



*Circulating for our North Carolina Allies*

**For Immediate Release**

June, 24, 2016

**Contact Information**

Allison Swaim

704 647 1479

[allison.swaim@gmail.com](mailto:allison.swaim@gmail.com)

**Family and Community Supporters Travel to Stewart Detention Center to Attend Bond Hearing for Yefri Sorto Hernandez, Visit Wildin Acosta and Youth Detainees**

Lumpkin, GA -- A bond hearing for **Yefri Sorto Hernandez** will be held on **Monday, June 27th** at **Stewart Detention Center** at **8:00AM**. A judge will decide to either grant a bond to the 19-year old West Mecklenburg High School senior and allow him to return to his family, school and community in Charlotte or to deny his request for bond and sentence him to remain in jail indefinitely.

At the request of Yefri's mother, Elsy Hernandez, a delegation of concerned community members and teachers from Charlotte and Durham will accompany Yefri's family to the hearing to show support and to ensure his lawyer's request for bond has a fair hearing.

**Monday will mark 6 months of ICE detention for Yefri**, who was picked up by plainclothes ICE officers [at the bus stop](#) within view of his Charlotte home on January 27th on his way to school. He was on track to graduate with his class from West Mecklenburg High School earlier this month but has been prevented from continuing his education while detained at Stewart.

Dilsia Acosta, mother of Wildin Acosta, will join the delegation to show solidarity for Elsy and to visit her son Wildin. Wildin is a high school senior from Durham, NC who is detained with Yefri at Stewart. Wildin was picked up outside his Durham home on his way to school in the morning on January 28, the day after Yefri's detention; like Yefri he also was unable to graduate high school this month as he had planned.

Yefri and Wildin are among 10 teenagers from North Carolina currently incarcerated at Stewart and Irwin Detention centers as a result of ICE raids carried out beginning January of this year. Prolonged incarceration is causing severe harm to these 18 and 19 year olds who, in addition to being locked away from their families and denied their right to

**National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild**

14 Beacon Street, Suite 602, Boston, MA 02108

Phone: 617-227-9727 · Fax: 617-227-5495 · [nipnlg.org](http://nipnlg.org) · [@nipnlg](https://www.facebook.com/nipnlg)

education, have in at least two instances been subjected to lengthy solitary confinement for questionable reasons and certain long-term psychological harm.

While at Stewart Detention Center, the community delegation will visit other youth detainees, including Josue Soriano Cortez and Pedro Salmeron, of Charlotte, and Bilmer Pujoy Juarez of Greenville.

We invite members of the press to join us.

#####