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NOTE TO READERS

This is not a history book.

Or an instruction manual.

Or a set of rules.

It's an **up-to-the-minute account** of things that are happening on the ground in LA right now, as of the moment of this writing, Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

Our goal is not to break down every possible scenario. We offer a starting point, with real-world examples and tools you can adapt to your community's needs.

Remember. We are facing mass oppression by a band of tyrants who have openly declared their intention to rule by force. Step one in countering that oppression is to embrace your individual power. The goal of this zine is to help you do that.

"We seek our basic, God-given rights as human beings. Because we have suffered – and are not afraid to suffer – in order to survive, we are ready to give up everything, even our lives, in our fight for social justice." -César Chávez, United Farm Workers

Los Angeles Magazine – Breaking Down the Numbers: The Toll of the ICE Sweeps in Los Angeles
<https://lamag.com/news/breaking-down-the-numbers-ice-sweeps-los-angeles-l>

NBC Los Angeles – Mayor Bass calls presence of federal agents at MacArthur Park 'absolutely outrageous'
<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/federal-agents-la-macarthur-park/3739664/>

NDLON: Community Defense Corners
<https://peertube.wtf/w/9dmFAf7RZ52oqzHeEb1Mc8>

NDLON: Adopt A Day Labor Corner
<https://ndlon.org/adopt-a-day-labor-corner/>

The NY Times: They Saw Their Neighbors Taken Away by ICE. Then They Made a Plan.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/30/opinion/ice-immigration-protest-resistance>

Politifact: Timeline: Was the California National Guard at LA protests when Trump thanked them?
<https://www.politifact.com/article/2025/jun/09/national-guard-LA-protests-timeline-newsom-Trump/>

USA Today: Immigrant justice advocates say FBI is targeting LA protest organizers
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/07/08/immigrant-protests-los-angeles-fbi-ice/84465259007/>

USA Today: Press groups accuse LAPD of violating judge's ban on targeting journalists covering protests
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/08/15/press-groups-file-motion-to-hold-lapd-in-contempt-of-court/85673310007/>

The Washington Post: Man indicted for distributing face shields at L.A. immigration protest
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/07/04/la-immigration-protester-face-shield-charges>

Supreme Court of the United States No. 25A169 Kristi Noem, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, et al., v. Pedro Vasquez Perdomo, et al.
https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf

IT COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE

In early January 2025, Border Patrol conducted **Operation: Return to Sender**, deploying agents over 300 miles, from the border town of El Centro to the Central Valley city of Bakersfield, California.

Arrests Made: **78**

Detainees with Known Criminal/Migration History Prior to Arrest: **1**

Clearly, the goal of this operation was not to enforce the law. It was to spread **fear**. And the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proceeded to prove that in the first week of June 2025, as they started running warrantless raids in Los Angeles County. These raids targeted entire groups without probable cause, based on racial profiling.

In response, people mobilized.



On **June 7, 2025**, LA County residents gathered to protest illegal ICE raids outside a DHS office in the City of Paramount. Officials initiated an immediate crackdown. They attacked **demonstrators** with riot munitions (a.k.a. "**less-lethal weapons**") and targeted **organizers** for political arrests. They also used less-lethals on credentialed **journalists** from outlets including the BBC, MintPress, and the New York Post.

Demonstrators stood their ground. As a result, protests continued and spread. Vast networks of protest PPE distribution, tactical zine dispersment, and street medic trainings autonomously appeared all throughout the city. Within days, President Trump responded by deploying **2,000 National Guard members** to LA, in **potential violation of federal law**. He also ordered **700 U.S. Marines** to the city in anticipation of massive marches scheduled to take place on June 14, a.k.a. "No Kings Day."

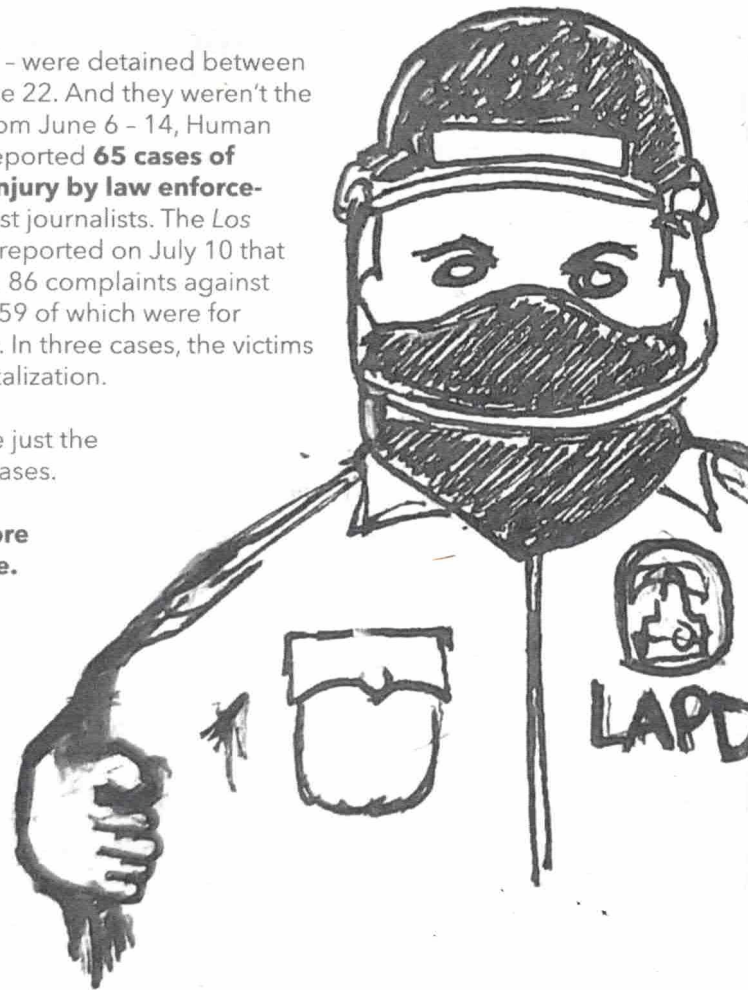
People showed up anyway. Over **200,000 protestors** marched in LA County on June 14, 2025, and countless more in the surrounding days.

Yet the illegal raids continued. Over **1,600 immigrants** – most with no

criminal record - were detained between June 6 and June 22. And they weren't the only victims. From June 6 - 14, Human Rights Watch reported **65 cases of documented injury by law enforcement**, 39 against journalists. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on July 10 that there had been 86 complaints against police officers, 59 of which were for excessive force. In three cases, the victims required hospitalization.

And these were just the documented cases.

Something more had to be done.



2000 National Guard troops placed under national service



700 U.S. Marines deployed to Los Angeles



1,618 Los Angeles residents detained from June 6 - 22



200,000+ protesters in LA marches in June 2025

Ill Will - Fire and Ice: Lessons from the Battle of Los Angeles
<https://illwill.com/print/fire-and-ice-lessons-from-the-battle-of-los-angeles>

The Intercept: Feds Make It a Crime to Give PPE to ICE Protesters
<https://theintercept.com/2025/07/23/feds-criminalize-protests-masked-ice/>

It Could Happen Here: How LA Resisted ICE
<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/105-it-could-happen-here-30717896/episode/how-la-resisted-ice-287260741/>

Instagram: Mint Press Correspondent Jalyssa Dugrot arrested during LIVE protest coverage
https://instagram.com/p/DKvNovPS_6B/

KTLA: 361 arrested in immigration sweeps at 2 Southern California cannabis farms, feds say
<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/361-arrested-in-immigration-sweeps-at-2-southern-california-cannabis-farms-feds-say/>

KTLA: Ice officers barred from using deceptive tactics in Southern California home raids
<https://ktla.com/news/california/ice-officers-barred-deceptive-tactics-home-raids/>

LA Press Club: LA Press Club Files Lawsuit over LAPD Attacking Press
<https://lapressclub.org/la-press-club-files-lawsuit-over-lapd-attacking-press/>

LA Public Press: The feds are going after LA groups helping immigrants and protestors
<https://lapublicpress.org/2025/06/ice-raids-la-mutual-aid-hawley/>

LA Taco: Journalist Arrested While Documenting ICE Action Is Released Without Charges
<https://lataco.com/free-anthony-ordenoff-rally>

LAist.com: SEIU leader David Huerta released after being charged with impeding ICE officers
<https://laist.com/news/la-immigration-raids-protests-huerta-charged>

Los Angeles Times: LA law enforcement's treatment of journalists during protests is once again under scrutiny
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-11/lapd-treatment-journalists>

SOURCES

Cal Matters: 'Brazen, midday kidnappings:' LA immigration sweeps violate Constitution, lawsuit says
<https://calmatters.org/justice/2025/07/la-immigration-raids-lawsuit/>

Cal Matters: California police are illegally sharing license plate data with ICE and Border Patrol
<https://calmatters.org/economy/technology/2025/06/california-police-sharing-license-plate-reader-data/>

Cal Matters: Judge restricts Border Patrol in California: 'You just can't walk up to people with brown skin'
<https://calmatters.org/justice/2025/04/border-patrol-injunction/>

CBS News: Immigrants at ICE check-ins detained, held in basement of federal building in Los Angeles, some overnight
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigrants-at-ice-check-ins-detained-and-held-in-basement-of-federal-building-in-los-angeles/>

Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute: 18 U.S. Code 371 - Conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud United States
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/371>

Forbes: Trial Starts Today on Whether Trump Legally Sent Troops to Los Angeles—What to Know
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2025/08/11/trial-starts-today-on-whether-trump-legally-sent-troops-to-los-angeles-what-to-know/>

The Guardian: Inside the Neighborhood Patrols Watching for ICE: 'They thought they could scare us - but this is L.A.'
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/03/los-angeles-ice-patrols-union-del-barrio-immigration>

The Guardian: LA ICE Protests Spurred US Military to Identify 'Hotels to Avoid' Due to 'Harassment'
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/21/la-ice-protests-hotels-to-avoid-list>

Human Rights Watch: US: Excessive Force Against LA Protestors
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/08/18/us-excessive-force-against-la-protesters>



From June 6 - 14th, Human Rights Watch reported 65 documented cases of injury by law enforcement, 39 of those cases being against journalists.

LA Times on July 10 reported there were 86 complaints against police officers, 59 of which were for excessive force and 3 cases in which people were hospitalized***

*****This is just the documented cases, actual amount of injuries is much higher**

NOT IN OUR TOWN

Los Angeles is home to multiple community defense organizations with decades of experience. As the protests grew, activists, both in these groups and autonomously, began vigilantly documenting ICE activities and sharing information.

Initially, members noted that ICE was engaging primarily in **large-scale operations**, using numerous vehicles and personnel to target businesses based on racial stereotypes (7-11, Home Depot, etc.) They were also able to locate many of the agents' staging areas.

Observing agents' movements, organizers could identify when raids were about to take place. They could then send word to their networks. Group members and allies were immediately alerted to show up at the location. There they could **draw attention to the raid, document the kidnapping, collect information from detainees, and in some cases prevent the kidnappers from leaving.**



"They've been chased out in the different neighborhoods where we organize. We've been able to mobilize the community to surround the agents when they come to kidnap people... We were doing everything that we could to try to keep up with the intensity of the military assault. The resistance was strong... We've been able, on numerous occasions, to successfully defend the communities and drive them out of our community." - Ron Gochez, Unión del Barrio

RESOURCES

General How-Tos

"How to Spot, Stop, and Sabotage ICE Raids in Your Community"
<https://resistancekitty.com/44-how-to-spot-stop-and-sabotage-ice-raids-in-your-community/>

Specialized Trainings & Guides

"Adopt a Day Laborer Corner" by NDLON
<https://www.mobilize.us/ndlon/c/adopt-a-day-laborer-corner/event/create/>

"Adopt a Corner Tool Kit" by NDLON
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i0dLEJIND-qHaE6qrquPnp18YxnTqe64zolUzG3FxfYk/>

"Organizing to Keep ICE Out of Your Workplace" by Black Rose Federation
<https://www.blackrosefed.org/keep-ice-out-workplace-guide/>

"How to Identify ICE Vehicles" by Unión del Barrio
https://uniondelbarrio.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Volante_PatrullasComunitarias_vehiculos_qr_June202025_85x11.pdf

Operational Security (OPSEC)

"How to Disappear Your Digital Footprint Like a Tech Witch"
<https://resistancekitty.com/how-to-disappear-your-digital-footprint-like-a-tech-witch/>

Sample Documents

"Know Your Rights" Cards & Fliers
<https://www.chirla.org/myrights/>
<https://conocetusderechos.org/stage/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/8-KYR-RADIO-JORNALERA-RED-CARD.pdf>

- **Think creatively.** At the end of August, when the feds put up temporary steel fencing to keep protestors away from Downtown LA's Federal Building, somebody chained one of the gates shut from the outside. This was done with merely a chain and 2 padlocks. Diversity of tactics and resourcefulness are essential for a well rounded movement.
- **Sí se puede - si lo hacemos juntos.** Mass protests in LA and surrounding areas have succeeded only in partnership with legal action and tactical activism. You need all three to effect lasting change.

"La libertad es como la mañana. Hay quienes esperan dormidos a que llegue, pero hay quienes desvelan y caminan la noche para alcanzarla.

Freedom is like the morning. There are those who wait for it asleep, and there are others that stay awake and walk through the night to reach it."

Subcomandante Marcos,
Zapatista National Liberation Army

In response to the activists' efforts, agents developed new tactics. ICE and the California Border Patrol (CBP) moved away from the large-scale "raid" model in favor of **small, fast operations**. They rolled up in vans, grabbed as many people as they could, and took off.

These operations took **less than ten minutes**. They targeted parking lots, car washes, street vendor corners - any location agents could enter and leave quickly. Seeing their brutal effectiveness, organizers realized they had to adapt as well.

So they formed **citizen patrols**. Individuals connected on secure apps who could walk or drive through their communities and alert neighbors to ICE activity the moment it was spotted. These patrols gathered and shared intelligence, such as photos of known kidnappers, their vehicles, and their license plates.

Another tactic they adopted was to locate hotels where DHS personnel were staying, based on parked vehicles. Using a combination of contacting hotel administrators and staging nightly noise protests with music and DJ sets, citizen patrols often managed to get the fascists kicked out.

The success of this **"No Sleep for ICE" campaign was acknowledged by the U.S. military itself in a June 16 email titled "LA Hotels to Avoid."** Results of other on-the-ground actions can be difficult to quantify. But at least one instance of activists' success appeared around the world.

* * *

On **July 7, 2025**, multiple federal agencies joined ICE in a massive raid on LA's central MacArthur Park. Over 100 agents surrounded the 35-acre green in armored vehicles. They stormed out in all-black tactical gear, clearly wanting to make their presence known and feared.

But the park was empty. Community activists, tipped off by their intelligence gathering, had arrived hours earlier and alerted people in the park to an upcoming sweep. As a result of their efforts, no arrests were made.

"They thought they could scare us... but this is L.A."
- Chavo Romero, Unión del Barrio



LESSONS LEARNED

The fight against terror in our immigrant communities has only just begun. These tactics are rapidly extending to other vulnerable populations, in cities like Philadelphia, Chicago, and Washington D.C. Here's what we've learned so far:

- **There is still time.** Since the War on Terror, DHS has focused on enforcing the geographical US-Mexico border. Now, it must change how it operates in order to carry out mass deportations. The article *Fire and Ice: Lessons from the Battle of Los Angeles* by Ill Will notes, "The real infrastructure necessary for the state to carry out mass deportations does not yet exist. It is being pulled together in a piecemeal fashion. Their aim, for now, is to create a spectacle. On this stage, they can be defeated."
- **Plan ahead.** The first sign you see of ICE activity may be someone getting kidnapped. Don't wait. Reach out to local advocacy groups. Ask what they're doing to protect community members, and make a plan to help.
- **Remember they're watching.** Corporate and government surveillance are a reality. We're being watched at all times – especially when we dissent. Cover your face when you take action. Be smart about what you post online. And look out for your people by filming only ICE/police activities, not fellow demonstrators. Look into resources on security culture for more practical advice.
- **It takes a village.** The future of our communities is in our hands. Everyone has a part to play, not just activists and radicals. Whether it's compiling and distributing resources, doing community patrols, delivering groceries, or helping fundraise... we, the people, must come together to protect each other, **now**. Build relationships with your neighbors, establish mutual trust, and put your heads together to invent new tactics. Talk to your friends, see what they need too.
- **Adapt to your terrain.** Different areas call for different tactics. In rural agricultural locations, Rapid Response Groups might visit events such as food bank distributions and monitor farms during the busy harvest period.

booking line and leave reviews on booking.com. This is also a good place to fellow community members and also distribute intro political and direct action frameworks zines.

Chill for the Cause

Find friendly local establishments and connect with DJs and artists who will perform for free, then sell tickets and merch to fundraise for activist efforts. Keep address private, available only by DM. You can also pool together funds to buy out a fruit (other food) vendor to provide food for the event while also allowing them to stay safe.

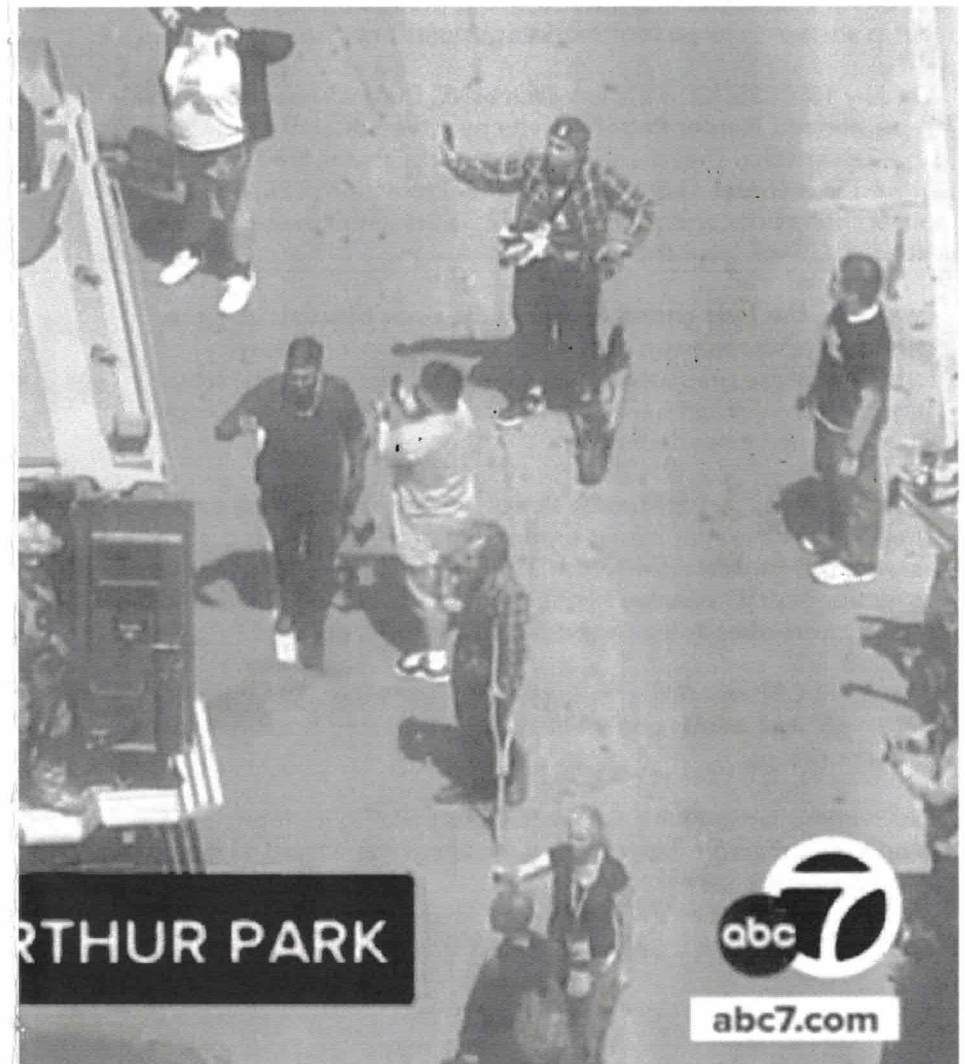
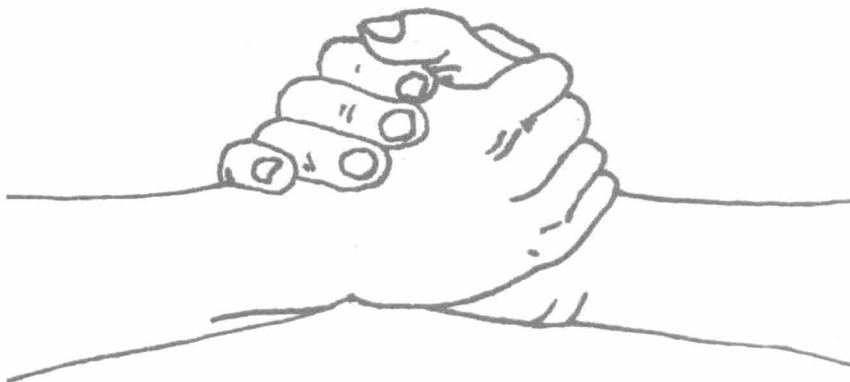
Take to the Halls

Mobilize large groups of people to attend city council meetings in support of a **specific cause**, such as keeping ICE out of schools. Stage public protests in or around city hall.

Court Support

Appoint someone to observe court cases and alert your network on critical days (such as closing arguments) to show up and support allies who have been unjustly targeted.

"Be present. Be consistent. Build relationships and offer protection." - NDLO



NEVER VOLUNTARILY GIVEN

As LA activists celebrated a win, the feds plotted reprisals. Not in LA, but in areas with **large farmworker populations** nearby.

On July 10, 2025, ICE-watchers such as VC Defensa noticed **unusually militarized Border Patrol activity** near the SoCal cities of Camarillo and Carpinteria. They alerted their networks. By the time activists arrived to respond, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) had already put up barricades and checkpoints in the area, with the help of the National Guard, local sheriffs, and police.

Ironically, the feds ended up being the ones blocked in. Since checkpoints were spread out over a wide region, organizers formed multiple groups of protestors in different areas. The teams stayed in active communication, directing food, water, and people where they were needed most.

Thanks to these tactics, **Border Patrol was trapped for the entire day.** They had to have supplies air-dropped in to maintain their presence as over **500 protestors arrived.** CBP eventually **prepared tear gas** to cover their exit. Organizers noticed and dispersed their teams, so the activists were already leaving when the gas was deployed.

Ultimately, CBP was only able to get a few vans out... but the costs were high. **361 adults and 14 children** were taken between the two farm operations.

One worker, Jamie Alanís Garcia, fell off a building during the Camarillo raid. He suffered catastrophic injuries from the fall and passed away at the hospital a few hours later.

These are public places (picture a canopy tent and folding tables in a park or parking lot) for ICE-watchers to **distribute information.** Set up a schedule with your team to ensure a consistent presence. Use the station as an opportunity to connect with immigrants in your community. If appropriate, connect with them on your secure messaging app (i.e. Signal) so you can share information on ICE movements.

Adopt a Day Labor Corner

Day laborers are among the most vulnerable to illegal ICE raids, and most in need of protections. The **National Day Laborer Organizing Network** (NDLON) calls on community members to “adopt” day labor corners – spots where immigrants gather looking for work, where they are at high risk of harassment and arrest.

As with the Community Defense Corners, focus on setting up a **consistent volunteer schedule.** Set a manageable time frame for daily visits, e.g. 4 hours during the busiest working period. Let volunteers sign up for manageable time slots, such as 30-60 minute increments.

When you actually come out to the corner, prioritize building relationships with day laborers. Bring coffee or snacks, and **introduce yourself before you start distributing political materials.** Learn enough Spanish (or other languages your local immigrant communities speak) to communicate basic information.

Establishing mutual trust allows you to collaborate with workers on tactics that work for their specific needs and circumstances. At one Los Angeles Home Depot location, for example, day laborers would leave their cars unlocked so that they could calmly walk over and get inside at the first sign of trouble.

Spread the Word

Print fliers, wallet-sized cards, zines, stickers, or door hangers listing people's rights during an ICE raid in multiple languages. Have teams of two distribute person-to-person throughout the community. (Examples in the “Resources” section). Bring stacks to local businesses and put up fliers in community spaces such as grocery store parking lots.

Make Some Noise

Bring noisemakers, pots and pans to hotels where ICE is known to be staying and make sure they don't get any sleep. Also call the hotel

- **Close-up Videographer:** Films activity close-up. Maintain 10 feet of distance from the agents and state while filming, *"I am maintaining a safe distance. I am exercising my First Amendment right to document in a public place."**
- **Wide-angle Videographer:** Films a wider shot of all activity, including all vehicles, agents involved, and surroundings.*
- **Photographer:** Takes photos of agents, vehicles, license plates, and any other relevant details and activity.
- **Communicator:** Informs detainees of their rights,** gathers contact info (name, DOB, phone number of emergency contact.) Ideally someone who speaks the language of the person or people being detained.

*** NOTE: If you later share these videos, blur faces of immigrants and activists to protect their IDs.**

**** "You have the right to remain silent. Don't say anything. Don't answer anything. Don't show any documents (if undocumented). Immigration is here. Stay calm and walk away slowly."**

If there is a hotline to report ICE activity in your community, designate a member of the team to call it. Remember only to report confirmed activity, providing as much information as possible.

Community Defense Stations



DAYS IN COURT

The circle of life: Activists hit the streets, attorneys head to court.



LA's resistance against ICE has been no different. Starting day one of the protests, and up to the writing of this zine, the Justice Department and DHS have levied felony accusations against at least **38 demonstrators**. Many of these charges have been downgraded or dropped. But they remain on defendants' records for life.

One example: **Alejandro Orellana** - a member of Centro CSO, an East LA organization that has fought for immigrant rights since the 2000s - was arrested by the **FBI** on June 12, 2025.

The charge: **Conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the United States** (18 USC 371).

The evidence: Video footage of Orellana distributing face shields to demonstrators, intended to help protect them from tear gas and pepper balls fired by police.

For these efforts to defend his fellow community members, Orellana was indicted by a federal grand jury on July 2, 2025, facing up to five years' imprisonment.

Supporters turned out in mass to protest. Four weeks later, the charges were dismissed without prejudice - meaning Orellana was free to go, but the charges could be refiled at any time.

There are far too many similar examples. To name just a few:

- President of California Labor Union SEIU **David Huerta** was violently arrested by ICE agents during a demonstration on June 6, 2025. After four days of public outcry, he was charged with conspiracy to impede an officer and released on \$50,000 bail.
- Documentarian **Anthony Orendorff** was beaten and

arrested for filming an ICE raid on June 19th. He was released after four days in custody. No charges were filed.

- Centro Community Service Organization (CSO) activist **Verita Topete** was walking her dog one afternoon in late June when she was approached by FBI agents. They presented her with a search warrant, yanked her phone away from her, then arrested her. She was released without charges.
- The Republican-led House Judiciary Committee opened an investigation into **CHIRLA** June 24, 2025, alleging that grants the organization received under the Biden administration had been used "to support violent criminal activity that impedes the enforcement of federal law."
- The Senate Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism, led by Republican Josh Hawley, is also investigating **Unión del Barrio** and **the Party for Socialism and Liberation** for "aiding and abetting criminal conduct." The outcomes of these investigations are pending.

Though the purpose of such charges was clearly to act as a scare tactic against direct action, organized *and* autonomous, we weren't falling for it.



Immigrant advocates have also taken to the courts, with some success.

For instance, in 2020, LA County resident Osny Sorto-Vazquez Kidd teamed up with the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to sue ICE. At issue: ICE's use of deceptive tactics during home arrests, including agents' practice of **misidentifying themselves as police officers**.

As that case was working its way through the courts, on **June 16, 2025**, the LA Press Club filed a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles and LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell over the department's actions toward journalists. The lawsuit sought "to restrict use of force by LAPD on our members and fellow journalists... Journalism is not a crime."

On **July 12, 2025**, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order forbidding the LAPD from using rubber bullets, tear gas, and flashbang grenades against journalists during protests. In the ruling, the judge confirmed that footage from protests appeared to show journalists being specifically targeted.

SAMPLE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIONS

ICE Patrol

Have members in your rapid response group keep watch for ICE activity. Sometimes it will be obvious. You may literally see masked men in tactical gear drive up and throw someone into a van. But often the signs will be subtle, like an unmarked vehicle with tinted windows slowly passing by a car wash.

One rapid response group at a Los Angeles Home Depot stations look-outs in three different areas, from highest-to-lowest priority:

1. Stays near the day laborers to warn them quickly if needed.
2. Watches key parts of the perimeter (nearby intersections) to monitor approaching vehicles.
3. Drives around the area to check for ICE staging spots.

Teach members to report activity on your secure channel.

Use the acronym **SALUTE** (Size, Activity, Location, Uniform, Time, and Equipment) in your reports.

Nominate someone (ideally multiple people) to catalogue info on secure services such as Cryptpad and Proton Drive. For instance, license plates of confirmed ICE vehicles, personal information of kidnapped people.

Some regions have existing organizations dedicated to assisting and protecting immigrants. Reach out to those organizations and ask how your group can help, or how they can support you. Some have hotlines to report ICE activity. They may also have publications such as "Know Your Rights" cards and flyers you can share while on patrol. **You do not need an org to form an ICE patrol group, but sharing resources is key.**

In the event of a raid: A team member reports activity on the channel. Other members who are available immediately head to the location. Once on site, each responder can perform a specific role to document the activity and provide assistance. For example:

What is a rapid response group?

A rapid response group is the basic unit of community resistance – a team of people who work together to respond quickly to urgent needs and/or threats. It can be as small as two people, or as large as hundreds.

How are they organized?

Typically, groups are non-hierarchical, with leadership roles shared among organizers. They operate autonomously to maximize responsiveness to local needs, but they can also coordinate with other groups and organizations.

How do they fight ICE?

Rapid response groups can fight ICE in many ways: by sharing information (legal resources, "Know Your Rights" materials, confirmed ICE sightings,) forming citizen patrols, staffing community defense corners, documenting raids, and beyond.

How do I start one?

- Find others who are willing to volunteer to protect immigrants in your community.
- Establish a secure communications channel (Signal is a good one) to report sightings.
- Start taking collective action.



Activists got another win on **August 4, 2025**, when a judge finally ruled in favor of Kidd and CHIRLA's 2020 lawsuit. The settlement prohibits ICE agents in Los Angeles from **falsely claiming to be state or local law enforcement**.

Similar cases against the government have been tried and won in other states. We celebrate these victories. But we stay vigilant, and we keep fighting in other arenas: the culture, the community, the consciousness.

Because to every action, there is an opposite and unequal reaction.



Recently, the ACLU, United Farm Workers, and other plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against DHS in California's Central Valley District for **violations of the Fourth Amendment** in the 2025 raids. A similar injunction was filed in the Eastern District.

Amendment IV: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

In both cases, federal judges granted **temporary restraining orders (TROs) prohibiting warrantless raids**, requiring ICE and CBP to provide **probable cause** for arresting people – other than "they're brown."

On **September 8, 2025**, SCOTUS officially granted a stay of the TRO.

Translation: **Immigration officials now have carte-blanc** to arrest people without probable cause, merely based on their appearance, location, and/or occupation.

Make no mistake: We will not let this stand.

THEY GO LOW

This administration and its supporters like to portray themselves as defenders of law and order while using blatantly illegal tactics.

They let **masked vigilantes** posing as federal agents **kidnap** people without consequences.

Meanwhile, actual federal agents ambush residents outside immigration hearings, taking them into custody as they're in the act of following the law.

And that's just the tip of the ICEberg. Here in LA, we've seen agents:

- Track people through automatic license plate readers
- Use facial recognition to target protestors
- Get footage from Waymo vehicles
- Target activist influencers
- Stake out targets while they're getting medical care
- Lie to day laborers about job offers to lure them into an ambush
- Kidnap people using disguised vehicles like a Penske van (Operation Trojan Horse)
- Detain a disabled teenager in front of a high school

In early August, DHS resumed kidnapping people in probable violation of the temporary restraining orders. ICE and CBP also conducted a dramatic "operation" in Little Tokyo on August 14, in a transparent effort to intimidate Democratic Senators Padilla and Schiff, and Governor Newsom, who were speaking at a local event.

These are not the defenders of law and order. They fight dirty. In response:



 Palantir



WE GET ORGANIZED

The civil and legal actions of SoCal residents and their supporters have forced DHS to change its tactics in the region. Conflicts between the people and the police no longer resemble the dramatic, violent clashes of June and early July 2025.

So the community has shifted focus to sustainable, **long-term resistance** built on the groundwork laid by veteran organizations along side autonomous initiatives.

Defense from unjust arrest is only one of the immigrant community's urgent needs at this time. Due to the threat of abduction, many are afraid even to leave their homes.

Here in LA, organizations such as Centro CSO, Unión del Barrio and various autonomous groups provide **long-term support** to people trapped by ICE's campaign of terror by:

- Fundraising for rent, bills, and groceries. Some orgs also deliver these supplies to people directly.
- Running Know Your Rights trainings and neighborhood watch services, particularly in and around schools.
- Buying out stock from street vendors so they can stay home, and provide them with informational resources on Know Your Rights and other topics.
- Looking after community members' kids, and give them rides to school.

Institutions such as public schools have built their own defenses. The LA Unified School District, for example, has established protocols to protect students by minimizing contact between them and immigration agents. **Lookouts are posted to watch for ICE activity.** If anything is spotted, lookouts alert the school admin. The school is locked down, and only the principal interacts with agents.

Autonomous activists and affinity groups support these efforts, and fill gaps, in a variety of ways.

One of the most effective first steps is forming a **rapid response group**.