URGENT ACTION

**RELEASE JOURNALIST FROM IMMIGRATION DETENTION**

**Mario Guevara, USA-based Salvadoran journalist, was arrested and charged with minor protest-related violations at a ‘No Kings’ protest on June 14, 2025, while wearing a ‘PRESS’ vest and livestreaming as part of his recent work covering immigration enforcement and raids. After his arrest, local law enforcement handed him to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents for deportation proceedings despite having valid authorization to stay in the USA, becoming the first known case of arbitrary detention of a journalist by ICE. He also was subjected to solitary confinement for 69 days. We demand authorities to immediately release Mario Guevara.**

TAKE ACTION:

* Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
* [Click here](https://www.amnestyusa.org/report-urgent-actions/) to report your action(s) on ***UA 87.25***. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

**Kristen Sullivan**

**Acting Field Office Director for ICE Atlanta**

Email: Kristen.sullivan@ice.dhs.gov

Dear Acting Director Sullivan,

It is distressing to learn that **Mr. Mario Guevara** (A#: 088-402-287) was arrested by Doraville Police Department officers in Georgia on June 14, 2025, while wearing press credentials and live streaming the ‘No Kings’ protest. Each criminal charge brought against Mr. Guevara has been dropped. He possesses valid U.S. work authorization, but through coordination with local law enforcement, ICE agents extracted Mr. Guevara from police custody and placed him in an immigration detention center. He is currently being held at the Folkston ICE Processing Center in Georgia.

Mr. Guevara is a veteran journalist and founder of MG News Network, an online news outlet that covers local, national, and international news. More recently, he has reported on immigration enforcement actions using social media and livestreaming.

On July 1, 2025, an immigration judge determined that Mr. Guevara does not pose a danger to the community nor a significant flight risk and ordered his release under bond. His continued detention is arbitrary and sends a chilling message to all journalists that freedom of expression can come at the cost of liberty—setting a dangerous precedent that the government will use immigration authorities to arbitrarily detain and silence journalists.

I am alarmed that, since he has been detained, his mental and physical health have been severely impacted, including significant weight loss and panic attacks. This was further exacerbated when he was in solitary confinement and spent 22 hours in a tiny cell with only 2 hours of daylight for 69 days. His son (who is a U.S. citizen) has serious medical conditions, including constant seizures, that require life-long medical care. Mr. Guevara is responsible for his family’s financial well-being and is responsible for his son’s medical appointments.

I implore you to respect Mr. Mario Guevara’s right to freedom of expression and end his arbitrary detention by immediately releasing him from ICE custody.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

“The freedom of press is probably for US citizens, not for everybody.” – **Mario Guevara**, Journalist detained at Folkston ICE Processing Centre in Georgia

Mario Guevara, who is originally from El Salvador and has lived in the US for more than 20 years, is an Atlanta-based journalist and founder of MG News, a Spanish-language news outlet He livestreams local issues throughout his community—including reporting on US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) enforcement actions and raids. Since February 2025, Mr. Guevara has used TikTok to document ICE enforcement actions, and his reporting shows the faces of both the individuals sought after by ICE along with agents’ faces, which are known to be masked. As a result, viewers turned to his field reporting for details about their loved ones’ arrests and whereabouts.

On June 14, 2025, local law enforcement in Doraville, Georgia arrested him while he was livestream reporting at the “No King’s” protest—a nationwide protest to counter authoritarian practices under the Trump administration. The video of his arrest shows Mr. Guevara wearing a vest clearly designating him as “PRESS,”. He was initially charged with unlawful assembly, obstruction, and being a pedestrian on the roadway. All criminal charges have since been dropped.

Mr. Guevara has valid authorization to stay and work in the USA. However, through collaboration with local police, he was transferred to an ICE detention facility on June 18 and placed in deportation proceedings. On July 1, an immigration judge set a bond for Mr. Guevara to be released from ICE custody. ICE refused to take the bond payment from his family and appealed the judge’s order. The government claims that his livestream reporting is a danger to the public and law enforcement officials, which demonstrates their intent to silence Mr. Guevara and violate his right to freedom of expression. While the government appeal is pending, Mr. Guevara remains in ICE custody.

Since January 2025, there have been at least two other cases of journalists [arrested](https://apnews.com/article/immigration-protest-cincinnati-journalists-charges-dropped-kentucky-4f1c8c7a9719d67a5e4bd1ba6c6fc419) while clearly identified with press badges and covering news related to refugee and migrant rights. Journalists have also experienced violence from police while [reporting](https://www.npr.org/2025/06/16/nx-s1-5434279/lapd-immigration-protests-journalists-rubber-bullets) on immigration issues. The Trump administration has targeted news outlets and journalists who report on his policies with scrutiny by [revoking their access](https://apnews.com/article/trump-ap-journalism-first-amendment-8a83d8b506053249598e807f8e91e1ae) to the White House press briefings, [cutting](https://knightcolumbia.org/content/public-broadcasting-federal-funding-cuts-threaten-free-speech-and-press-freedom-knight-institute-says) public news funding, and [license revocation/increased investigative scrutiny](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/9251/2025/en/) via federal agencies. Additionally, the Department of Justice issued a memo permitting the [subpoenaing of journalists](https://www.rcfp.org/doj-announces-plans-to-revoke-news-media-guidelines/) for their confidential field notes—a move that strips away protections that were in place since 2022.

In the USA, freedom of expression and the press are under attack. Attacks on the press are not isolated incidents; they are often at the core of deliberate strategies to undermine the foundations of human rights. The erosion of press freedom is a warning sign of a slide towards authoritarian practices. A free press plays a vital role in holding governments and other powerful actors accountable. To do this, the press must be able to report freely and independently without being threatened, intimidated, or punished.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET**: English or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL**: December 2, 2025

**NAME AND PRONOUN**: Mario Guevara, he/him