

# EYES ON ICE:

## Know Your Rights & Practical Tips for Filming Immigration Agents



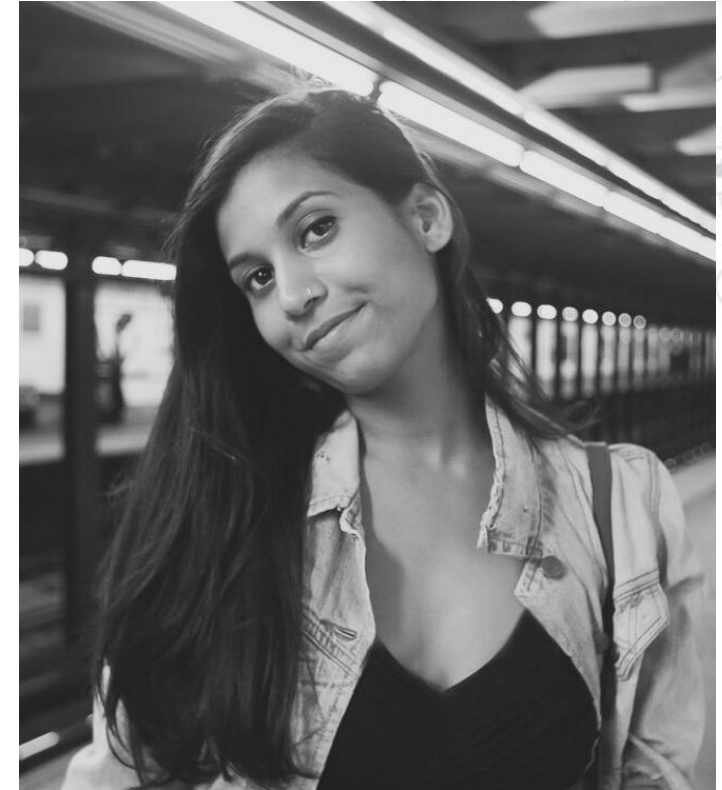
June 13, 2017

# Before we get started...a few logistics

- Mics muted/ cameras off
- Technical questions - message us directly in the chat box or [feedback@witness.org](mailto:feedback@witness.org)
- Q&A at the end
- Webinar will be recorded and shared
- Spanish translation available afterwards
- Share on social #EyesOnICE



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WITNESS trains and supports human rights defenders around the world to use video safely, ethically, and effectively to expose human rights abuse and fight for human rights change.



IMMIGRANT  
DEFENSE  
PROJECT



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**IMMIGRANT  
DEFENSE  
PROJECT**

Immigrant Defense Project promotes fundamental fairness for immigrants accused or convicted of crimes.

**We have been monitoring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and community arrests for over three years.**

# Today's Agenda

- **The power & perils of filming ICE**
- **ICE tactics & documenting**
- **Your right to film ICE**
- **Capturing impt details when filming**
- **Sharing ethically**
- **Livestreaming**
- **Digital security concerns**
- **Q&A**



## Who is ICE?

Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the federal agency that detains & deports immigrants.



# The power & perils of filming ICE

**Why focus on documenting ICE?**



# The power of filming ICE

Photos/video can help community organizations **verify** reports & rumors of ICE presence or raids.



# The power of filming ICE

Documentation of ICE abuses can be **evidence** or support in individual cases.



Illustration by Bishakh Som

# The power of filming ICE



Filming ICE can **expose** human rights abuses & help communities challenge state violence.



# **The perils of filming ICE**

Exposing someone's identity or location could put them at risk of ICE enforcement or retaliation.



# **The perils of filming ICE**

Filming could be unsafe for you or those around you and/or lead to arrest.




# Takeaways

- **Filming can help individuals & communities challenge state violence & deportation.**
- **However, it is important to assess the risks before filming, uploading to social media or sharing widely.**
- **Also, consider if other ways to document.**

# How ICE tactics affect filming





A background network diagram consisting of various sized nodes (circles) connected by thin lines. Some nodes are solid grey, while others are hollow with a dashed border. The nodes are scattered across the page, with a higher density in the top-left and bottom-right corners. A large, empty dashed circle is positioned in the lower-right quadrant of the page.

**Generally, ICE raids are designed to catch people off-guard.**

**FYI:** Home raids usually happen early in the morning (5-8am).

A background network diagram consisting of various sized grey circles connected by thin grey lines, forming a complex web-like structure. The nodes are scattered across the page, with a higher density on the left side.

# ICE raids are geographically spread out.

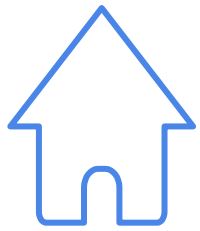
Cars

Courthouses

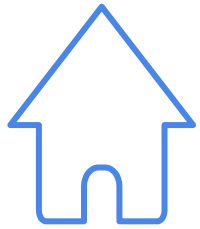
In public spaces

Homes

Workplaces



**Many ICE raids  
take place out of  
public view in  
homes.**



**So, important to train community  
members in households at risk --  
not just raid responders.**

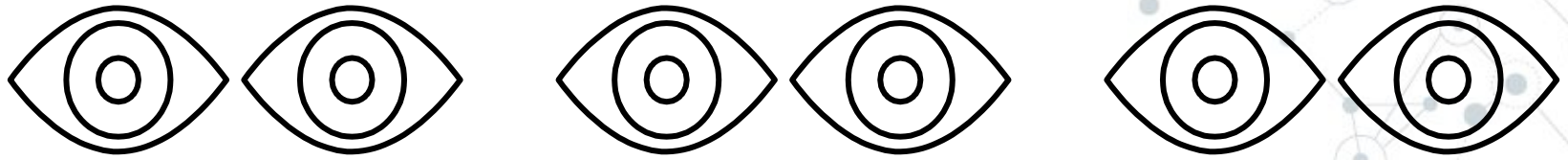


# Immigration agents aren't always recognizable.

Sometimes, they present themselves as police.  
Sometimes, they work with local police.



**Example: Santa Cruz, CA police gang raid with ICE -**  
[mercurynews.com/2017/02/23/santa-cruz-police-homeland-security-raids-immigration-status-not-gang-related](https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/23/santa-cruz-police-homeland-security-raids-immigration-status-not-gang-related)



**ICE agents often lie to confuse people, get into homes without proper warrants & find the person they want to arrest.**

**So, many people don't realize it is ICE until the end of the raid.**

**Example: LA Times article w/video from ICE presenting themselves as police -**

**<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-immigration-deportation-ruses-20170219-story.html>**

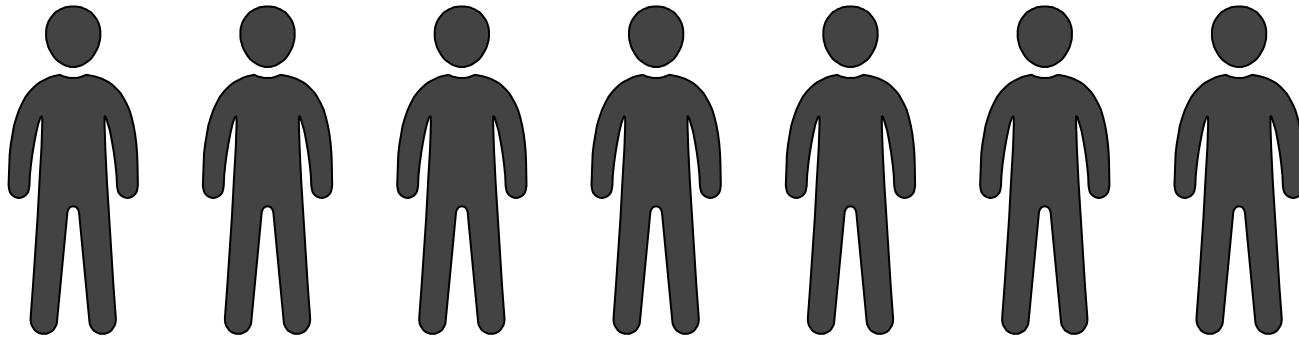
**In recent years, ICE usually has targeted a specific person to arrest, but probably return to more sweeping raids in the future.**



**Example: PA mushroom farm worksite raid -**

<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/ICE-Raids-Mushroom-Farm-in-Chester-County-Arrests-Nine-Undocumented-Immigrants-Witnesses-420779243.html>

**ICE is likely to try to intimidate  
or harass witnesses, especially  
as Trump's ICE conducts more  
“collateral arrests.”**



So, witnesses should consider the risk of  
violence, arrest and/or deportation if  
documenting.

# Things to document

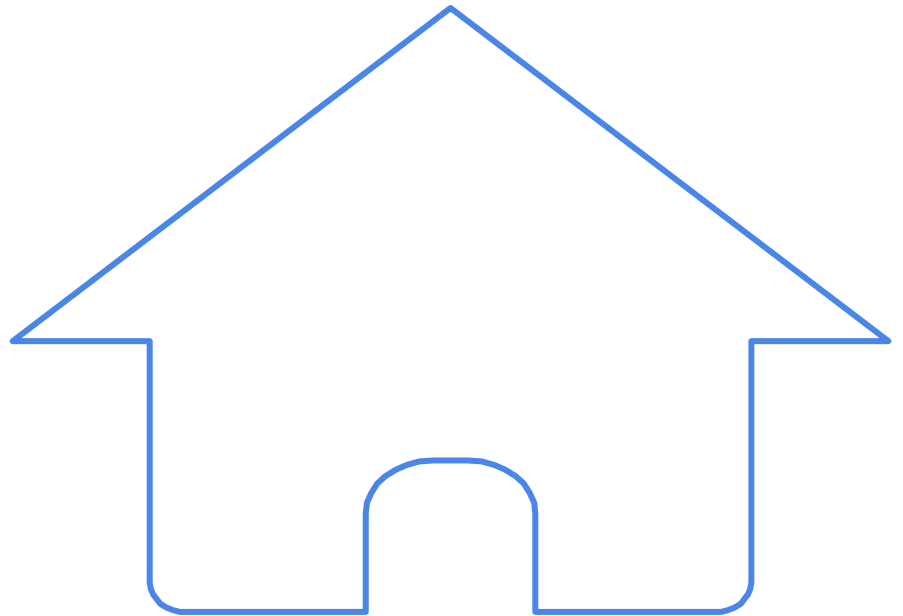




**ICE agents often use questionable tactics to get into a home to arrest someone.**

- **Force/violence**
- **Intimidation**
- **Lies**

**DOCUMENT!**



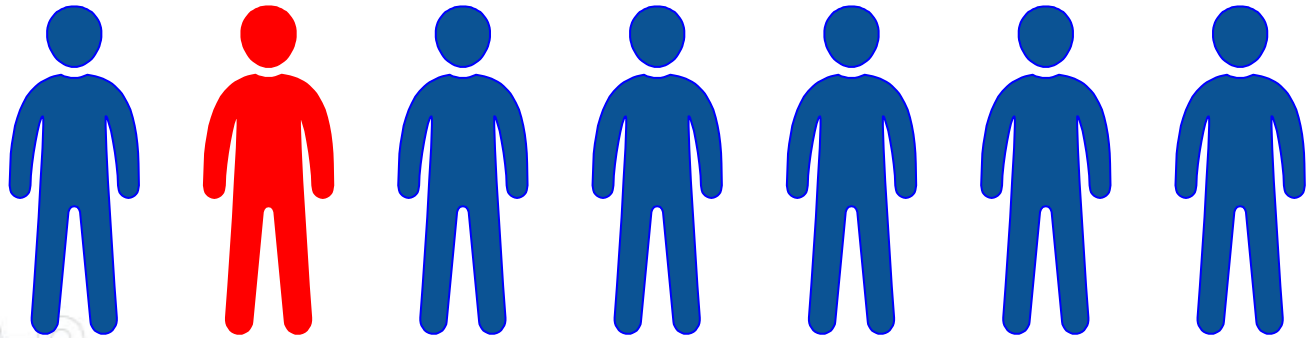



**ICE agents sometimes do extensive searches in homes without proper warrants or permission.**

A background network diagram consisting of grey circles connected by thin lines, representing a social or data network. The circles vary in size and are scattered across the white background.

**DOCUMENT!**

**ICE agents sometimes  
engage in racial profiling.**





**DOCUMENT!**

**ICE agents are often rude or dismissive -- including towards witnesses.**

**They routinely conduct raids in front of vulnerable witnesses, like children.**

# **There are many ways to document ICE abuses:**

Filming or taking photos during a raid

Interviewing witnesses on camera right after a raid

Security camera footage

Writing down what happened right after the raid

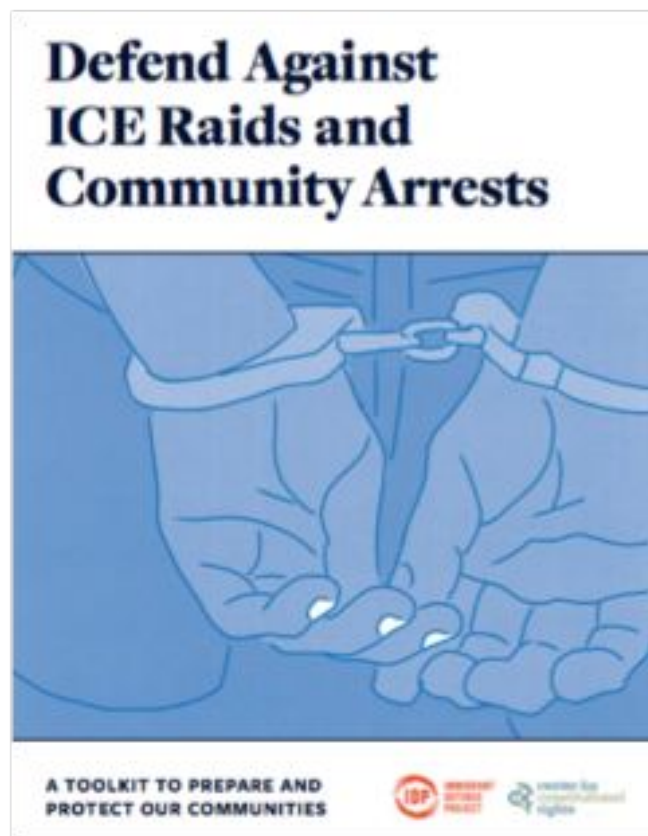
Saving communications from ICE, like voicemails



# Takeaways

- Identify those (incl. U.S. citizens) at risk of experiencing an ICE raid. Tell them about ICE tactics & help them **plan for documentation** in case of a raid.
- Document ICE **abuses**, especially where agents use force, intimidation or deception.
- Even if a witness didn't film, think of **other ways to document** the raid. Ask relevant questions about abuses, write down answers ASAP after raid.

For more info on ICE tactics & how to fight back, visit [immdefense.org/raids-toolkit](https://immdefense.org/raids-toolkit).



# For Know Your Rights info on encounters with ICE, visit [immdefense.org/ice-arrests](https://immdefense.org/ice-arrests).



## Who is at risk of being arrested by ICE?

The law allows the federal government to deport certain immigrants, including:

- Anyone without lawful immigration status
- People with status (e.g., lawful permanent residents, refugees and visa holders) who have certain criminal convictions



The people the Trump Administration announced ICE will initially focus on deporting include:

- people with pending criminal cases and/or prior criminal convictions;
- people with final orders of removal;
- people who have committed fraud or misrepresentation in applications to the government;
- people they believe pose a threat to public safety or national security

### People with legal status and prior convictions

- Be aware:** You may be a target even if:
- Your conviction is from years ago;
  - You didn't serve time in jail;
  - Your case was minor or a misdemeanor;
  - You've been an LPR for a long time; and/or
  - All the other members of your family are US citizens.

**FYI:** IDP/CCR created a **wall poster** for the home that reminds you of what to say & what to write down just after a raid.

**Another good resource for collecting info after a raid:**

Mijente Raid Evidence Collection Form (paper version has all questions)

<https://mijente.net/raid-evidence-collection-form/>



# **Know Your Rights - The Basics on Filming ICE**



# Know Your Rights - Filming ICE (The Basics)

- **It is legal to film ICE** in public.
- **Film openly.** Some states have laws against secret recordings.
- **Don't interfere** with the arrest.
- Back up if directed or you may face arrest.



# CAUTION:

**Even if they tell you to stop filming, you have the right to continue so long as you aren't interfering.**

While there are only limited situations where they can **take your phone**, be aware they may do it legally or illegally.



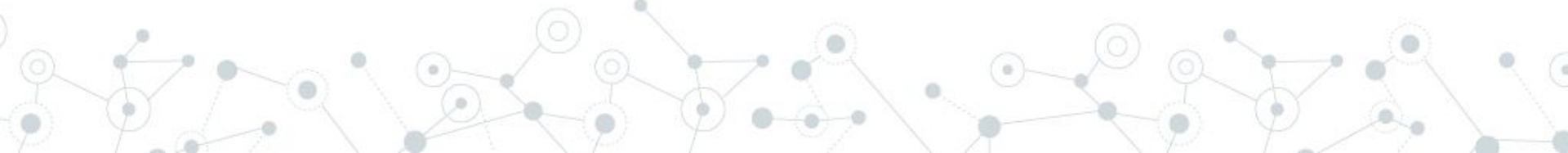
# What to film? Tips on Capturing Important Details



# Sergio Hernández - 15 y/o

## US - Mexico Border

00:01:17.91



*Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked Kneedler if he had seen the cellphone video that appeared on YouTube, which captured the events at the center of Tuesday's case.*

***Sotomayor said she had watched the video, "and I can't square the police officer's account of this incident with the film."***



**BE SAFE**

**ICE is more concerned with their  
safety than yours!**



**BE SAFE**

**Remember, video is not the only  
way to document!**





# Prepare

**Avoid fingerprint ID to lock your phone**



**Have trusted contact info handy**



**Secure your electronic devices**



**Clean up your social media**



**Set automatic backup for photos/videos**



**Example: Baltimore, MD, Cops try to delete video evidence but fortunately it's backed up:** [https://lab.witness.org/portfolio\\_page/kianga-mwamba/](https://lab.witness.org/portfolio_page/kianga-mwamba/)

# Film the Details

- Focus on the officers, not civilians
- Capture the full scene
- Get details: badges, license plates, weapons
- Get context: street signs, landmarks, other cameras present

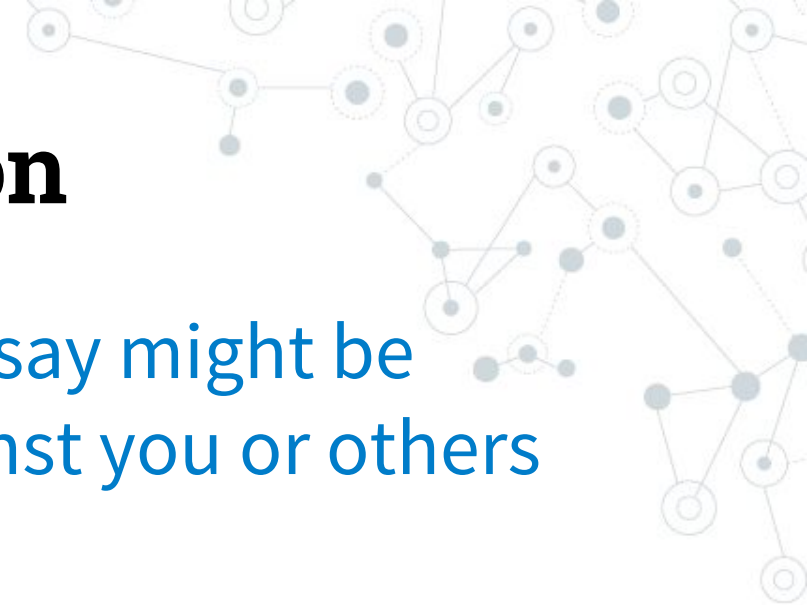


# Narration

What you say might be used against you or others in court.

If you speak, try to focus on facts - not feelings or info about others in the video.

If violence occurs, try to stay calm and quiet.



# Share Ethically



Immediately uploading to social media can pose threats to the victim and filmer/uploader.

If possible, speak with the family or victim first. Get support from a lawyer, trusted journalist or local advocacy org.

# Share Ethically

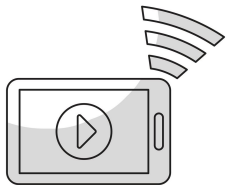
**\*This is top priority for filming immigration-related events\***



Protect identities



Be aware of information associated with your device



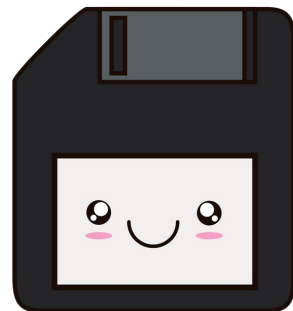
Think before you livestream

**Example: New York, NY, Ramsey Orta believes he was targeted for filming cops in Eric Garner case**

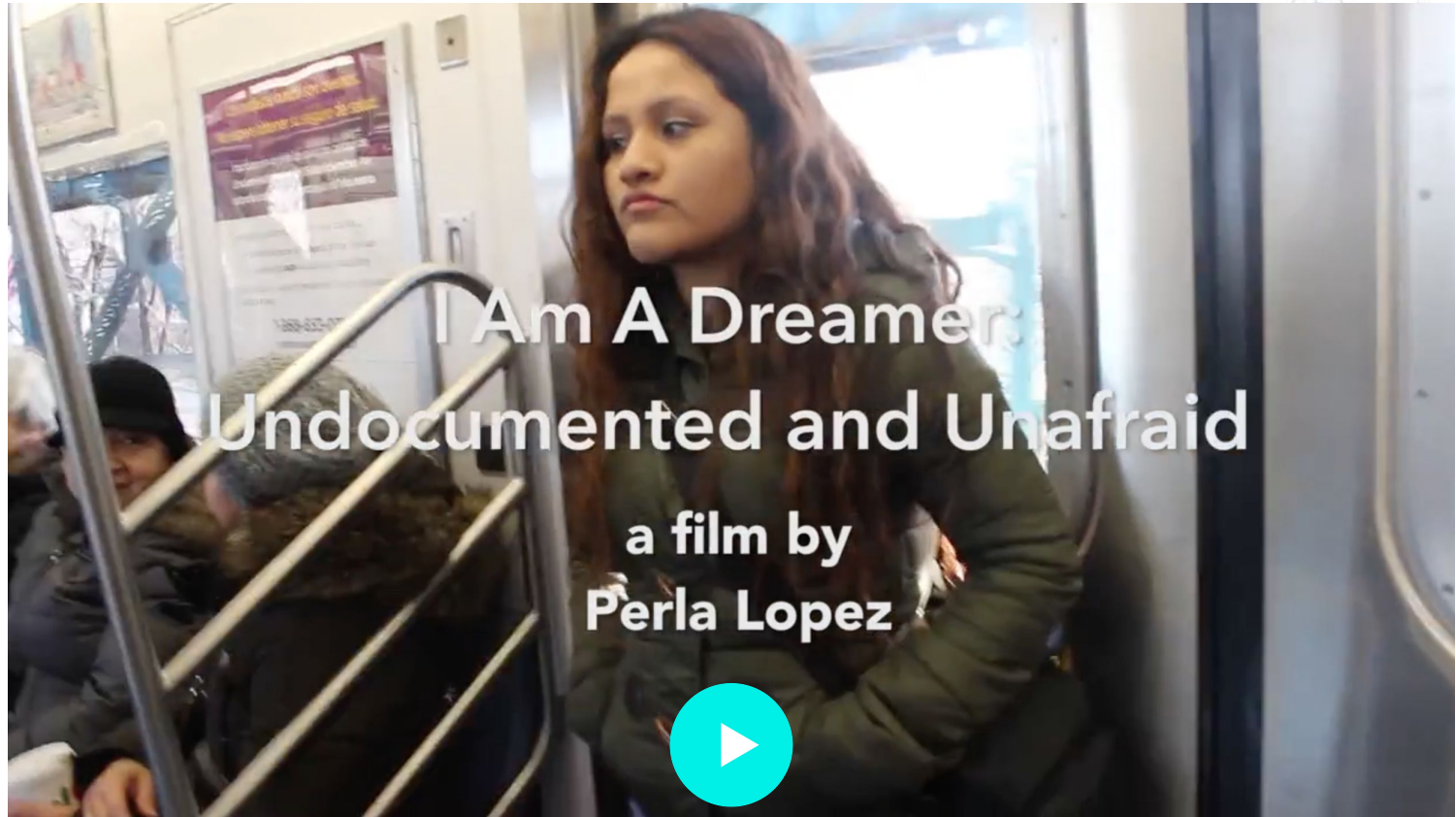
[https://www.democracynow.org/2016/7/13/two\\_years\\_after\\_eric\\_garner\\_s](https://www.democracynow.org/2016/7/13/two_years_after_eric_garner_s)

# Preserve Your Media

- Make copies of the footage, and save in different secure locations
- Never edit or rename the original
- If you edit, do so from a copy
- You can make edits to the copy that you share, such as blurring faces in videos manually or using YouTube's Face Blurring feature to protect identities.



# Counter Narratives



I Am A Dreamer:  
Undocumented and Unafraid

a film by  
Perla Lopez



For more filming tips visit  
[library.witness.org](http://library.witness.org)

En español: [es.witness.org](http://es.witness.org)





# Takeaways

- Video documentation can help verify human rights abuses and violations
- ICE is more concerned with their safety than yours
- Sharing video content ethically and protecting identities are the top priorities for filming immigration related events
- Be aware of your digital security

# Question & Answer

- Please type your questions into the question box.



# HERE TO STAY



**UnitedWeDream.org**

*"A Hate-Free Zone is not just a declaration, but the practice of building a community defense system that will allow us to defend our communities from workplace raids, deportations, mass criminalization, violence and systemic violation of our rights and dignity. **A Hate-Free Zone does not happen without the people in this crowd, in this neighborhood, in this city. The times we are living in now demand we work as communities to love and protect each other.**" - DRUM leader [Poonam Das](#)*

**DrumNYC.org**

# Thank you for participating!

## Contact us:

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