigrant Rights-(NHAIR-MIRA)
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Ohio's Voice
OLA RAZA, Inc.
On The Move
OneAmerica
Oregon AFL-CIO
OutFront Minnesota
Pax Christi Florida
Pax Christi New Jersey
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
Progressive Leadership Alliance for Nevada (PLAN)

Promise Arizona (PAZ)
Puentes Advocacy, Counseling & Education
Refugee Services of Texas
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN)
Safe Passage Project Corporation
ScholarshipsA-Z
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity
Social Justice Collaborative
Somos Hispanas Unidas Silverton
Somos Un Pueblo Unido (SOMOS)
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
Sunflower Community Action
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
Texas Organizing Project
The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit
The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
The Washington Bus
Tirso Moreno
UAW Local 4121
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey
United Child Care, Inc.
University of California Undocumented Legal Services Center
VA Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Vitendo4Africa
Voces de la Frontera (VOCES)
Washington DREAM Act Coalition
Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture
WashingtonCAN!
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc
Workers Defense Project
Worksafe
Young Rescuers USA

Local Organizations

21 Progress
580 Cafe
ACTIONN (Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada)
Al Noor Islamic Community Center

Alianza (alianzadream.org)
Alliance San Diego
Allies of Knoxville's Immigrant Neighbors (AKIN)
American Gateways
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Apoyo Legal Migrante Asociado ALMA
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
ASPIRE
Athletic Scholars Advancement Program (ASAP)
Atlas: DIY
Austin Jewish Voice for Peace
Bear Creek United Methodist Church and Congregation Kol Ami Interfaith Partnership
Berkeley City College Undocumented Resource Center
Berkshire Immigrant Center
Bethany Immigration Services
Brazilian Alliance
Brooklyn Defender Services
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
Canal Alliance
Casa Cornelia Law Center
Casa de Paz
Casa Familiar Inc.
Casa Latina
Casa San Jose
Catholic Agency for Migration & Refugee Services
Catholic Charities charities of the East Bay
Catholic Charities Indianapolis, Inc
Catholic Charities Legal Immigration Services
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado
Catholic Charities of the East Bay
Catholic Charities San Francisco Marin San Mateo
Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga
Catholic Charities, Catholic Family & Community Services - Legal Svcs (Paterson, NJ)
CCEB
Central American Resource Center - Los Angeles (CARECEN-LA)
Central American Resource Center - Washington DC
Central Unitarian Church Social Action Team
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)

Centro del Inmigrante, Inc.
Centro Latino Americano
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador Episcopal
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
CLUE Ventura County
Coalition of Anti Racist Whites
Comite Civico Del Valle
Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands
Community Lawyers, Inc.
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
East Bay Community Law Center
Education & Leadership Foundation
El Paso Queer Bar Association
Employee Rights Center
Encuentro
Enlace Comunitario
Esperanza Immigration Legal Services
Faith in the Valley
Families First Services Center, Inc.
Friends of Broward Detainees
Fuerza Latina
Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Seattle WA
Global Unity Project
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Greater Birmingham Ministries
Greater Long Beach Interfaith Community Organization
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice
Greenville Multicultural
Grupo de Apoyo e Integración Hispanoamericano
HACES
Hana Center
HIAS and Council Migration Services DBA HIAS Pennsylvania
Hispanic Arts Council of St. Louis, Missouri
Hispanic Connection of Southern Indiana
Huerto de la Familia (The Family Garden)
Human Agenda

Human Right Initiative of North Texas
Identity of Maryland
Immanuel Fellowship
Immigrant Connection- Greenville Multicultural
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Immigrant Hope-Clifton NJ
Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County
Immigration Center of San Bernardino, Inc.
Immigration Resource Center of San Gabriel Valley
Immigration Services of Mountain View
Immigration Taskforce, SWPA Synod, ELCA
IMPORTA Santa Barbara
Inmigrantes Hispanos
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
International Institute of the Bay Area
Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Chapter
Jewish Social Services of Madison
JINA Immigration Legal Services
Justice for our Neighbors Houston
Juvenal Solano
Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center
Kids for College
Kino Border Initiative
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center
KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance)
Kol HaNeshamah
Korean Presbyterian Church of St. Louis ~ English Ministry
Korean Resource Center
La Union del Pueblo Entero (L.U.P.E.)
Latinos Unidos of the Hudson Valley
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Legal Services for Children
Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
Lowcountry Immigration Coalition
MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network)
Mercy Center
Migrant Rights Collective/Colectivo Derechos de Migrantes

MinKwon Center for Community Action
Mission Graduates
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
Nada Khader
NAPAWF*NYC
National Lawyers Guild - Los Angeles Chapter
National Wesleyan Church
NC Sli
New Sanctuary for Immigrants of the Capital Region
New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia
New Voice Immigration Assistance Services
New York Justice For Our Neighbors
North County Immigration Task Force
North Texas Dream Team (NTDT)
Oak Grove Church of God Immigration Ministry
Oakland Law Collaborative
Occupy Bergen County
Oconee Street United Methodist Church
Office for Life and Justice
Office of Life, Justice & Peace, Archdiocese of Portland
Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice - IMIJ
Pangea Legal Services
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
Project for Law Enforcement Accountability (PLEA) for Justice
Prospect United Church of Christ
Proteus, Inc.
Proyecto Santo Nino de Atocha
Public Law Center
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
Reformed Church of Highland Park
Refugio del Rio Grande
Restaurant Opportunities Center - Seattle (ROC Seattle)
Roots Of Conflict
Sacramento Area Congregations Together
Salaam Center of Renton
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.

Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families
Seattle Human Rights Commission
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Sisters of St. Francis Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission
SJSU Human Rights Institute
South City Church
Southwestern Law School Immigration Law Clinic
Spanish Alliance Church Morristown
St John of God Catholic Church
Street Level Health Project
Student U
Tacoma Community House
Tennessee Immigrant Empowerment Solutions
The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project
The Garden (Lutheran Ministry), Seattle WA
The Opportunity Network
The Resurrection Project
The Session of Clarendon Presbyterian Church
U-Lead Athens
Undocumented Community Resource Center
United Families
United Neighbors of Fitchburg
Unitrian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry
University of Tulsa Immigrant Rights Project
University Unitarian Church
UnLocal, Inc.
UpValley Family Centers of Napa County
UW Leadership Without Borders
Ventura County Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
VIDAS Legal Services
Vineyard Immigration Counseling Serv.
Volunteers of Legal Service
Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Wayne Action for Racial Equality
WeCount!
Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA
Workers' Center of Central NY
Working Partnerships USA

YWCA Greater Austin