

CITIZEN'S COMPENDIUM

Immigration Enforcement, Constitutional Rights & Accountability

Key Court Cases · Legislation · Executive Actions · Documented Abuses

A plain-language guide for concerned citizens

January 2025 – March 2026 | Second Trump Administration

How to Use This Compendium

Each entry uses a consistent format: WHAT HAPPENED (the facts), WHY IT MATTERS (the constitutional and civic significance), and CITIZEN ACTION (what you can do). Color-coded status badges show whether each matter is active, resolved, pending, or a continuing concern. This document covers the period January 2025 – March 2026.

Fast Facts: The Scale of What Is Happening

Deportations (Year 1)	Over 390,000 deported in President Trump's first year in office
ICE Detention	Daily detention population grew from ~40,000 to over 73,000 — a 75% increase — in 2025
No Criminal Record	65–74% of those detained had no criminal convictions; 93%+ had no violent offenses (CATO/Amer. Immigration Council)
Deaths in Custody	32 deaths in ICE detention in 2025 — highest since 2004; more than the prior 4 years combined
Court Rulings vs. Admin	Courts ruled 4,400+ times that the administration was illegally detaining people (Wikipedia); 350 of 362 habeas petitions won by detainees in one NY federal court
Habeas Petitions Filed	388 in Washington state alone in 2025; 100+ new filings in January 2026 in WA alone
ICE Enforcement Funding	\$170.7 billion in new enforcement funding over 4 years under the One Big Beautiful Bill (signed July 4, 2025)

Arrests of Non-Criminals

Arrests of people with no criminal record surged 2,450% in Trump's first year

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

What the Administration Has Done by Presidential Decree

1. Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations

Beginning on January 20, 2025, the Trump administration issued a wave of executive orders dramatically reshaping immigration policy and enforcement. These are not subject to the normal legislative process — they take effect immediately and require court challenges to reverse. Here are the most consequential:

A. The January 20, 2025 Executive Orders (Day One)

EO: 'Protecting the American People Against Invasion'

STATUS: In Effect — Partially Enjoined | Executive Order 14165 | Signed Jan. 20, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

Directed DHS to enforce immigration laws against ALL undocumented immigrants regardless of individual circumstances, revoked Biden-era enforcement priorities, and expanded expedited removal (deportation without a full hearing) to anyone present in the U.S. for less than two years who entered unlawfully — not just those near the border.

WHY IT MATTERS

This eliminated the previous framework of prioritizing enforcement against those who posed genuine public safety threats. Tens of thousands of people with no criminal history — including parents, long-term residents, and asylum-seekers — became targets for immediate deportation with little or no judicial review. Courts have partially blocked the expedited removal expansion.

CITIZEN ACTION

Demand that your representatives require judicial oversight before expedited removal can be used. Ask them to support legislation requiring warrants for all civil immigration arrests.

EO: Birthright Citizenship Restriction

STATUS: Blocked by Courts | Executive Order | Signed Jan. 20, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

Declared that children born in the U.S. after February 19, 2025 would NOT automatically receive citizenship if their mother is unlawfully present (or has temporary status) and their father is not a U.S. citizen or green card holder — a direct attempt to reinterpret the 14th Amendment.

WHY IT MATTERS

Multiple federal judges immediately called the order 'blatantly unconstitutional,' and courts have blocked it nationwide. The 14th Amendment's guarantee — 'All persons born or naturalized in the United States... are citizens' — has been settled law since 1868. The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments. If upheld, it would create a new class of stateless children born on U.S. soil.

CITIZEN ACTION

Urge your senators to be prepared to confirm only Supreme Court justices who respect long-settled constitutional interpretations. Follow the Supreme Court case closely — oral arguments expected spring 2026.

EO: Ending Sanctuary City Protections & Funding Threats

STATUS: Partially Enjoined | EO + Feb. 5, 2025 DOJ Memo

WHAT HAPPENED

Directed the DOJ to end federal funding to 'sanctuary jurisdictions' — cities and states that limit cooperation with ICE — and to pause funding to nonprofits that provide services to undocumented immigrants.

WHY IT MATTERS

Courts repeatedly blocked similar efforts during Trump's first term, finding that the federal government cannot coerce states and localities into enforcing federal law under the 10th Amendment's 'anti-commandeering' doctrine. Multiple lower courts have again rejected these funding conditions. However, the threat has had a chilling effect on some local governments and nonprofits.

CITIZEN ACTION

Support your city and county officials if they maintain sanctuary policies. Contact your local officials and thank them if they've resisted federal pressure. Remind them the courts have repeatedly upheld their authority to do so.

B. The Alien Enemies Act Invocation (March 2025)**Trump Invokes the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 — First Use in Peacetime**

STATUS: Enjoined by Multiple Courts / Ongoing | Presidential Proclamation | March 14, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

President Trump invoked this 227-year-old wartime law to declare Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua a 'hostile force' conducting an 'invasion,' and used it to deport approximately 250 Venezuelans — with no individual hearings, no evidence presented, and no due process — to El Salvador's notorious CECOT mega-prison, at a cost of \$6 million/year paid to El Salvador's government. The administration did not identify the individuals or provide evidence of gang membership. Some were marked for deportation based on tattoos.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Alien Enemies Act has only ever been used in times of declared war (War of 1812, WWI, WWII). Legal experts across the political spectrum note it requires the U.S. to be at war with a foreign nation — not a criminal organization. A Trump-appointed federal judge ruled the invocation 'unlawful.' The administration defied initial court orders to turn deportation flights around. The Supreme Court's April 2025 ruling did not address whether the Act's use was proper; it only ruled that cases should be filed where detainees are held. Deportees sent to El Salvador in July 2025 were later returned to Venezuela under a three-country agreement.

CITIZEN ACTION

Demand that Congress repeal or restrict the Alien Enemies Act to prevent future peacetime misuse. Ask your representatives to call for investigation of whether the administration defied court orders when planes were not turned around after Judge Boasberg's order.

C. Other Key Executive Actions

ICE Authorized to Raid Churches, Schools, and Hospitals

STATUS: In Effect | DHS Policy Reversal | January 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

The Trump administration reversed decades of policy that treated houses of worship, schools, and hospitals as 'sensitive locations' — protected from immigration enforcement operations. ICE agents were given permission to conduct arrests in these spaces.

WHY IT MATTERS

Churches, schools, and hospitals have historically been protected as community safe havens. Their protection enabled immigrant families to seek healthcare, educate their children, and practice their religion without fear. A coalition of over two dozen Christian and Jewish denominations sued DHS, arguing the raids violate their First Amendment religious freedom rights. The practical effect has been widespread community fear and reduced use of critical services.

CITIZEN ACTION

Support the faith coalition's lawsuit. Contact your representatives to ask them to restore sensitive location protections through legislation. If your faith community is concerned, encourage them to join advocacy efforts.

National Immigrant Registry: Required Registration and Fingerprinting

STATUS: In Effect / Challenged | DHS Regulation | Effective 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

Immigrants as young as 14 are now required to register with the federal government, provide personal data and fingerprints, and carry proof of registration at all times or face indefinite detention. The administration also began combining personal data from SSA, IRS, HHS, and other agencies — including health and car insurance records — to identify and target undocumented individuals.

WHY IT MATTERS

Legal experts have compared this registry to discriminatory registration systems from World War II. Civil rights groups and multiple state attorneys general argue the data-sharing practices violate the Privacy Act of 1974. The requirement to 'carry papers' enables racial profiling and creates legal risk even for people with lawful status who happen not to have documentation on them.

CITIZEN ACTION

Contact your state attorney general's office to ask if your state is challenging the privacy violations. Ask your federal representatives to hold hearings on the data-sharing practices and demand compliance with the Privacy Act.

EO Targeting Immigration Attorneys

STATUS: In Effect | Executive Order | March 22, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

An executive order issued in March 2025 disparaged immigration attorneys as engaged in fraud and improper coaching of clients, and threatened sanctions against lawyers and law firms that represent immigrants.

WHY IT MATTERS

This has had a documented chilling effect on immigration legal representation. Unlike criminal defendants, immigrants have no right to a court-appointed attorney. Many rely entirely on nonprofits

and pro bono lawyers. Threatening lawyers who represent them undermines due process and the adversarial legal system itself.

CITIZEN ACTION

Support your local legal aid organizations. If you are a lawyer or know lawyers, encourage pro bono immigration representation. Contact your bar association to ask them to speak out against executive interference with the legal profession.

PART TWO: KEY COURT CASES & RULINGS

What Courts Have Decided — and Where Battles Continue

2. Supreme Court Decisions

Trump v. J.G.G. — Alien Enemies Act: Where Cases Must Be Filed

STATUS: Decided — April 7, 2025 | U.S. Supreme Court | April 7, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

The Supreme Court ruled that cases challenging deportations under the Alien Enemies Act should be filed where the detainees are held, not in Washington D.C. — the location where the initial block was ordered by Judge Boasberg. This lifted Boasberg's order technically, but did NOT rule on whether the use of the Alien Enemies Act itself was constitutional or lawful.

WHY IT MATTERS

The ruling forced thousands of affected individuals to refile cases in their detention locations, creating enormous logistical burdens. It also left open the constitutional question of the Act's use. Subsequently, a Trump-appointed judge in Texas ruled the invocation 'unlawful,' and new injunctions were entered across the country. The Supreme Court, in the same period, also refused to block the Alien Enemies Act cases from proceeding — signaling the courts intend to rule on the merits.

CITIZEN ACTION

Follow ACLU litigation tracking at [aclu.org](https://www.aclu.org). Demand that your senators support legislation to require due process hearings before anyone can be deported under the Alien Enemies Act.

Noem v. Abrego Garcia — The Landmark Wrongful Deportation Case

STATUS: Decided — April 10, 2025 | Ongoing Compliance Battle | U.S. Supreme Court (9-0) | April 10, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

In a unanimous ruling, the Supreme Court ordered the Trump administration to 'facilitate and effectuate' the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia — a Maryland man who was wrongfully deported to El Salvador's CECOT prison despite a standing court order protecting him from removal. The government had acknowledged the deportation was an 'administrative error.' Abrego Garcia had no criminal record. He was deported three days after being stopped in his car with his five-year-old child.

WHY IT MATTERS

This is perhaps the most significant single case of the period. A 9-0 Supreme Court ruling was met by months of executive branch foot-dragging. Administration officials said they had 'no authority' to bring him back. President Trump publicly met with El Salvador's president to affirm he would not return. A judge threatened contempt proceedings. The administration ultimately indicted Abrego Garcia on human smuggling charges (based on a traffic stop from 2022 that had previously been closed) and brought him back to face those charges — which a federal judge found may constitute vindictive prosecution. Justice Sotomayor warned: 'The Government could deport and incarcerate any person, including U.S. citizens, without legal consequence, so long as it does so before a court can intervene.'

CITIZEN ACTION

This case is the clearest example of executive defiance of courts. Contact your representatives and demand investigations into contempt of court. Ask them to pass legislation imposing automatic sanctions for failure to comply with judicial orders in deportation cases.

Noem v. Perdomo (Vazquez Perdomo) — ICE Stops in Los Angeles

STATUS: Decided — September 8, 2025 | U.S. Supreme Court | Sept. 8, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

The Supreme Court (5-4 along ideological lines) stayed a lower court ruling that had blocked ICE from conducting immigration stops in Los Angeles without reasonable, individualized suspicion. Justice Kavanaugh, writing in concurrence, emphasized deference to the executive branch. Justice Sotomayor, joined by Kagan and Jackson, dissented: 'We should not have to live in a country where the Government can seize anyone who looks Latino, speaks Spanish, and appears to work a low wage job.'

WHY IT MATTERS

This ruling allows ICE to conduct broad immigration stops based on general appearance or demographic characteristics rather than individualized, articulable suspicion of a specific violation — a significant weakening of Fourth Amendment protections. The stay allows the stops to continue while the underlying case on the merits proceeds.

CITIZEN ACTION

Follow the underlying case. Support legal challenges from the ACLU and NILC. Urge your state and local law enforcement to issue their own policies requiring individualized suspicion before any person is stopped based on suspected immigration status.

3. Key Federal Court Rulings

Judge Boasberg's Order: Turn the Planes Around — Administration Defied

STATUS: Court Order Issued | Compliance Disputed | U.S. District Court, D.C. (Judge James Boasberg) | March 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

After Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act, Judge Boasberg issued an emergency order barring deportations and ordering any planes in the air to turn around. Administration officials claimed the order did not apply because flights were 'over international waters.' Approximately 250 people were still sent to CECOT. The administration refused to answer basic questions about the flights at subsequent hearings. Trump called for Boasberg to be impeached. Chief Justice Roberts issued a rare public statement that 'impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision.'

WHY IT MATTERS

This is arguably the most direct documented defiance of a federal court order in modern U.S. history. The administration's position — that it can avoid a court order by moving fast enough — has no legal foundation. Chief Justice Roberts' statement was a rebuke to the administration and a defense of judicial independence.

CITIZEN ACTION

Contact your representatives and demand they use their oversight power to investigate whether administration officials committed contempt of court. Ask for hearings on the administration's stated theory that it can deport people before courts can act.

Colorado Warrantless Arrests Injunction (Dias-Goncalves et al.)

STATUS: Injunction in Effect | Appeal Pending | U.S. District Court, Colorado (Judge R. Brooke Jackson) | November 25, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

In a comprehensive 66-page ruling, a senior federal judge ordered ICE to stop making warrantless 'collateral' arrests in Colorado — the practice of arresting bystanders while looking for someone else — and to comply with federal law requiring a determination of flight risk before detention. The ruling documented that most of the growth in Colorado ICE detentions came from collateral arrests of people with no connection to the original enforcement target. ICE called the ruling 'activist' and 'brazen.' The administration pledged to appeal.

WHY IT MATTERS

Collateral arrests — sweeping up anyone in the vicinity of an enforcement target — are a core tactic that has swept up people with no criminal record and no connection to any investigation. This ruling directly challenges one of ICE's most widely used and constitutionally questionable enforcement methods.

CITIZEN ACTION

Urge your federal representatives to introduce legislation codifying the flight-risk assessment requirement nationwide. Share this ruling with local officials as evidence of ICE overreach in your area.

California Central Valley Raids Blocked by Court Order

STATUS: Court Order Issued | Status Ongoing | U.S. District Court, Eastern District CA (Judge Jennifer Thurston) | 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

After dozens of farmworkers and laborers were arrested in California's Central Valley, Judge Thurston ordered an end to ICE raids in the region, finding that agents were stopping people without warrants or reasonable, individualized suspicion.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Central Valley is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country. The raids targeted immigrant farmworkers who had committed no crimes. The ruling confirmed that ICE agents were conducting stops based on general appearance rather than articulable facts — a clear Fourth Amendment violation.

CITIZEN ACTION

Support the farmworker communities affected. Ask your congressional representatives on the House Agriculture Committee to examine the economic impact of immigration raids on U.S. food production.

Minnesota Operation PARRIS: TRO Against Refugee Arrests

STATUS: TRO Granted | Ongoing | U.S. District Court, Minnesota | January 2026

WHAT HAPPENED

A federal judge issued a Temporary Restraining Order halting Operation PARRIS — ICE's door-to-door arrest campaign targeting lawfully resettled refugees in Minnesota, including elderly individuals and children. Detained refugees had been shackled, transferred to Texas, and left on the streets without money, ID, or transportation. The court ordered immediate release of all detained refugees.

WHY IT MATTERS

Lawfully resettled refugees have legal status under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1980 Refugee Act — they are not undocumented. Operation PARRIS targeted people with legal permission to be in the U.S., raising severe due process and statutory concerns. The court recognized this as 'illegal' and 'an unprecedented assault on core human rights.'

CITIZEN ACTION

Contact your senators and representatives to demand investigation of Operation PARRIS and other operations targeting lawfully present individuals. Support IRAP and The Advocates for Human Rights, organizations leading the legal challenge.

Garcia Ramirez v. ICE: No Auto-Detention of Young Adults from Unaccompanied Children

STATUS: Court Order Enforced | December 12, 2025 | U.S. District Court, D.C. | December 12, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

A federal court ordered ICE to stop automatically placing unaccompanied children in adult detention centers when they turn 18 ('age out' of the Office of Refugee Resettlement's care). ICE had implemented a new policy doing exactly this, in violation of a 2021 consent decree requiring individualized assessments.

WHY IT MATTERS

ICE's policy was found to violate federal law by bypassing required individualized risk-factor analysis. The court ordered immediate halt of the policy, release of individuals detained under it, and a bar on re-arrests absent changed circumstances.

CITIZEN ACTION

Urge your representatives to fund legal representation for unaccompanied children and young adults navigating the immigration system, and to conduct oversight of ICE compliance with this and other consent decrees.

Chanthila Souvannarath: U.S. Citizen Deported Despite Federal Court Order

STATUS: Deported — October 2025 | Demanding Return | U.S. District Court (Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick) | October 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

Chanthila Souvannarath — who claims derivative U.S. citizenship through his father's naturalization — was deported to Laos by ICE despite a federal court order from Chief Judge Dick recognizing his 'substantial claim to citizenship' and prohibiting his removal. ICE defied the order. Souvannarath had been held at 'Camp 57' inside Angola, Louisiana's former slave-plantation-turned-prison.

WHY IT MATTERS

The deportation of a person with a credible claim to U.S. citizenship, in defiance of a specific federal court order, is one of the most alarming documented instances of executive disregard for judicial

authority. If the government can deport U.S. citizens while courts are still reviewing their cases, no one is safe.

CITIZEN ACTION

Demand that your representatives investigate this case specifically. Ask for a congressional hearing on ICE's compliance with federal court orders protecting individuals who claim citizenship.

Castañón Nava v. DHS: Consent Decree on Warrantless Arrests

STATUS: *Partial Stay* | *7th Circuit* | *December 2025* | 7th Circuit Court of Appeals | December 11, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals partially denied the administration's attempt to stay rulings in this case involving a consent decree protecting immigrants from warrantless arrests. The district court had found ICE violated the decree and ordered release of hundreds of detainees. The 7th Circuit concluded the administration was unlikely to succeed in its argument that all undocumented immigrants are subject to mandatory detention without any hearing.

WHY IT MATTERS

This is the first federal appellate court to reject the administration's sweeping 'mandatory detention for all' theory. The ruling acknowledges that even people who entered without authorization retain due process rights. However, a temporary stay was granted pending individualized assessments.

CITIZEN ACTION

Share this ruling with local officials and advocates. It stands as appellate authority that mandatory, universal detention without hearings is constitutionally suspect.

PART THREE: LEGISLATION

What Congress Has Passed, Proposed, and Debated

4. Enacted Legislation

The 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' (H.R. 1) — Signed July 4, 2025

STATUS: *Signed Into Law* | H.R. 1 | Signed by President Trump, July 4, 2025 | Passed 51-50 Senate, 218-214 House

WHAT HAPPENED

The most sweeping immigration legislation since 1996, passed through budget reconciliation (requiring only 51 Senate votes, bypassing the filibuster). The bill provides \$170.7 billion in new immigration and border enforcement funding over four years, including: \$45 billion for new detention facilities (a 308% annual increase over the prior ICE detention budget, potentially expanding capacity to 116,000 beds); \$75 billion for ICE interior enforcement; \$46.5 billion for border walls and infrastructure; mandatory fees on asylum applications, TPS renewals, work permits, and immigration court motions; a cap of 800 immigration judges (as the backlog approaches 4 million cases); authorization for the Secretary of Homeland Security to set minimal detention standards without normal review; and new tax and benefit restrictions on mixed-status families.

WHY IT MATTERS

This law fundamentally restructures the U.S. immigration system through spending, not policy legislation — which means Congress has minimal ongoing oversight over how billions are spent. The law is on track to more than triple ICE's detention capacity by 2029. The fee structures make it prohibitively expensive for low-income immigrants to access asylum and legal relief. The judge cap guarantees the court backlog will worsen. Legal experts note that because these are spending provisions, not statutory policy, the executive branch has enormous discretion in how to deploy the funds — including on operations of doubtful legality.

CITIZEN ACTION

Contact your members of Congress and demand that oversight provisions be added through the regular appropriations process. Ask for public hearings on how the \$170 billion is being spent. Support legal challenges to detention expansion by organizations like the ACLU and National Immigration Law Center.

The Laken Riley Act — Mandatory Detention Expansion

STATUS: Signed Into Law | January 2025 | S.5 / H.R. 535 | Signed January 29, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

One of the first bills signed by President Trump in his second term, the Laken Riley Act mandates federal detention of undocumented immigrants who are charged with — not convicted of — theft, violent crimes, or crimes affecting law enforcement officers. The bill passed with significant bipartisan support despite objections from immigration advocates who noted it allows detention based on charges, not convictions.

WHY IT MATTERS

By requiring detention based on charges alone, the Act circumvents the presumption of innocence. It also eliminates prosecutorial and judicial discretion, requiring detention even for minor theft charges. Immigration advocacy organizations including AILA strongly opposed the bill. It represents a significant step toward mandatory detention as the default for undocumented individuals regardless of individual risk factors.

CITIZEN ACTION

Contact your representatives who voted for the Act and ask them to support an amendment requiring conviction — not mere charges — before mandatory detention applies. Ask them to monitor implementation for racial disparities in who is charged.

5. Proposed and Pending Legislation

Dignity Act of 2025 (H.R. 4393) — Bipartisan Reform Bill

STATUS: Introduced — Pending | Introduced by Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL) & Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX) | July 15, 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

A bipartisan bill that would create a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants who meet requirements, reform the asylum system to require final determinations within 60 days, increase border security, and expand legal immigration pathways. It is a revised version of the 2023 Dignity Act.

WHY IT MATTERS

Polling shows 80% of Americans support allowing undocumented immigrants to earn legal status if they meet requirements. The Dignity Act represents one of the few bipartisan immigration proposals

in the current Congress and addresses both enforcement and legal pathways. It faces significant political headwinds from the administration and hardline Republicans.

CITIZEN ACTION

Contact your representatives to express support for the Dignity Act or any bipartisan immigration reform that includes both enforcement and legal pathways. Urge your senators to bring it to a vote.

One Big Beautiful Bill: The Contempt Provision

Democrats attempted to use the Senate Byrd Rule to strip a provision from the Big Beautiful Bill that would limit federal courts' power to enforce contempt of court citations. While the provision was reviewed by the Senate Parliamentarian, it signals the administration's interest in limiting judicial accountability for defying court orders. This is a critical issue to monitor.

PART FOUR: DOCUMENTED ABUSES

Verified Cases of Rights Violations, Deaths, and Defiance of Law

6. Detention Conditions and Deaths

ICE detention conditions have deteriorated sharply since January 2025. The following is based on court filings, Congressional testimony, FOIA data, and Inspector General records:

2025 Detention Deaths: Worst Since 2004

32 people died in ICE detention in 2025 — the highest number since 2004 and more than in the previous 4 years combined. December 2025 was the deadliest single month on record. At least 6 more deaths were recorded in the first weeks of 2026. ICE regularly releases critically ill detainees shortly before death to avoid including them in official counts.

Documented Conditions at Specific Facilities

- Massachusetts ICE field office: A windowless room used as a holding area for 35-40 men who shared one toilet without privacy, sleeping head-to-toe on concrete floors
- Krome Service Processing Center (Florida): People forced to sleep on floors; some given only 'a cup of rice and a glass of water a day'
- Tacoma, WA detention facility (per habeas filings): 'Meals are irregular and nutritionally lacking'; drinking water described as brown or yellow on multiple occasions; ICE did not contest these claims in court
- Camp East Montana: ICE's own internal auditors found medical care contractors failed to fill out charts, do intake screenings, and failed to identify emergent conditions including suicidal ideation — three people died there in just over one month
- ICE has not paid third-party medical providers since October 2025, allegedly causing denial of care and essential treatment
- Tent camps and makeshift facilities: For the first time, thousands of people arrested in the interior are being held in hastily-constructed tent camps with brutal conditions
- In Florida, the Everglades detention camp was built in 8 days and holds 3,000 people — legislators questioned inhumane and unsanitary conditions

Death by Homicide in ICE Custody

According to an autopsy report cited in a Congressional letter from Sen. Hickenlooper and colleagues, one recent death in ICE detention was officially ruled a homicide. Fellow detainees reported witnessing guards choking the man to death. Another person died by apparent suicide at the same facility days later.

Oversight Has Been Gutted

- The Trump administration shut down or dramatically reduced the oversight offices responsible for monitoring immigration detention conditions
- DHS has blocked Members of Congress from accessing detention facilities, in potential violation of federal law
- DHS has ignored congressional oversight requests and tried to hide evidence of detention conditions
- ICE's practice of releasing people just before death allows the agency to avoid counting those deaths in official statistics

Mental Health Crisis in Detention

- Three of the 2025 deaths were apparent suicides; multiple others involved medical emergencies that were not responded to adequately
- Detainees report widespread suicidal thoughts; appointments with mental health clinics are regularly rescheduled or cancelled
- The 'war of attrition' tactic — indefinite detention with no bond hearing — is causing people to abandon valid legal claims and agree to deportation

7. Defiance of Court Orders: A Documented Pattern

The following incidents, taken together, represent an unprecedented pattern of the executive branch defying or slow-walking federal court orders:

The Pattern: Courts Rule, Administration Delays or Defies

STATUS: Ongoing Constitutional Crisis | Multiple Cases | January 2025 – March 2026

WHAT HAPPENED

Documented instances include: (1) Alien Enemies Act deportation flights that continued after Judge Boasberg ordered them halted; (2) The Abrego Garcia case, in which the government ignored a unanimous Supreme Court order for months; (3) ICE deported Chanthila Souvannarath to Laos despite a specific federal court order; (4) DHS blocked Members of Congress from accessing detention facilities; (5) Administration filed claims in courts that once a person is deported, no court can reach them — a position the Supreme Court unanimously rejected. Courts ruled 4,400+ times that individuals were being detained illegally.

WHY IT MATTERS

As Justice Sotomayor warned in her Abrego Garcia statement: if the government's position were accepted, it 'could deport and incarcerate any person, including U.S. citizens, without legal consequence, so long as it does so before a court can intervene.' One legal scholar compared the

moment to 'the opening rounds of a prizefight' between the courts and the president. The constitutional crisis is no longer theoretical — it is documented.

CITIZEN ACTION

Urge your congressional representatives to hold contempt of court hearings. Ask them to pass legislation imposing automatic consequences for failure to comply with deportation-related court orders. Support judicial independence advocacy organizations.

8. Enforcement Tactics That Raise Constitutional Concerns

Warrantless and Collateral Arrests

- ICE agents frequently travel in unmarked vehicles, wear plainclothes and facial coverings, and refuse to identify themselves or present warrants
- 'Collateral' arrests — detaining bystanders while looking for a different person — became a core tactic; documented in Idaho (23 at a horse racetrack), Colorado, Aurora, and nationwide
- Courthouse arrests increased sharply; a federal court documented that 86.5% of motions to dismiss immigration cases were granted same-day, depriving people of their 10-day response window
- An ICE quota of 3,000 arrests per day has been reported, creating institutional pressure to arrest regardless of individual circumstances

Third-Country Deportations

- The administration began deporting people to countries they have no connection to — including South Sudan, Eswatini, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, and Libya — sometimes paying those governments for cooperation
- Eight men from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, and Vietnam were told they were being transferred to a facility in Louisiana; the plane actually flew to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti (East Africa)
- The U.S. paid \$7.5 million to Equatorial Guinea — which has a documented record of human rights abuses and human trafficking — to accept U.S. deportees
- Legal experts note third-country deportations to dangerous countries may violate the federal prohibition on 'non-refoulement' — sending people to places where they face torture or persecution
- A February 2026 Senate Foreign Relations Committee report found some third-country deportation deals cost over \$1 million per person and involved governments with documented human rights abuses

Student Visas and Political Speech

- The administration revoked the visas of hundreds — possibly thousands — of international students, in many cases because of their political speech, particularly related to Palestinian rights advocacy
- Students with valid visas and even green cards were arrested, detained, and threatened with deportation

- Courts have intervened in some cases, finding the revocations raised serious First Amendment concerns

PART FIVE: TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS & REFUGEE PROTECTIONS

Who Has Lost Legal Status — and Court Responses

9. Termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Programs

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a congressionally authorized program protecting nationals of countries experiencing ongoing armed conflict, disasters, or other extraordinary conditions from deportation. The Trump administration moved to terminate multiple TPS designations in 2025. Courts have repeatedly blocked these terminations.

TPS Terminations and Court Responses

Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua TPS	Termination ruled UNLAWFUL by N.D. California (National TPS Alliance v. Noem, Dec. 31, 2025)
South Sudan TPS	Termination PAUSED by D. Massachusetts (African Communities Together v. Noem, Dec. 30, 2025)
Burma (Myanmar) TPS	Termination PAUSED by N.D. Illinois (Doe v. Noem, Jan. 23, 2026) — ~3,670 Burmese beneficiaries protected
Venezuelan TPS (~532,000)	Administration terminated CHNV parole program (Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela); faced legal challenges; courts intervened in some categories

Courts blocking these terminations have cited the administration's failure to follow proper administrative procedures (the Administrative Procedure Act requires reasoned decision-making) and in some cases found the terminations themselves were arbitrary and capricious.

Action for Citizens
 Urge your senators to introduce legislation making TPS terminations subject to congressional review. Remind them that TPS holders are often long-term residents with U.S. citizen children, businesses, and deep community ties. Their deportation would cause enormous harm to American families and communities.

PART SIX: QUICK REFERENCE SUMMARY

Everything in One Place

10. Summary Table: Cases and Status at a Glance

Case / Action	Status	Key Takeaway
Alien Enemies Act Invocation	Enjoined / Ongoing	Courts blocking use; Trump-appointed judge called it 'unlawful'; ~250 deported before courts could act
Abrego Garcia Deportation	Returned (June 2025) / Criminal charges filed	Wrongful deportation; Supreme Court 9-0 order defied for months; possible vindictive prosecution
Birthright Citizenship EO	Blocked nationwide	Courts called it 'blatantly unconstitutional'; Supreme Court to hear arguments
One Big Beautiful Bill	Signed Law (July 4, 2025)	\$170.7B enforcement funding; 308% ICE detention budget increase; minimal congressional oversight built in
Laken Riley Act	Signed Law (Jan. 2025)	Mandatory detention for charges (not convictions) — bypasses presumption of innocence
ICE Warrantless Arrests (CO)	Injunction in Effect	Federal judge ordered ICE to stop collateral arrests without flight-risk assessment
California Valley Raids	Court Order Issued	Judge blocked raids lacking individualized suspicion
Minnesota PARRIS (Refugees)	TRO Granted	Court halted arrests of lawfully present refugees; ordered releases
Souvannarath Deportation	Deported Despite Court Order	Citizen with court protection deported anyway; demanding return
TPS — Honduras/Nepal/Nicaragua	Termination Blocked	Court ruled terminations unlawful under APA
TPS — South Sudan / Burma	Terminations Paused	Courts halted terminations pending full review
ICE Detention Deaths (2025)	32 Deaths — Record High	Most deaths since 2004; Congress demanding oversight; medical care payments stopped Oct. 2025
Noem v. Perdomo (LA Stops)	Administration Won Stay	SCOTUS (5-4) allowed broad immigration stops to continue
Student Visa Revocations	Ongoing / Courts Intervening	Hundreds of students lost visas over political speech; courts blocked some
Third-Country Deportations	Ongoing / Challenged	Deportations to countries with no ties; may violate non-refoulement law

11. Key Organizations & Resources for Citizens

Organization	Role & Resource
ACLU	aclu.org — Litigation tracking, Know Your Rights, court filings database
American Immigration Council	americanimmigrationcouncil.org — Fact sheets, litigation analysis, detention data
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)	nilc.org — Legal advocacy, policy tracking, enforcement challenges
International Refugee Assistance Project	refugeerights.org — Refugee and asylum litigation
Detention Watch Network	detentionwatchnetwork.org — Detention conditions monitoring and advocacy
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)	nipnlg.org — Appellate litigation, court order compliance tracking
CLINIC (Catholic Legal Imm. Network)	cliniclegal.org — Monthly court case updates, practitioner guidance
States United Democracy Center	statesunited.org — Constitutional crisis analysis and tracking
Congress.gov	congress.gov — Track all pending legislation and vote records
habeasdockets.org	Tracks habeas corpus petitions filed by detained immigrants nationwide

Knowledge is the foundation of accountability.

Share this compendium. Cite these cases. Contact your representatives.

This document covers events through March 2026 and should be updated as cases develop. For civic and educational use — not legal advice.