

HOTNIR Current Events Digest — June 29, 2026

HOTNIR update: Local immigration rights network shifts approaches as ICE arrests increase (Non-subscribers, see chair's update newsletter)

https://wacotrib.com/news/local/article_8cd28b7f-742f-41b9-b457-34e22426efdc.html



Japanese-American survivors of a U.S. internment camp in Crystal City, Texas, marched this week from the site where they were imprisoned during World War II to the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, about 45 miles away. The pilgrimage was in protest of current immigration practices, particularly the detention of women and young children at Dilley. Accompanied by family members and faith leaders, they “delivered a meditative chant and tied chains of multicolored origami cranes to the facility’s 10-foot chain-link fence topped with razor wire.” Crystal City and Dilley are located southwest of San Antonio.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/06/27/texas-dilley-immigration-detention-center-pilgrims-japanese-internment/>

KSAT video coverage from day 1 of the walk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1KOCDiwgdo>

KWBU Radio’s “Friday Forum” recently featured an interview with Anali Looper, co-director of legal services for American Gateways and director of its Waco office. The nonprofit provides low cost legal services, education, and advocacy for immigrants. JB Smith, editor-in-chief of The Waco Bridge, asked Looper about how current policies are affecting immigrants in Waco.

<https://www.kwbu.org/show/friday-forum-with-the-waco-bridge/2026-06-22/june-19-special-interview-with-anali-looper-of-american-gateways>

The Texas Supreme Court has temporarily blocked Harris County officials from sending money to nonprofits that assist immigrants in deportation cases. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton claimed such transactions are unconstitutional and “wicked” gifts of public funds to private entities. Gov. Greg Abbott said it is “just another example of wasteful spending by local governments that must end.”

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/politics/immigration/2026/06/26/555703/harris-county-immigrant-legal-services-program-paused-texas-supreme-court/>

An ICE protester who shot and injured an Alvarado police officer was sentenced to 100 years in prison this week. Seven other protesters linked to a July 4, 2025, noise demonstration that turned violent at the Prairieland Detention Center will serve sentences ranging from 30 to 70 years. They were alleged to be part of an “antifa” (anti-fascist) domestic terrorism cell. Alvarado is about 60 miles north of Waco.

<https://www.keranews.org/criminal-justice/2026-06-23/prairieland-shooter-gets-100-years-others-30-70-in-ice-detention-center-antifa-protest>

In-depth discussion by Democracy Now!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_YPOEaSpQ

The U.S. Supreme Court issued two significant immigration rulings this week. The court allowed DHS to end Temporary Protected Status for Haitian and Syrian immigrants and also decided Mexican refugees cannot apply for asylum until they’ve crossed the border. Justice Elena Kagan read her dissent regarding TPS, pointing out the “racial undertones and overtones alike” in the President’s comments about Haitians.

<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/justices-end-protected-status-for-syrian-haitian-immigrants-define-asylum-border-status>

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Friday called for investigations into all deaths of people in ICE custody as well as stronger independent oversight of U.S.’s immigration detention system.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/06/1167816>

The day before, the inspector general for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced it is reviewing the increase in ICE deaths and whether ICE facilities are following use-of-force guidelines. As of this week, 20 people have died in ICE custody in 2026. In all of 2025, 33 people died, and 11 died in 2024.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/dhs-watchdog-announces-new-ice-reviews-rcna351729>

More than 20 state attorneys general are urging DHS and ICE to reverse a decision not to investigate and publicly report deaths occurring shortly after people are released from custody.

<https://www.azag.gov/press-release/attorney-general-mayes-demands-transparency-ice-refuses-release-fatality-information>

A 63-year-old man from Mexico died about an hour after being rushed to the emergency room from the Webb County Detention Center in Texas.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/06/24/ice-detention-webb-county-laredo/>

Spending taxpayer funds on government contracts with tech firms using AI tools to track immigrants has risen dramatically during Trump's second administration.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jun/24/ice-tech-surveillance-arsenal>

ICE is no longer using a Navy supplies and services contract for detention centers, according to Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin.

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/agency-oversight/2026/06/mullin-says-ice-no-longer-using-navy-contract-for-detention-services/>

At least half of the protesters arrested outside the Delaney Hall detention center in Newark, New Jersey, have since been approached by FBI agents asking them to inform on other protesters.

<https://theintercept.com/2026/06/20/fbi-ice-delaney-hall-protest-informants/?ref=daylightsandiego.org>

Agents from Homeland Security visited a New York woman working at an election polling site to pressure her to delete an Instagram post naming Jonathan Ross, the federal agent who shot Renee Good in Minnesota in January.

<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2026/06/homeland-security-defends-its-warning-visit-to-syracuse-woman-over-social-media-post.html>

Rep. Joaquin Castro is calling for the release of 13-year-old Leonardo Santiago "Santi" Soto Uribe, who was arrested along with his father and then separated from him.

<https://www.sacurrent.com/news/texas-news/rep-joaquin-castro-calls-for-release-of-13-year-old-boy-detained-by-ice-near-san-antonio/>

A Wisconsin woman originally from Colombia and her son were detained and sent to Dilley after she failed to appear at an immigration hearing that was rescheduled without her knowledge.

<https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-woman-and-son-detained-in-ice-facility-as-supreme-court-overturns-migrant-protections>

The Los Angeles Dodgers contributed \$1 million to two nonprofits supporting families affected by immigrant enforcement operations.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/dodgers-1-million-donation-immigrant-families-2025-ice-raids/>

Opinion:

Commentary on the U.S. Supreme Court rulings on the asylum process and Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Syrians

https://faithworks.com/f/supreme-court-ruling-statement?blm_aid=1566690

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/press-release/supreme-court-allows-trump-to-block-asylum-seekers/>