

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



IDP Statement on ICE Policy to Deny Detained Immigrants their Right to Appear in Court, Obstructing their Fundamental Right to Due Process

NEW YORK – June 27, 2018 – The following is a statement from the **Immigrant Defense Project (IDP)** regarding the new U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy refusing to bring people to the Varick Street Immigration Court for their hearings, and its decision to replace in-person appearances with remote video teleconferencing:

“Today marks a new low in ICE’s abusive practices and constitutional violations. By depriving individuals their long-awaited day in court, ICE is crushing their fundamental right to due process and eviscerating all traces of fairness from court proceedings. Individuals facing banishment and exile from their families will be forced to fight their cases through a screen. ICE’s new policy will also cut off immigrants from their attorneys, by stripping them of their ability to meet with counsel before and after appearances.

Every week, IDP receives dozens of calls on our hotline from family and community members who have been separated from their families after an ICE arrest. Many times, they don't even know where their loved one is or what process they'll face while they fight deportation. The ability to meet in person with legal representation is often their only glimmer of hope, and a critical component to fighting against permanent exile and separation from their family. Without this ability to appear in court with their lawyer, in front of their family, seeing the judge, the result may be that many will give up and get deported -- despite having valid forms of relief against deportation.”

For more information, please visit the Immigrant Defense Project at ImmigrantDefenseProject.org.

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About the Immigrant Defense Project

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.

Media Contact:

Alejandra Lopez

Immigrant Defense Project

E: Alejandra@ImmDefense.org

O: 646-760-0589