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Bond Set at \$30,000 for Charlotte High School Student Arrested in ICE Raid

*Family and Community Call on Release of North Carolina Youth
Now Entering 6 Months of Incarceration*



Lumpkin, Georgia— This morning, a delegation of more than 30 North Carolina community members along with families of detained youths attended the bond hearing of Yefri Sorto-Hernandez, a Charlotte high school student.

In late January, ICE arrested Yefri at his [school bus stop](#). Since then, ICE has ignored all pleas from community and public officials to use its discretion to release Yefri and other NC youth.

Today, before a packed courtroom, the Immigration Judge at Stewart Detention Center set the bond amount for Yefri at \$30,000, a highly disproportionate and unnecessary amount to place on a high school student and his family. Unfortunately, this high bond amount comes at no surprise given that the Immigration Court in Georgia is one of the [most anti-immigrant](#) in the country. As it struggles to come up with this money, the community calls on President Obama and DHS Secretary Johnson to release the North Carolina youth facing indefinite detention and end the ICE raids:

John Davis, Treasurer of Durham Association of Educators and Board member of Durham People's Alliance: "What I saw today was the Immigration Court and ICE working in concert to criminalize our North Carolina youth. \$30,000 is an outrageous price to pay for a 19 year-old student whose biggest wish is to return to his family and finish his high school education. We call on President Obama and DHS Secretary Johnson to release these youth now. Students belong in classrooms not jails."

Dilsia Acosta, mother of detained youth Wildin Acosta: "I pray to God that the doors will open for Yefri and hope the same for my son. I hope my son will be out of Stewart very soon and thank God as we continue forward."

Salma Villarreal, graduate of Vance High School, Charlotte: "The ICE raids have terrorized my community in Charlotte and taken away my fellow classmates. DAPA may be frozen by the court, but there is still a chance for President Obama to stand up for immigrants—the raids must stop and Yefri and the other NC youths should be released now."

This week marks the six-month anniversary of these youth's incarceration and the initiation of ICE raids targeting youth, termed Operation Border Guardian. This delegation comes after Representatives John Lewis, GK Butterfield, Alma Adams, and Hank Johnson issued a [statement](#) condemning the ICE raids excerpted here:

Said Rep. Lewis: "No human being can be illegal, and no innocent child should live in fear of deportation. I have fought my whole life to ensure that every human being is treated with fairness and justice... The raids conducted as part of Operation Border Guardian have deeply troubled me. They are not right, not fair, not just. They are an inappropriate response to those fleeing violence and disorder."

While at Stewart Detention Center, the community delegation visited other youth detainees, including Wildin Acosta of Durham, Josue Soriano-Cortez of Thomasville, Santos Padilla of Raleigh, Elmer Reynoso of Asheville, and Bilmer Pujoy Juarez of Greenville. There are now 10 North Carolina youths incarcerated in Georgia due to the ICE raids.

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