

## MEDIA ADVISORY FOR

May 25, 2016

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## Top immigration, education and criminal justice experts to hold congressional briefing on ICE raids

*Teachers, classmates of detained students in Washington to demand release, end to ICE raids*

WASHINGTON — Wildin David Guillen Acosta and Pedro Salmeron were on their way to school when they were stopped and detained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The two high school students had fled torture, mass kidnapping, murder and extreme poverty in their home countries in Central America. They came to the United States for a chance at the American dream — and to protect their safety. That dream is now derailed as they suffer prolonged incarceration and the fear of eventual deportation.

Acosta and Salmeron's teachers, coaches and classmates have written letters of support for their release. Now they're coming to Washington — along with teacher Ellen Holmes, an NEA member, and fellow classmates — to demand the release of their classmates and to take a stand against ICE raids that have such negative effect on the lives of young people. In fact, the raid that swept up Acosta and Salmeron is just one example of the many raids happening around in a hostile political climate. The nation's leading experts and advocates on ICE raids will hold a congressional briefing on **Wednesday, May 25, at 3 p.m. in Room 2226 at Rayburn House Building in Washington.**

The timely briefing looks at the national surge in raids that target immigrant youth, women, and children, and the raids' harsh impacts on students and education systems as well as on the youths themselves who have spent months in detention. The briefing also will examine the harrowing connection between this immigration policy and the increasing imprisonment of youth of color. **Invited guest speakers include U.S. House Reps. Alma Adams (D-N.C.), G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.) and Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.).** Organizational sponsors include the [National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers' Guild](#), [National Education Association](#), [United We Dream](#), [We Belong Together](#) and [Mijente](#).

### WHO:

- Laura Salazar and Morgan Whithaus, classmates of Wildin David Guillen Acosta an N.C. student incarcerated by ICE
- Salma Villarreal, classmate of Pedro Salmeron, an N.C. student incarcerated by ICE
- Nicole Porter, director of advocacy, The Sentencing Project
- Julie Mao, enforcement fellow, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers' Guild
- Flavia Jimenez, Sr., attorney & project director, Immigration Justice at the Advancement Project (DC)

- Anita Sinha, professor, Washington College of Law, American University (Moderator)

**WHAT:**

Congressional briefing titled “ICE Raids on Immigrant Youth: The Harm to Youth Education and a Driver of Youth Incarceration”

**WHEN/WHERE:**

3–4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 25, 2016  
Rayburn House Building, Room 2226

**BACKGROUND:** At a time when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has announced a national surge in raids targeting immigrant youth, women, and children, this briefing examines the harsh impacts of these raids on students and education systems in North Carolina, and on the youths themselves who have spent months in detention.

Speakers will include directly impacted students and policy leaders in the immigrant and education rights community. Speakers will cover ICE arrests of students on their way to school or at bus stops and the deleterious impact on fellow students, school enrollment, and school reform efforts on diversity. Furthermore, speakers will connect ICE arrests and the continued detention of these Latino students to larger policy issues of policing and incarceration facing youth of color and reforms in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, particularly as it relates to prolonged detention of young people and conditions of detention. The briefing will address how serious flaws in ICE policies towards students and schools have gone unresolved as ICE moves forward on its plan to expand raids across the country.

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***About the National Education Association:***

*The National Education Association is the nation’s largest professional employee organization, representing more than 3 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers. Learn more at [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) and follow on Twitter at @NEAMedia.*

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

*The National Immigration Project is a national non-profit that provides legal assistance and technical support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and advocates working to advance the rights of noncitizens. Find out more at [www.nationalimmigrationproject.org](http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org) and follow on Twitter at @NIPNLG.*

***About the Advancement Project:***

*Advancement Project is a next generation, multi-racial civil rights organization. Rooted in the great human rights struggles for equality and justice, we exist to fulfill America’s promise of a caring, inclusive and just democracy. We use innovative tools and strategies to strengthen social movements and achieve high impact policy change. More information is available at [www.advancementproject.org](http://www.advancementproject.org) and follow on Twitter at @adv\_project.*

***About United We Dream:***

*United We Dream is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation. Our powerful nonpartisan network is made up of over 100,000 immigrant youth and allies and 55 affiliate organizations in 26 states. We organize and advocate for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status. Find out more at <http://unitedwedream.org> and follow on Twitter at @unitedwedream.*

***About We Belong Together:***

*We Belong Together is a campaign to mobilize women in support of common sense immigration policies that will keep families together and empower women. It is backed by National Domestic Workers Alliance and the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, with the participation of women’s organizations, immigrant rights groups, children, and families across the country. Read more about its mission at [www.webelongtogether.org](http://www.webelongtogether.org) and follow on Twitter at @WomenBelong.*

***About Mijente:***

*Learn more at [www.mijente.net](http://www.mijente.net) and follow on Twitter on @ConMijente.*