



Group 48
Portland, Oregon
October 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting October 8th on Zoom



Group 48 to Gather at Bold Coffee and Books on October 10th to mark National Banned Books Week

For this campaign, Group 48 will have an event to take action for Banned Books Week at Bold Coffee and Books Portland (<https://boldcoffeeandbooks.com/>) on October 10, 2026, from 2 to 5 pm. We will be writing on the following cases: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns/banned-books/bbw2026/#spotlight-cases>

This year's featured cases include a journalist, social media influencer, poet, photojournalist, Indigenous rights activists, and others from the United States, Mali, Algeria, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Iran, the Philippines, and an Indigenous community in Russia.

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Amnesty International Calls for ICE to Be Abolished After Documenting Widespread Human Rights Violations in Anti-Immigrant Operations

In a new report released today, Amnesty International documented widespread human rights violations committed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and other federal agencies during the Trump administration's large-scale, militarized immigration enforcement operations in Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New Orleans and Washington, DC.

The report, ["We Had Whistles, They Had Guns": Human Rights Violations in U.S. Immigration Enforcement Operations and the Case to Abolish ICE](#), demonstrates that the Trump administration is implementing a mass detention and deportation system, fueled by racist, xenophobic and false narratives, whose objective is to detain and deport as many migrants, asylum seekers and refugees from the United States as possible and spread fear throughout immigrant communities more broadly.

"Our report documents a chilling pattern of human rights violations across the U.S. intended to instill fear within migrant, asylum seeker and refugee communities," said Nadia Daar, Executive Director, Amnesty International USA. "ICE's record of violating human rights is nothing new, but our report shows many of these abuses have reached a perilous new level."

The Trump administration has committed a host of human rights abuses, including unlawful killings, some of which may amount to extrajudicial executions; arbitrary and discriminatory incommunicado detentions, including possible enforced disappearances, in some cases in conditions of confinement that may violate the prohibition on torture; violent repression of peaceful protests, and more. Based on these findings, Amnesty International is joining the chorus of community voices calling for ICE to be abolished, immediately.

Amnesty International's findings demonstrate that the violations documented across the four operations were not isolated or exceptional incidents, but part of recurring patterns of abuse with devastating consequences for immigrants and entire communities.

"Masked and armed federal agents attacking people in the streets

with impunity doesn't make our communities safer — it puts everyone in danger,” said Daar. “ICE is fundamentally broken and cannot be fixed. For the U.S. government to have an immigration enforcement system that complies with international human rights law and standards, ICE needs to be abolished and we need to start over.”

ICE was created in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, and an extremely problematic security framework was adopted in the years following. Amnesty International and other organizations have documented human rights violations committed by ICE and a troubling lack of oversight and accountability since its creation in 2003. However, the scale and horror that we have witnessed since January 2025, fueled by billions of new dollars and persistent impunity, has reached new levels.

The four operations resulted in human rights violations against immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, people profiled as immigrants, Black and Brown communities, and those who came to their aid and challenged the conduct of the Trump administration. They also created a pervasive climate of fear that extended throughout entire communities.

As the report documents, ICE agents operated within an institutional environment — openly supported and expanded by the Trump administration — in which violent and racially discriminatory immigration enforcement practices were encouraged by senior government officials, including President Trump. Agents frequently operated with masks and without identification; safeguards intended to prevent and address misconduct were weakened or dismantled; and human rights violations were rarely followed by meaningful investigation or accountability.

The report details an account from Minnesota State Representative Liish Kozlowski, who is Obijwe-Latine, who said: “My cousin was in her car going to work with her husband. ICE rolled up, literally looking for Black and Brown people. They smashed her window at gun point. They roughed her up; she was pregnant. Her husband yelled ‘She’s Native American, here’s her Tribal ID card’. An ICE agent responded, ‘That doesn’t [expletive] matter, this is our land now.’”

This is just one example from dozens in the report where ICE agents appeared to be engaging in explicit racial profiling.

“Racially profiling and snatching people off the street, separating families and arbitrarily detaining

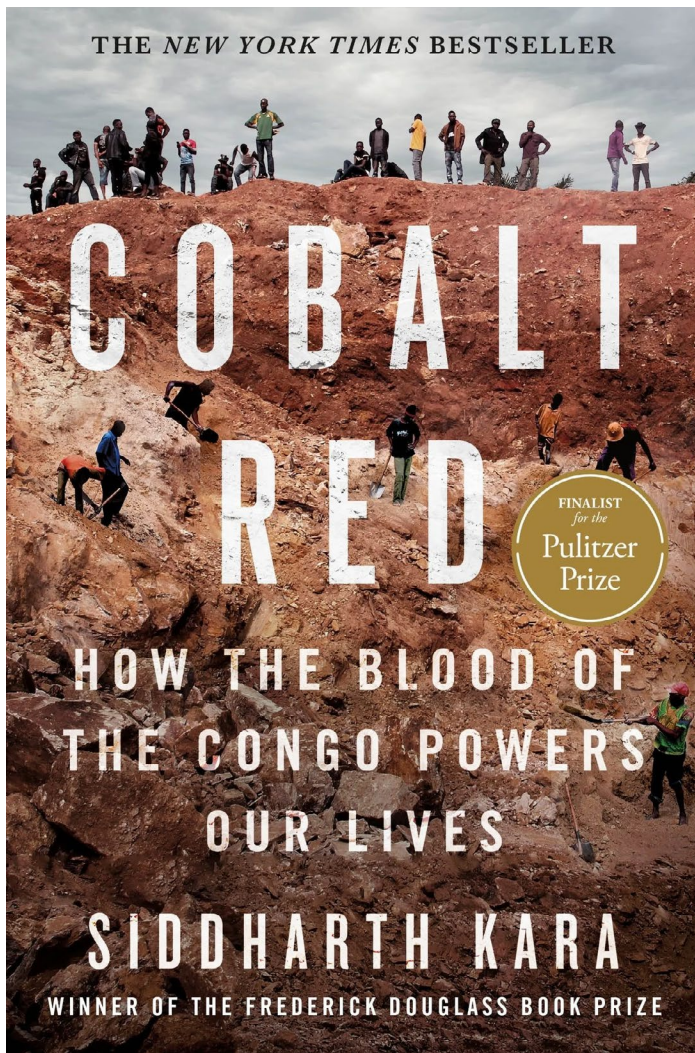
people are not only unlawful, cruel practices, but profoundly damaging,” said Ana Piquer, Americas Director at Amnesty International. “These practices violate human rights and cause fear and psychological distress and long-lasting health concerns to children, other family members and entire communities.”

The report also highlights how communities came together to resist and protect one another. These networks played an essential role in documenting human rights violations, and being there for their neighbors, through mutual aid networks, constitutional observer trainings, rapid response networks, walking school buses, and more in order to stand by and protect those most directly impacted. Protests were one important tool of resistance, but were frequently met with additional acts of lawlessness by ICE and Border Patrol agents.

For example, in Chicago, the Broadview facility became a focal point for protesting against ICE and Border Patrol’s actions in the city. Reverend David Black, who frequently went to the Broadview facility to do ministry, said, “The escalation of violence by ICE and CBP at Broadview when we were just praying and chanting was terrifying.” During one ministry service he led at the facility, Reverend Black, who was dressed as clergy, was calling on three federal agents who were standing on the facility’s roof to repent, when the agents suddenly shot him in the face, arms and torso with exploding pellets of pepper spray. He is one of the numerous people whose experiences are documented in the report.

The report highlights numerous additional human rights violations during these cruel immigration enforcement operations. Amnesty International researchers interviewed 154 people across the four locations, allowing the organization to analyze how immigration enforcement operations affect diverse communities across different political, legal, and historical contexts, and to conclude that the human rights violations documented reflect broader national patterns rather than being isolated local incidents.

“It is heartbreaking to see the pain and suffering caused by this Administration as it criminalizes and demonizes immigrants,” said Daar. “I’m also hopeful — communities have rallied around those targeted and in some instances forced the Trump administration to back down. We must hold accountable those government officials responsible for this reign of terror, and we must keep fighting for an immigration system that is grounded in human rights and dignity, not cruelty.”



Group 48 Book Discussion on November 19th

We are having our first book discussion group session on November 19th. At our last group meeting we decided on *Cobalt Red*, written by Siddharth Kara, as our first choice. We will be meeting at 7:30pm at the Cedar Hills New Seasons, 3495 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, in Beaverton, in the seating area near the hot food bar, which serves food till 8pm. The store is open till 9pm.

From the publisher's blurb for *Cobalt Red*: "An unflinching investigation reveals the human rights abuses behind the Congo's cobalt mining operation—and the moral implications that affect us all."

Cobalt Red is the searing, first-ever exposé of the immense toll taken on the people and environment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by cobalt mining, as told through the testimonies of the Congolese people themselves. Activist and researcher Siddharth Kara has traveled deep into cobalt territory to document the testimonies of the people living, working, and dying for cobalt. To uncover the truth about brutal mining practices, Kara investigated militia-controlled mining areas, traced the supply chain of child-mined cobalt from toxic pit to consumer-facing tech giants, and gathered shocking testimonies of people who endure immense suffering and even die mining cobalt.

Cobalt is an essential component to every lithium-ion rechargeable battery made today, the batteries that power our smartphones, tablets, laptops, and electric vehicles. Roughly 75 percent of the world's supply of cobalt is mined in the Congo, often by peasants and children in sub-human conditions. Billions of people in the world cannot conduct their daily lives without participating in a human rights and environmental catastrophe in the Congo."

The book is available in hardcover, paperback, and as an audio book. If you don't have time to read the book, there are interviews with the author on youtube that would also be helpful, such as this one on Democracy Now with Amy Goodman.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I3K7fhLmcE&t=212s>

We have several other books under consideration for later discussions, and will have more discussion of these at our next group meeting.

DRC: M23 Fighters Abused Miners and Trafficked Gold and Coltan to Rwanda

Rwanda-backed March 23 Movement (M23) fighters have committed horrific human rights abuses against artisanal miners in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) while facilitating the trafficking of gold and coltan to neighboring Rwanda with the help of Rwandan authorities, as indicated in a new Amnesty International report.

[DRC: We didn't come to play: M23 abuses at artisanal mines and the trafficking of gold and coltan to Rwanda](#) documents M23 violations including summary killings, torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, forced labor and forced recruitment. It shows how M23 fighters forced miners to dig minerals, often making them work underground for more than a week at a time in coltan mines near Rubaya in North Kivu province, and Lomera, a gold mining site in South Kivu province. The violations may amount to war crimes, which are crimes under international law.

Urgent Action: China **Activist Detained for Showing Photo of Dalai Lama**

NAME AND PRONOUN: Zhang Yi (He/him - Zhang is his surname, Yi is his given name)

Zhang Yi, a Chinese activist, was detained in Lhasa, Tibet, on 1 July 2026 after showing a photograph of the Dalai Lama on his mobile phone while visiting Sera Monastery. He was formally arrested on 28 July 2026 on suspicion of “inciting separatism”. Zhang Yi is a person with a disability and concerns remain about his wellbeing in detention. His detention appears to stem solely from the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

The authorities must immediately release him.

Zhang Yi is a Chinese pro-democracy activist and human rights defender from Wuhan, Hubei province. He became politically active during the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement and was subsequently imprisoned for two years because of his participation. During that detention, he was reportedly subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, resulting in the loss of hearing in one ear and partial hearing loss in the other. Despite ongoing health challenges, he has continued to speak out on human rights and democracy issues.

On 1 July 2026, Zhang Yi was visiting Sera Monastery in Lhasa with his younger brother. After he was unable to communicate verbally with a Tibetan worshipper from whom he wished to borrow a prayer mat, he showed the person a photograph of the Dalai Lama on his mobile phone. According to information received by Amnesty International, plain-clothes officers appeared to observe the interaction, and Zhang Yi was detained shortly afterwards. He was formally arrested on 28 July 2026 on suspicion of “inciting separatism”. The authorities have not publicly disclosed the factual basis for the accusation.

Zhang Yi was detained on the same day that China’s Ethnic Unity Law entered into force on 1 July 2026. The law contains broad and vaguely worded provisions requiring the promotion of “ethnic unity” and a shared national identity, creating additional legal grounds for restricting the peaceful exercise of human rights, including the rights

to freedom of expression, religion or belief, and cultural rights. Amnesty International has warned that the law could further entrench policies aimed at assimilating ethnic minority communities.

Amnesty International has repeatedly documented the Chinese authorities’ misuse of the offence of “inciting separatism” against Tibetans and others for the peaceful exercise of their human rights. Previous cases have involved individuals advocating for Tibetan language education, expressing views relating to Tibetan culture and religion, or sharing information about the Dalai Lama. Against this backdrop, Zhang Yi’s prosecution raises serious concerns that he is being targeted solely for peacefully exercising his human rights.

Sample Letter

Dear Secretary Wang,

I am writing to express my grave concern about the detention of Zhang Yi, a Chinese human rights defender who was detained in Lhasa, Tibet, on July 1st, 2026 and formally arrested on July 28th, 2026 on suspicion of “inciting separatism”.

Zhang Yi reportedly suffered torture and other ill-treatment during a previous period of detention, resulting in hearing loss and leaving him with a disability. Given his past experience of torture and his disability, I am deeply concerned about his wellbeing and safety in detention.

As you may be aware from media reports, Zhang Yi was visiting Sera Monastery in Lhasa with his younger brother when he showed a photograph of the Dalai Lama on his mobile phone to a Tibetan worshipper.

Shortly afterwards, he was detained by police. The authorities have not publicly disclosed the factual basis for the accusation against him.

According to reliable information, on 17 August 2026, a lawyer sought information from the authorities about the possibility of meeting Zhang Yi. The authorities reportedly declined to arrange a meeting and indicated that the case would soon be transferred to the procuratorate for review and prosecution. To date, no lawyer or family member has been granted access to Zhang Yi, raising concerns about his



wellbeing and his right to due process and a fair trial.

I find it distressing that Zhang Yi appears to have been arrested solely for exercising his human rights. Showing a photograph of a religious leader cannot reasonably be assessed as a threat to national security and therefore should not be treated as such. Finally, given Zhang's previous allegations of torture and the long-term effects on his health, I am extremely worried about his safety, well-being, and access to adequate health care while in detention.

This case also reinforces concerns raised by Amnesty International regarding the Ethnic Unity and Progress Law which entered into force on 1 July and whose broad provisions risk further restricting human rights, including the rights to freedom of religion and belief and freedom of expression.

I therefore call on you to:

- *Release Zhang Yi immediately and unconditionally and drop all charges against him;*
- *Pending his release, ensure that Zhang Yi has regular, unrestricted access to lawyers of his choice and his family, as well as access to adequate health care, and that he is not subject to torture or other ill-treatment;*
- *End the use of laws, policies and administrative measures, including the Ethnic Unity and Progress*

Take Action:

Please write an appeal in your own words or use the sample letter.

Secretary Wang Junzheng
Party Secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Region
No. 1 Kang'ang East Road
Chengguan District, Lhasa
Tibet Autonomous Region 850000
People's Republic of China

Please take action as soon as possible until February 28th, 2027. Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

Law, to restrict the peaceful exercise of human rights and to suppress cultural, religious and civic expression.

Yours sincerely,

After Botched Execution Attempt, Tennessee Must Commute Christa Pike's Death Sentence as a First Step

In response to the state of Tennessee's senseless pursuit of the death penalty and the attempted execution of Christa Pike, Justin Mazzola, Deputy Director of Research with Amnesty International USA said:

"Tennessee's attempted, but botched, execution of Christa Pike was an extreme display of cruelty and the latest reminder that the death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

"Governor Lee had the power to stop this execution before it reached this point. Yet he appallingly chose not to. To make matters worse, the state of Tennessee rushed toward the execution even after a circuit court issued a temporary stay to give time to look into claims that the severe childhood sexual abuse and trauma Ms. Pike experienced were not adequately presented during her trial. It shouldn't have gotten this far.

"This is the second time in less than five months that Tennessee has botched an execution, with Tony

Carruthers having a similar experience in May. Not only does Tennessee have an extended history of botched executions, but its authorities have pursued executions also by shrouding in secrecy its lethal injection process. The extraordinary display of cruelty is emblematic of why the death penalty must be immediately abolished. There is no humane way for the state to kill someone. The death penalty system is broken beyond repair. It is a violation of human rights, and no government should have the power to carry it out.

"Governor Lee has said he will pause all executions, but that does not go nearly far enough. He must grant both Ms. Pike and all those on death row clemency and commute their sentences. He must also establish an indefinite moratorium on all executions, not just for a few months. Yesterday's harrowing spectacle must spark a new determination to work to move the state of Tennessee to abolish the death penalty once and for all."

Urgent Action: Indonesia Activist Still Prosecuted After Acquittals of Others

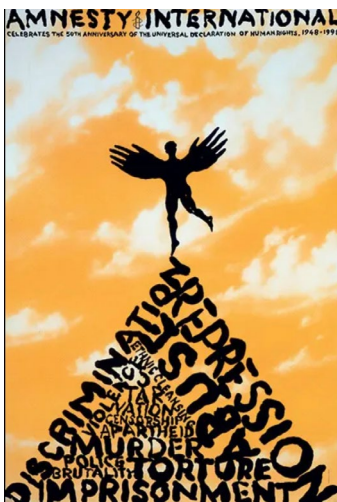
NAME AND PRONOUN: Delpedro Marhaen; Muzaffar Salim; Khariq Anhar; Syahdan Husein; Wawan Hermawan; Saiful Amin; and Shelfin Bima Prakosa (all: he/him)

Activist Khariq Anhar continues to face criminal prosecution under Indonesia's Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT) Law for a satirical social media post related to the nationwide protests that began in August 2025. He and six other activists were prosecuted in connection with the protests and all but Khariq Anhar have been released. However, the acquittals of four of these activists remain under appeal by prosecutors. The authorities must end the continued criminalization of Khariq Anhar and others for peaceful protest and freedom of expression in Indonesia.

From August 25 to September 1, 2025, Indonesia witnessed one of its largest waves of protests since the country's democratic transition in 1998. Demonstrations took place in response to government policies widely perceived as undermining civic space and worsening socio-economic conditions. The authorities responded with excessive force, mass arrests, and criminal prosecutions. Amnesty International documented hundreds of protesters, students, and activists investigated or prosecuted solely for participating in, or expressing support for, the demonstrations.

Among those targeted were seven activists — Delpedro Marhaen Rismansyah, Muzaffar Salim,

Khariq Anhar, Syahdan Husein, Wawan Hermawan, Saiful Amin, and Shelfin Bima Prakosa. Arrested separately between August and September 2025, they were prosecuted under the Criminal Code and the Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT) Law for speeches, social media posts, or other peaceful activities connected to the protests.



On March 6, the Central Jakarta District Court acquitted Delpedro, Muzaffar, Khariq, and Syahdan of all charges, ruling that prosecutors had failed to prove allegations of incitement, dissemination of false information, hate speech, or child exploitation. The court restored their rights and emphasized that criminal law must not be used to punish peaceful political expression. The four activists were released after spending nearly seven months in detention. However, prosecutors subsequently filed a cassation appeal before the Supreme Court, where the

case remains pending.

On April 7, the Central Jakarta District Court convicted Wawan Hermawan and sentenced him to seven months' imprisonment for reposting the same edited image created by Khariq. Wawan Hermawan has since completed his sentence and been released.

In a separate case, the Kediri District Court delivered contradictory judgments on April 28. Saiful Amin was acquitted after the court recognized that his actions formed part of the exercise of freedom of expression. In contrast, Shelfin Bima Prakosa was convicted of incitement and sentenced to four months'

Group Coordinators

Marty Fromer and Terrie Rodello

Newsletter -- Daniel Webb

OR Area Coordinator -- Marty Fromer

Indonesia actions -- Max White

China / Uyghur actions -- Marty Fromer

Central Africa/ Oregon State Death

Penalty Abolition-- Terrie Rodello

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imprisonment for his involvement in the same protest. Amnesty International Indonesia criticized the inconsistent verdicts as evidence of unequal treatment of peaceful protesters. Both have now been released, although prosecutors have appealed Saiful's acquittal.

These cases demonstrate the continued use of vague provisions of the Criminal Code and the EIT Law to criminalize peaceful expression and assembly in Indonesia. Although six of the seven activists are no longer in detention, Khariq remains on trial while prosecutors continue to challenge the acquittals of Delpedro, Muzaffar, Syahdan, and Saiful, prolonging legal uncertainty and creating a chilling effect on the exercise of fundamental freedoms.

Sample Letter

Dear Dr. Burhanuddin,

I am concerned about the continued criminalization of activists in Indonesia following the nationwide protests that began in August 2025. Khariq Anhar is still on trial on charges under Indonesia's Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT) Law for sharing a satirical meme on social media questioning a public call discouraging students from participating in demonstrations. Although the image had already been examined in a previous case in which he was acquitted, prosecutors brought a new case using different provisions of the EIT Law.

In March, Khariq Anhar was acquitted in a separate criminal case arising from the same wave of protests, together with Delpedro Marhaen Rismansyah, Muzaffar Salim, and Syahdan Husein. Prosecutors have appealed the acquittals of all four activists, and the appeal remains pending. In a separate case, activist Saiful Amin was acquitted, but prosecutors have also appealed his acquittal. His co-defendant, Shelfin Bima Prakosa, was convicted and has since completed his prison sentence. In another separate case, activist Wawan Hermawan was convicted after reposting protest-related social media content and has also completed his sentence.

Protesting is not a crime, nor is expressing criticism through peaceful means. I urge you to immediately halt the prosecution of Khariq Anhar under the EIT Law unless there is sufficient evidence that he committed an internationally recognized criminal offense. I further urge you to withdraw the prosecutors' appeals against the acquittals of Delpedro Marhaen



TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter as a guide or use your own words.

Dr. Sanitiar Burhanuddin
Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia
Jl. Panglima Polim No.1,
South Jakarta, Jakarta 12160,
Indonesia
Email: humas.puspenkum@kejaksaan.go.id
X: @STBurhanuddin
Instagram: @stburhanuddin_

Send a copy of your letter to the address below
Indonesian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Prof. Dr. Ir. Dwisuryo Indroyono
Soesilo
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,
Washington DC 20036
Email: washington.kbri@kemlu.go.id
Twitter/X: @IndonesiainDC

Please take action as soon as possible until December 31st, 2026. Click [here](#) to report your action(s) on Third UA 97.25.

Rismansyah, Muzaffar Salim, Syahdan Husein, and Saiful Amin. Finally, end the misuse of criminal law against individuals solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Findings Show Concerted Efforts to Censor and Retaliate Against Speech in Support of Palestinian Rights in Colleges and Universities

Today, the American Civil Liberties Union and Amnesty International USA released a new report, [“Student Speech Under Attack: Suppression of Pro-Palestine Speech and Dissent on Campus,”](#) analyzing how higher education institutions, the federal government, and policymakers censored and suppressed speech in support of Palestinian rights and critical of the Israeli government. The report documents fierce retaliation against pro-Palestinian speech and expression that began in late 2023 and continues today. This repression has infringed on academic freedom and violated students’ and scholars’ free speech, association, and assembly rights across the country.

The report provides an in-depth review of university and college administrations’ punitive responses to campus protests against Israel’s war in Gaza, which has been declared an ongoing genocide by Amnesty International. The report documents how colleges and universities aggressively enforced campus policies and wielded disciplinary actions against community members based on their viewpoint, such as by suspending students, terminating faculty, and banning student organizations. It also documents how campus police and law enforcement used unlawful and unnecessary force against largely peaceful protesters, often leading to serious psychological harm and physical injuries. This nationwide crackdown has also contributed both to the rise of surveillance on campus to identify those who expressed pro-Palestinian views, and to universities’ failure to protect international students and scholars who spoke out under the Biden and Trump administrations from harassment and immigration enforcement.

The report also details how the Trump administration retaliated against universities and colleges that were sites of pro-Palestinian and anti-genocide activism. Under the guise of applying civil rights laws to combating campus antisemitism, the federal government withheld federal funding and research grants to coerce universities into accepting overly broad agreements that curtailed lawful expression on campus.

“Universities and colleges must take all possible measures to ensure that their campuses are spaces where students may exercise their rights to freedom of speech and expression without fear of unwarranted

punishment or retaliation regardless of viewpoint,” said Jennifer Turner, principal human rights researcher in the ACLU’s Human Rights Program. “Schools should resist the pressures placed on them to silence and punish students or faculty who engage in protest or advocacy for Palestinian rights. Instead, they should stand up to the federal government’s intimidation tactics and defend the university’s core mission of fostering free-flowing inquiry and debate.”

The report closely documents the federal government’s targeting of noncitizen students and scholars for arrest, detention, and deportation based on their political views and in direct retaliation for their advocacy for Palestinian rights. Such actions include revoking the visas and green cards of noncitizen students and scholars who engaged in pro-Palestinian advocacy – such as Mahmoud Khalil, Mohsen Mahdawi, and Dr. Badar Khan Suri, among others – and arresting, detaining, and attempting to deport them solely because of their political viewpoints and constitutionally protected expression.

“Universities and colleges should prepare students for open discourse in a pluralistic society. Instead, campus leadership has suppressed free speech and peaceful protest while enabling the Trump administration to advance its anti-rights agenda and seek ideological control over higher education,” said Justin Mazzola, deputy director of research at Amnesty International USA. “The Trump administration’s targeting of students and faculty who oppose Israel’s ongoing genocide in Gaza is dangerously reminiscent of McCarthy-era censorship and a blatant violation of academic freedom. The Trump administration must stop stifling political expression on campus and end its relentless push for ideological conformity in higher education. Students’ rights must be respected, protected, and fulfilled.”

The report is based on a two-year investigation that covered instances at 46 public and 34 private university and college campuses nationwide, located in 28 states and the District of Columbia. It additionally includes detailed case studies of six universities and colleges that were sites of student activism: the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Michigan; Columbia University; City College of New York; Tulane University; and the University of Texas at Austin.



Urgent Action: USA Stop Targeting Immigration Enforcement Critics

NAME AND PRONOUN: David Streever, he/him

The “Student Speech Under Attack: Suppression of Pro-Palestine Speech and Dissent on Campus” report concludes with recommendations for college and university leadership, as well as any law enforcement to:

- Uphold free speech protections for all students and scholars, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, and race, and ensure that campus policies on political speech and protest are viewpoint neutral.

- Refrain from adopting overly broad and vague policies against discrimination and harassment that punish or chill protected political speech.

- Resist demands from the federal government that undermine academic freedom and students’ and faculty’s civil and human rights.

- Impose strict limits on the deployment of law enforcement and use of less-lethal / crowd-control weapons, especially in the context of protests on college campuses.

The report also includes urgent calls for the Trump administration and Congress to:

- Cease the campaign to deport students and faculty involved in Palestinian rights advocacy and end all pending removal proceedings against students and faculty targeted in retaliation for their lawful advocacy in support of Palestinian rights.

- Cease the misuse of Title VI investigations to compel universities and colleges to impose unconstitutional policies and measures that violate free speech and undermine academic freedom.

- Oppose any legislation that would punish noncitizens for exercising their First Amendment rights.

- Oppose any legislation that threatens free expression and academic freedom to suppress criticism of the Israeli government or support for Palestinian rights.

You can read the full report and findings at:

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/student-speech-under-attack-suppression-of-pro-palestine-speech-and-dissent-on-campus/>

After federal immigration agents fatally shot two individuals in Minnesota, David Streever emailed Todd Lyons, then-Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on January 26 to express his outrage. In June, immigration agents went to Streever’s home in New York (while he was abroad) to issue a “warning notice” that he may have “threatened” Lyons. Streever’s case is among a growing list of individuals whose criticism of immigration enforcement is met with formal notices from the government, including administrative subpoenas. These actions threaten their right to freedom of expression. The government should cease targeting and intimidating immigration enforcement critics.

In December 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched “Operation Metro Surge” in Minnesota, which deployed more than 4,000 federal agents to the area targeting Minnesotans of Somali descent and other racialized immigrants. President Trump previously called those of Somali descent “garbage” that “are completely taking over the once great State of Minnesota.” This operation resulted in numerous human rights violations including widespread racial profiling, arbitrary detentions, unlawful surveillance, repression of protests, and excessive use of force, including lethal force against three individuals.

Videos of interactions with immigration agents were widely circulated and shared across the media. Outraged by the actions of the government, New York state resident, David Streever emailed the then-director of ICE, Todd Lyons, on January 26 to express his sentiment. The email titled “What’s next” compares Lyons to a Nazi war criminal and states that Lyon’s protection of those who killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti would give him a sense of “shame” that will “torment” him until his “last day on Earth.”

Five months later, HSI agents came to Streever’s home while he was out of the United States and gave his wife a notice addressed to Streever stating that he “may be in violation of federal law” due to the email he sent. The warning notice alluded to his email as threatening and that it is “unlawful” to “impede, intimidate, and/or interfere with a federal official

due to the performance of their duties.” Upon his return to the United States, federal agents tracked his movements to his hotel in New York City where he stayed for one night after arriving at the airport. An agent left his card at the hotel front desk with instructions for Streever to call him. Since receiving the warning notice, Streever is afraid to speak out against the government for fear of escalated retaliation.

Streever’s “warning notice” is part of a wider pattern by DHS to quell dissenting voices, including by issuing administrative subpoenas to technology companies, including social media companies and email service providers. These administrative subpoenas request background and biographical information of online users who criticize the government’s immigration enforcement actions and tactics. The U.S. government’s issuance of administrative subpoenas and warning notices raise significant concerns regarding interference with the right to freedom of expression through intimidation and the right to privacy as protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the U.S. has signed and ratified. Amnesty International is concerned that these formal notices are an attempt to intimidate and silence individuals who are exercising their right to freely express concerns about human rights abuses committed during ICE enforcement operations.

Dear Secretary Mullin,

I urge you to cease intimidation tactics against David Streever, including revoking the warning notice issued against him. On June 23, 2026, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents arrived at David Streever’s home in New York to issue a “warning notice” claiming that he may have “threatened” then-Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Todd Lyons, and in doing so, may have violated federal law.

This warning notice is a threat to freedom of expression, especially as it solely relates to an email Mr. Streever sent in January 2026 following the fatal shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents in Minnesota. In the email, he communicated his outrage over the agencies’ violent tactics. Mr. Streever was abroad when the officials attempted to issue the warning notice. Upon his return to the USA, an HSI agent tracked his whereabouts to the hotel he was staying at for the night and left a business card. This

raises privacy concerns.

This is not an isolated incident. Multiple news outlets, members of Congress, and non-governmental organizations have also reported that some who speak out against ICE’s abuses have been issued a warning notice or administrative subpoena for their online activism. These are intimidation tactics to silence dissent and prevent the spread of information. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by the USA, protects the right to freely express opinions without interference and to be free from arbitrary and unlawful interference with respect to privacy.

I urge you to revoke the warning notice against Mr. Streever and protect his right to freely express his opinions without interference, revoke and cease the issuance of warning notices and administrative subpoenas against those peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression; and respect the rights to privacy and freedom of expression for all.

Sincerely,



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](#) to report your action(s) on UA 88.26. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Department of Homeland Security
Attn: Secretary Markwayne Mullin
Washington, DC 20528
Email: dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov

Please take action as soon as possible until
February 1st, 2027