



**IMMIGRANT
DEFENSE
PROJECT**

For Immediate Release

June 5, 2020

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Video Shows ICE Agents Assaulting Protester in NYC

See the video obtained by the Immigrant Defense Project

here: <https://twitter.com/ImmDefense/status/1268937547561959425?s=20>

News organizations can broadcast and use this video in online stories.

NEW YORK-- On Wednesday evening around 7pm, agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations unit assaulted, pointed guns at and arrested a US citizen on the Upper West Side of Manhattan who was walking with other peaceful protestors.

At least 5 agents, most of whom were dressed in plain-clothes, with one wearing a vest that said POLICE/HSI, jumped out of an unmarked SUV and threw the man, a US citizen of Puerto Rican descent, down to the ground while three of the agents pointed guns at him. The man hit his head and knee against the pavement as the agents threw him on the ground. The agents held him down, put him in handcuffs, illegally searched him and tried to search his phone. When they took his wallet out of his back pocket and went through it, they found his military veteran ID. They refused to let him go until ordered to do so by their supervisor when he arrived on the scene. The agents never identified who they were.

The man was held in custody for at least ten minutes and suffered substantial bruising to his body. He believed that the agents, who never identified themselves and were not wearing masks, were going to shoot him. The man lives and works in the neighborhood where the incident took place.

As New York City reopens after a devastating pandemic and confronts the legacy of police violence, ICE is taking the opening to advance its deportation agenda. Over the past three years, ICE has heavily relied on courthouses to target immigrants for deportation. As the pandemic lifts and courts reopen, immigrants were already at increased risk of ICE arrest. But now as the NYPD arrests and charges hundreds of people for working or protesting after curfew, immigrants who rely on and are required to attend New York courthouses, will be even more vulnerable to ICE's dangerous tactics.

It is urgent that lawmakers in Albany pass the Protect Our Courts Act, S425/Hoylman, A2176/Solages, this session in order to prohibit ICE from detaining immigrants in and around the state's courthouses without a judicial warrant. The state violence of law enforcement, including ICE, cannot continue. As courts reopen across the state with social distancing guidelines in place and growing numbers of people waiting outside the courthouses, New York must act swiftly to protect equal access to the courts by all New Yorkers.

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The Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) is a New York-based nonprofit that works to secure fairness and justice for immigrants in the racially-biased U.S. criminal and immigration systems. IDP fights to end the current era of unprecedented mass criminalization, detention and deportation through a multi-pronged strategy including advocacy, litigation, legal support, community partnerships, and strategic communications. Visit www.immigrantdefenseproject.org and follow [@ImmDefense](https://twitter.com/ImmDefense).

LatinoJustice PRLDEF is a legal defense and education fund working to create a more just society by using and challenging the rule of law to secure transformative, equitable and accessible justice, by empowering our community and by fostering leadership through advocacy and education. Learn more at <https://www.latinojustice.org/en>