

Statement on the Fatal ICE Shootings in Houston, Texas and Biddeford, Maine

The Texas NASW Human Rights Committee expresses deep concern and grief regarding the deaths of two men fatally shot by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents within the span of one week.

On July 7, 2026, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, was shot and killed by a masked ICE agent in Houston, Texas while on his way to work. Mr. Salgado Araujo was a 52-year-old husband and father who had lived in the United States for 35 years, where he raised three sons and ran a construction business.

Less than a week later, on July 13, 2026, Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero was fatally shot by a masked ICE agent in Biddeford, Maine. Mr. Durán Guerrero was a 26-year-old father from Colombia who was authorized to work in the U.S.

Neither Mr. Salgado Araujo or Mr. Durán Guerrero were the target of the enforcement operation that resulted in their deaths. These deaths reflect a broader and troubling pattern of harm connected to the increase of immigration enforcement nationwide, including a rising number of fatal encounters and deaths in ICE custody. Families and communities in Texas, Maine, and across the country are left to grieve while carrying the added weight of fear and instability.

Social workers stand on the front lines supporting individuals and families navigating trauma, grief, displacement, and the compounding stressors of immigration enforcement. Safety, due process, and basic human dignity are fundamental to health and wellbeing, and they are essential to the communities we serve. The deaths of Mr. Salgado Araujo and Mr. Durán Guerrero, raise urgent questions about accountability, transparency, and the tactics used in immigration enforcement operations, including masked agents, unmarked vehicles, the absence of body cams, and the use of lethal force.

The Texas NASW Human Rights Committee rejects the normalization of violence in immigration enforcement. These incidents disproportionately endanger immigrant communities, and people of color who pose no threat to public safety. The trauma extends beyond the individuals and families directly affected, reaching neighbors, coworkers, and the wider community.

Call to Action

The Texas NASW Human Rights Committee urges our members, partners, and all advocates for human rights to:

- Support independent, transparent investigations into both shootings, led by agencies outside of DHS and ICE.
- Call on elected officials to require body cams for all ICE agents conducting operations, and to make the footage available to independent investigators.
- Demand accountability measures, including clear use-of-force standards for immigration enforcement operations.
- Advocate for the suspension of enforcement tactics that have repeatedly put bystanders and non-targets at risk, including wearing masks to conceal the identities of the agents, using unmarked vehicles, and conducting vehicle stops without proper probable cause.

- Support the families of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo and Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, and the broader communities in Houston and Biddeford, as they grieve and seek answers.