The Luchadoras of Georgia
Stories of Immigrant Women and Families Fighting Trump’s Deportation Force
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR) is a non profit organization created to help educate and organize Latinxs in their own communities with the purpose of increasing community participation in the struggle for human and civil rights, focusing on low income communities without regard to their immigration status. GLAHR persists on building and fostering collaboration between the leaders and community organizations to advance social justice and the well-being of the immigrant community, at the same time, promoting a healthy integration into their new communities. For more information, visit us at www.glahr.org or on twitter @GLAHR_.

The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG) is a national nonprofit that provides legal assistance and technical support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, organizers and advocates working to advance the rights of noncitizens. We seek to promote justice and equality of treatment in all areas of immigration law, the criminal justice system, and social policies related to immigration. For information, visit us at www.nipnlg.org or on twitter @nipnlg.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACKGROUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARIA LOPEZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALICIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILVIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOSEFINA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GABRIELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALMA FLORES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLANCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUSION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For these women and families, daily routines such as driving to work, going to the grocery store, or picking up a child from school are now daily acts of resistance.

Just months into this new presidency, the Trump administration has dramatically increased arrests and deportations of immigrants. Recent estimates show a 38% increase in immigration arrests across the country between January and April of 2017.

The driving force behind this nationwide increase is a series of drastic policy changes to immigration enforcement enacted by the Trump administration and fueled by its nativist ideology.

Few places lay bare the reality of this tectonic shift in immigration policy more than Georgia. While arrests were up 38% nationally, Georgia saw its arrest rate increase by a staggering 75% in the first 90 days of the Trump presidency.\(^1\) This is in addition to the already high enforcement climate in Georgia during the Obama administration, where raids targeting Central American women and youth sparked national attention last year.\(^2\)

The surge has had a devastating impact in Georgia. During the same time, the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights experienced a sharp rise in hotline calls on behalf of women arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The stories are remarkably similar. All were immigrant women who are long-time residents of Georgia with deep ties to U.S. family and community. They had little to no past interaction with the immigration or criminal justice systems. Many were single-mothers with young children. All were detained after local police stopped their car and arrested them for minor traffic violations. And all the mothers were transferred to ICE custody by local
law enforcement and desperately fighting their deportations to remain with family.

This report explores the consequences of Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda by profiling the people behind the statistics, in immigration jails far away from loved ones. The women fighting for themselves and their family integrity are the real fighters, “the Luchadoras of Georgia.”

Their stories not only show the long-term impact of Trump’s deportation policy on Georgia’s communities but underscore a nationwide paradigm shift in immigration enforcement under the Trump administration.

This includes:

► INCREASED DEPORTATION OUTCOMES
Even those mothers with available relief face likely deportation because of the long-festering problems in Georgia’s immigration system—such as high bond amounts, hostile immigration courts, no right to counsel, and low-income backgrounds.

► DISINTEGRATING DISCRETION
ICE’s system of prosecutorial discretion is fast disintegrating. The detention of these women shows that everyone and anyone is vulnerable to arrest. ICE’s willingness to deny prosecutorial discretion for individuals with even the most sympathetic equities, such as women who risk losing their children to state child protective services upon their detention, is deeply troubling.

► POLICE COLLABORATION
Immigration programs which rely on local police collaboration, such as the 287(g) program and Secure Communities, are major funnels into Trump’s deportation machine and magnify its reach. In the stories featured herein, most arrests occurred in localities that had signed 287(g) agreements with ICE. And all of the women were arrested in traffic stops by local police. These programs, pillars of Trump’s immigration enforcement plans, are expected to exponentially expand in Georgia and nationwide.

Trump’s deportation force has ushered in a new reality of fear and panic across the country. But against this fear also grows a new movement against Trump’s deportation force. Across the country, grassroots community groups such as GLAHR are calling on local governments to resist Trump’s agenda and expand sanctuary for Black and Brown communities against the onslaught of attacks by the Trump administration.

Immigrant women and their children are leading the fight against Trump’s enforcement regime and exposing the cruelty in his anti-immigrant agenda. For these women and families, daily routines such as driving to work, going to the grocery store, or picking up a child from school are now daily acts of resistance. It is time for localities to step up to do the same, and start protecting their residents rather than delivering them to ICE for deportation.
I. Deportation Policy Under the Trump Presidency

Since the beginning of his Presidential campaign, Donald Trump has used anti-immigrant rhetoric and dog whistle politics to galvanize the public and rally his base. That rhetoric turned into frightening government policy on January 20, 2017, when Candidate Trump became the President of the United States, in part by riding a wave of xenophobia and nativism into the White House.

Once in office, President Trump delivered on his promise to crackdown on immigrants through a slew of Executive Orders and internal agency memoranda. On January 25, 2017, Trump issued Executive Orders Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States and Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements. Subsequently, on February 20, DHS issued two memoranda, Implementing the President’s Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements Policies and Enforcement of the Immigration Laws to Serve the National Interest. And the next day, February 21, ICE issued its own implementation memorandum of the Executive Orders.

At first, the DHS memorandum left room for interpretation—some parts directed agents to go after all removable immigrants while other parts ordered them to prioritize (albeit broadly) the category of immigrants who had been charged with a crime, convicted of a crime or had "committed acts which constitute a chargeable criminal offense." But the ICE memorandum clarifies that the...
orders of the Trump administration are to deport everyone. As the first page of the ICE memorandum makes clear, ICE agents should “take enforcement action against all removable aliens.” The agency memoranda operationalized Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric, permitting ICE agents in the field to deport any removable immigrant and rescinding the prior administration’s directives encouraging prosecutorial discretion.

The Executive Orders also threatened to crackdown on sanctuary cities, localities that decline to assist ICE in immigration enforcement. These sanctuary cities are key components in local resistance efforts by cities and states against ICE’s aggressive and abusive practices.

In summary, the Executive Orders ushered in a much harsher enforcement regime which includes expanding ICE-local police collaborations through the 287(g) program and Secure Communities among other enforcement initiatives.

II. The Surge in ICE Arrests in Georgia and Across the Country

In February 2017, waves of ICE raids and enforcement activities followed the President’s Executive Orders.

The numbers reflect this surge. In the first 100 days of the Trump administration, immigration arrests rose by 38%. In more recent statements, the ICE Director Thomas Homan estimated the increase at 40% nationally. Instances of ICE exercising prosecutorial discretion to stop a deportation nosedived. Administrative closure of immigration court cases based on prosecutorial discretion dropped from 2400 per month to only 100 per month in the post-Trump era.

Furthermore, the data by region shows that the Atlanta ICE Field Office, which covers the states of Georgia and the Carolinas, had among the highest ICE arrest rates in the country. Between Jan. 20 and April 29, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that ICE made 4,246 apprehensions in its Atlanta area of operations. After crunching the numbers, the Atlanta Constitution Journal found that the number of arrests “represents a 75 percent increase from the same period last year...And it far exceeds the nationwide 38 percent increase in ICE arrests for the same time span.” According to the Washington Post, the only other comparable field office was Dallas, which covers large swaths of Texas and the state of Oklahoma. Additionally, the data showed that the ICE Atlanta Field Office had arrested the most immigrants without criminal convictions, an increase of 500% from the prior year.

The President’s deportation expansion in Georgia builds on the already substantial detention and deportation infrastructure constructed under the Obama administration. According to
2013 statistics, Georgia led the nation in interior enforcement with the highest arrest and deportation rate of any non-border state. At 1.8%, it has one of the lowest relief grant rates by any immigration court, and sets one of the highest bond amounts. These conditions laid the groundwork for Georgia to become a mass deportation funnel under the Trump administration.

III. Heavy Local Collaboration with ICE Has Transformed Localities in Georgia into Deportation Pipelines

One of the major drivers of this increase in Georgia is local police collusion with ICE. The stories featured in this report come from three counties in Georgia—Gwinnett, Cobb and Hall. It should come as no surprise that these counties represent three out of the four counties in Georgia that participate in ICE’s 287(g) program. ICE’s 287(g) program authorizes local police to act as immigration agents including questioning residents about their immigration status, initiating deportation proceedings, and calling ICE to take someone into custody. These programs directly impact state policing.

In Georgia, this has meant an increase in biased policing in which Latinx and immigrant communities face increased surveillance and experience more arrests for traffic violations.

As the Latinx and immigrant populations rose, Georgia quickly enacted several 287(g) agreements. Rather than welcome these new residents, the counties’ execution of these 287(g) agreements with ICE signaled an effort to methodically incarcerate and deport Georgia’s immigrant residents.

Gwinnett County presents one of the starkest examples of this local policy. The impact of Gwinnett’s cooperation with ICE is staggering. Gwinnett County, a Northeast suburb of Atlanta, has one of the largest Latinx populations in Georgia. Since 2009, the Gwinnett County Sheriff’s office stated that it had questioned nearly 40,000 arrestees about their immigration status. When asked to explain why Gwinnett became a 287(g) county, the Sheriff raised troubling racial undertones:

Residents were equally if not more concerned with how immigrant cultures “don’t quite blend” with suburban life... “People ... complain about the quality of life in their subdivision. They are concerned about how their property values have been lowered by what they believe to be illegal aliens not keeping up their properties, having too many vehicles parked in yards and too many people living in a house.

A flagship of its enforcement initiatives, the Trump administration has also pushed the 287(g) program into hyper drive. An investigation by The Intercept into
Gwinnett’s 287(g) program noted:

Local police there flagged nearly 500 people to ICE for potential immigration violations between February and April [of 2017]. Only a fraction of those were linked to charges of serious crime. Of all pending charges that accompanied the referrals, 70 percent were the result of traffic-related violations — most for driving without a license, according to county data on jail admissions...

This represents a nearly 500% increase in local police referrals to ICE from the prior year. As The Intercept noted, local police referred just over 100 people over the same period in 2016.

While Trump threatens sanctuary cities for declining to assist ICE in deporting and separating families, Georgia’s Gwinnett, Hall, and Cobb counties offer a stark glimpse into the reality awaiting localities if their police departments resign to ICE collaboration.

IV. The Luchadoras: How Georgia’s Immigrant Women Have Sparked a Growing Resistance

Perhaps most important is the impact of these policies on the people and communities in Georgia. The writers of this report, GLAHR organizer Georgina Perez and NIPNLG attorney Julie Mao, interviewed mothers in detention and the families fighting for their release.

Georgina Perez described why her organization felt this report was needed.

“Over the past few months, we have seen a significant rise in women arrested by local police and transferred to ICE in Georgia. Their families and friends have called us and shown up at our door steps in a desperate plea for help. Most of these women are long-time residents of Georgia who have spent decades contributing to the Georgia community. Most are working and caring for young children. Many are the sole breadwinner and caretaker in their family.

These are heartbreaking and traumatic stories. Many of the mothers were arrested by local police while their children were in the car looking on, even pleading with officers to release their mothers. One mother was arrested while her children were at the babysitter. With no other family to care for them, the children remained in limbo at the babysitter’s house during her entire detention. In Georgia, we are experiencing not only a deportation crisis but a community crisis,” said Perez.

“During my visits to Irwin Detention Center, one of the immigration jails holding women in Georgia, I interviewed so many desperate women fighting for
their release and yearning for the children that they had left behind in communities across Georgia,” recalls NIPNLG staff attorney Julie Mao.” This is a population that previously had little experience with immigration enforcement. Now, the Trump presidency has put targets on their backs. For many, it is the first time they have ever been arrested by local police or ICE. They have high bond amounts set by the Immigration Judge. How can a single mother of four raise $12,000 or $15,000 for a bond? It is impossible. Because of their low-income background and weak support system, these women often end up languishing in detention where it is difficult to fight their deportation."

The detention of these mothers has sparked the community, in particularly its women, to rise.

“The community is organizing and mobilizing to liberate these mothers. We have seen first-hand how the mothers’ babysitters, best friends, sisters and daughters have mobilized to get these women out of detention by any means necessary. Their children are starting online fundraisers and social media campaigns to reunite with their mothers and raise awareness on the issues.

The sisterhood emerging from these traumatic experiences needs to be highlighted. The detained mothers are self-organizing and helping out each other to get through these horrific times. Many of the mothers that we interviewed found us through information passed along by other mothers. We have to recognize the courage of these mothers and their children to fight against all the odds. Even after release, these Luchadoras have been looking out for those that are still in detention,” explains Perez.
MARIA

MARIA LOPEZ has lived in the U.S. for 17 years and resides in Cobb County. She is single mother to two children. One of her children, a 12-year-old U.S. citizen, suffers from a serious mental health condition, which led to a suicide attempt earlier this year. Her daughter needs Maria in her life for emotional and financial support as well as medical care as she undergoes rehabilitation and mental health treatments.

On the night of May 19, 2017, Maria was driving back from work. When she stopped at a red light, she noticed a Cobb County patrol car on the left-hand side. Once the traffic light turned green and Maria began driving, the police car pulled up behind her car and turned on its lights. Maria pulled over to the side of the road. The officer proceeded to ask for her driver’s license and her identity documentation. When Maria could not produce a license, the officer charged her with “no driver’s license,” arresting her rather than issuing a traffic summons. The officer never stated the reason for stopping Maria and did not charge her with any other offense.

After her arrest, the police brought her to the Cobb County jail, where she was then interviewed about her immigration status. Maria remained in the Cobb County jail for nearly 4 days on a no driver’s license violation. On Tuesday
May 23rd, the jail transferred her to ICE custody at Atlanta ICE Field Office and then eventually to Irwin County Detention Center. On May 25th, the ICE released her under its intensive supervision program.

Maria remains at serious risk of arrest and deportation—actions that would seriously endanger the health and safety of her daughter who so critically relies on her psychological and financial support. ICE still requires her to wear an ankle shackle that monitors her every step and attend ICE check-ins every two weeks.

Recounting her detention experience, Maria states, “For me, the thing that really worried me was my daughter. I knew how bad she was emotionally that I knew that she was not going to take it well...I was worried that my daughter was going to try to kill herself. I am usually the one in charge of giving her medication, and I feared that she was going to take too many of them. I felt like [my days in detention] were never going to end. I kept calling and pleading with family and friends to make sure that my daughter was not on her own even for one second.”
ALICIA is a single mother of four U.S. citizen children, ages 15, 13, 12, and 5. She has lived in Georgia for approximately 17 years. She and her children call Hall County their home. Alicia is a loving mother who is the sole provider for her four young children, a skilled poultry processor, and a domestic violence survivor.

On April 9, 2017, Alicia was driving with her 15-year-old and 12-year-old daughters when a Hall County police patrol officer pulled her over. The officer alleged that Alicia had failed to stop at a stop sign and asked for her driver’s license. Rather than issue a traffic summons, the officer arrested her for failure to stop and no driver’s license. Alicia’s daughters witnessed the entire arrest. Her eldest daughter pleaded with the police officer to let their mother go, explaining that her mother was their sole provider. The officer responded that if she kept talking she would only make things worse for her mother.

The officer took Alicia to Hall County Detention Center where she remained incarcerated for approximately three weeks on a traffic violation. After being questioned about her immigration status, the police transferred her to ICE custody, first to the Atlanta ICE Field Office and then to Irwin County Detention Center. In May, the Immigration Judge in Atlanta set her bond amount at $12,000, an impossibly high amount for a single mother with limited resources.
Alicia languished in ICE jail for weeks not knowing if she could gather the money to pay the bail amount. Alicia recalls her time at Irwin Detention Center as a horrible nightmare. There, she witnessed many women getting sick with little care provided by medical staff. She herself developed foot fungus because of the unsanitary conditions. During the detention, Alicia lost her apartment. Her four children were scattered across the homes of extended family members. Alicia recalls the tearful jail calls with her children. She sees her children now showing signs of depression and anxiety because they worry about her.

On June 23, 2017, almost three months after her traffic arrest, Alicia was released from ICE custody after her family, led by her teenage children, engaged in a community fundraising campaign to pay the bond amount. But Alicia is still fighting her deportation before the Atlanta Immigration Court—an immigration court with one of the lowest relief grant rates.  

A letter written by Alicia’s daughter. (June 19, 2017)
SILVIA

SILVIA has lived in the U.S. for 18 years and resides in Cobb County, Georgia. She and her husband support two U.S. citizen daughters, ages 15 and 9.

On April 28, 2017, Silvia was driving back from picking up her 14-year-old daughter at her high school, South Cobb High School. Shortly after departing the school, a Cobb County police patrol car pulled her vehicle over. The police officer claimed that Silvia had run a red light. He asked for her driver’s license. When she could not produce it, the police officer arrested her. Silvia and her daughter pleaded for him to be merciful and let Silvia go with a traffic summons. They explained that Silvia’s 9-year-old daughter was at camp and Silvia was the only one available to pick up her child. But the officer stated that Silvia was a danger to the community and had to be arrested. Her teenage daughter was crying and visibly upset during Silvia’s arrest.

The police brought Silvia to the Cobb County jail. She remained at the jail for a couple of days based solely on the traffic violation. Silvia recalls that the conditions in the prison were unsanitary and the food quality was poor. The prison uniforms also were not sufficiently washed and a number of individuals had infections. The jail then transferred her to ICE custody at the downtown ICE office and then to Irwin County Detention Center. Finally, on May 11th, the Immigration Judge granted her a bond amount of $8,000. Silvia was released from Irwin Detention Center after posting bond on May 12th, 2017, nearly two weeks after her initial arrest on a traffic ticket. The family has expended almost all their life savings towards paying the bond amount and hiring an attorney.

Silvia now fights her deportation before the immigration court and remains at risk of deportation. Her two daughters have already suffered significant emotional distress and trauma due to the deportation system. Less than a year ago, ICE arrested their older brother in their home and deported him after months in detention. Their mother has played a crucial role in keeping the family together and providing the young girls with the emotional and financial stability that they need. The deportation of Silvia would cause the children serious hardship.

Discussing the impact of the traffic arrest that placed her into deportation proceedings, Silvia explains, “First of all, mentally we are scared. We only go out when needed. When I first got out I was extremely tense. Every time, we see a police officer, we are scared. We do not go out anymore... On July 5, 2017, we were robbed; my brother-in-law’s machinery was taken. He is a landscaper and we did not call the police... Any cop I see I get really scared, the girls are scared also.”
JOSEFINA RADILLA is a single mother of six children. Five, ages 10, 12, 13, 16, and 18, are deeply dependent on her emotional and financial care. Josefina has lived in the U.S. for more than 20 years. She resides in Gwinnett County.

On April 21, 2017, Josefina was driving in the City of Norcross in Gwinnett County and a Norcross police officer pulled her over, allegedly for failing to have two headlights. The officer proceeded to arrest her rather than issue a traffic summons.

Josefina was brought to the Gwinnett County jail and then transported to ICE’s Irwin County Detention Center. Eventually, in ICE custody, the Immigration Judge set a bond amount of $15,000 for Josefina’s release. For a single mother with five dependent children, Josefina did not have the financial resources to pay this bond amount. Luckily, her family and community began a public fundraising campaign to pay this amount.

On May 24, 2017, after more than a month in detention, Josefina was released after a successful community fundraising drive. Josefina remains in immigration removal proceedings and at risk of possible deportation.
Gabriela is a single mother of three U.S. citizen children ages 5, 7 and 10. She has lived in Gwinnett County, Georgia for around 12 years and calls it home. Five years ago, her partner and the father of her children was deported. Since then, Gabriela has been the sole financial and emotional support for her three young children.

On April 1, 2017, officers from the Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Office stopped her vehicle in Norcross, a heavily Latino neighborhood. The officers alleged that she had a broken right light and charged her for a brake light violation and no driver’s license. Rather than issue a traffic summons, the officer arrested her. This was the first traffic violation that Gabriela had ever received.

Gabriela remained in the Gwinnett County jail for approximately four days. During this time, she struggled to understand what was happening to her. At the time of her arrest, Gabriela’s young children were with the babysitter. Because Gabriela is the sole caregiver, no one could pick up her three young children and care for them. Gwinnett County eventually transferred Gabriela into ICE custody. On April 7th, she was finally released under ICE’s intensive supervision program and reunited with her young children. While Gabriela was detained, her three children remained in limbo with the babysitter for more than a week.

Gabriela still remains at risk of deportation. ICE calls her in for biweekly check-ins and requires her to wear an ankle shackle. The arrest of Gabriela has deeply impacted her three young children. All three children exhibited serious signs of emotional trauma during Gabriela’s arrest. The oldest child experienced such a significant decline in her grades that she had to attend summer school in order to not get held back. The children are very fearful of the police and continue to fear that their mother could be permanently separated from them.
ALMA FLORES is a single mother of eight children. For 18 years, she has resided in Cobb County. Five of them, ages 17, 15, 8, 6, 4, are U.S. citizens who rely solely on her for emotional and financial care. Alma also has a 20-year-old daughter who is developmentally challenged and requires her support. Alma has been a Luchadora for some time—she is a survivor of human trafficking and domestic violence.

On July 1, 2017, Alma was driving her four-year-old child and two female friends back from her sister’s birthday celebration when a Cobb County police officer stopped their car. The officer stated that he had been tailing the car for 10 minutes and saw her car touch the yellow median line, a minor traffic violation. A backup police car arrived on the scene. Alma recalls that the second officer was rude at times. When he approached their vehicle, the officer interrogated all the passengers about their identities and addresses. The officers eventually arrested Alma for failure to maintain lane and driving without a license, leaving her young son and friends to find their own transportation. In the patrol car, while she was asked for her biographic information, the second officer laughed at her and commented, “no license, Mexican.”
Alma felt helpless because she feared anything she said would be used against her. The police officers took her to the Cobb County Jail where she was questioned about her immigration status. She was eventually transferred to ICE custody at the Atlanta Field Office and then at Irwin County Detention Center. On July 10, 2017, ICE released her on its intensive supervision program, a program that requires her to wear an ankle shackle and attend regular check-in. Alma still faces deportation. Her low-income background renders her unable to pay a lawyer to represent her in her immigration court case.

Alma recalls of her time at Irwin County Detention Center, “There are a lot of mothers with children that are unjustly detained.” Speaking on the impact of her detention on her children, particularly her young 4-year-old child, “the children have suffered a lot. They would cry a lot while I was detained...I understand that driving without license is a crime, but we are here working. We pay taxes. The condition of the detention centers is unjust. Women are getting paid $1 per day [for their labor], that is unjust. There is a lot of need.”

**BLANCA**

**BLANCA** is a resident of Savannah, Georgia and has lived in the United States for 17 years. She and her husband have two teenage U.S. citizen children, ages 16 and 13, for whom they provide financial and emotional support. Her eldest daughter has health complications for which she and her husband have been paying for treatment.

On May 25, 2017, Savannah police arrested her after a traffic accident occurred while she was leaving a parking lot. When the officer arrived at the scene, he asked her for her driver’s license. When she could only produce a foreign passport, the officer arrested her. She was taken to Chatham County jail and transferred to ICE custody at Irwin Detention Center. She has never had any previous interactions with ICE. Eventually, the Immigration Judge set her bond amount at $12,000. Due to their low-income background, the family had serious trouble paying the bond amount.

Finally, after more than a month in detention, Blanca was released on July 5, 2017. In order to raise the money, her spouse had to sell their family car, plunging the family into further economic troubles. Blanca remains in immigration removal proceedings and at risk of deportation.
“When my husband drives, we are scared that immigration might detain him. We would not have money to pay his bond to get him out. Today, a friend told us that ICE stopped a work van, they took all of them....To be honest we are really scared. We try not to leave our home. Our life has changed completely. I think that it is an injustice what is happening, we are here working to make sure that our children are better than us.”

- Silvia, one of the mothers arrested

Trump contends that his administration targets the “bad hombres” in the name of public safety. But these stories confirm that the impact of Trump’s policies is not safety but fractured families and destabilized communities. It is the President’s policies that are the threat to public safety, not immigrants.

At a time when there is a national movement towards bail reform, immigration courts should be taking into account an individual’s ability to pay when making bond determinations. $15,000 is an impossible amount for any low-income mother.

Perhaps most importantly, these injustices require our local governments to rise to the challenge of resisting Trump’s deportation policies, rather than collude with his agents to transfer residents into ICE custody. Across the country, a growing grassroots movement calls on cities and localities to “Defy, Defend,
and Expand” sanctuary for Black and Brown communities that have come under siege by the Trump administration, including immigrants. In Georgia, the experiences of the Luchadoras underscore that the following policy recommendations are critical to building the frontline defense against Trump’s deportation machine:

1. Local government, including police departments, must divest from the Trump deportation machine. Local police collusion with ICE exponentially expands deportations in the community. As these stories show, traffic enforcement by local police has become the focal point for incarceration and deportation. The Trump administration’s deportation policies cause real damage to community as everyday activities funnel families into the deportation pipeline. Children are losing their parents; families are afraid to simply drive.

2. Localities must take affirmative steps to enact concrete policies that reject collaboration with ICE, even if it means some loss of federal grants. ICE’s use of local police and agencies to escalate and expand aggressive tactics requires localities to do more than make public statements welcoming immigrants and refugees.

Specifically this includes:

- Terminate or refuse to enter into the 287(g) program with ICE;
- End submission to ICE detainers and the Secure Communities program;
- Provide affirmative protections such as U-visa certification for victim-witnesses who have reported crime to the local police department;
- Rescind local jail contracts with ICE to detain immigrants;
- Decriminalize municipal offenses such as traffic enforcement citations and issue summonses rather than make arrests.


6 DHS Implementation memo at 2.

7 ICE Implementation memo at 1.


14 Redmon, supra note 1.
15 Id. (emphasis added).
16 See Sacchetti, supra note 13.
19 Delegation of Immigration Authority Section 287(g) Immigration and Nationality Act, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, https://www.ice.gov/factsheets/287g (listing all localities participating in 287(g) program).
21 See Hispanic Trends: Gwinnett County, Georgia, PEW RESEARCH CENTER, available at http://www.pewhispanic.org/states/county/13135/ (the Latinx population in Gwinnett County was 179,772 in 2014, a 180% increase from 2000).
24 Id.
25 See Id.
26 Foley, supra note 18.
ATTRIBUTIONS

Authors: 
Julie Mao, Georgina Perez Martinez

Editors: 
Paromita Shah, Adelina Nicholls

Photos by: 
Nancy Gabriela, Steve Pavey

Interviews Conducted by: 
Julie Mao, Georgina Perez Martinez

Design: 
Kathy Mills (kamil.graphics)

Publication Date: 
August 18, 2017

Special Thanks to: 
- The Luchadoras: the mothers fighting deportation and their children, friends, babysitters, and community supporters 
- The membership of GLAHR 
- NIPNLG interns