**HOTNIR Current Events Digest — September 21, 2026**

An Austin man shot by an ICE agent Sunday afternoon was taken to the hospital in serious but stable condition, but then released into ICE custody about two hours later. Wilber Rafael Garces Perez, age 28, from Venezuela, was delivering a DoorDash order when he was wounded. His lawyer said he had a valid work permit and entered the U.S. legally.

https://www.statesman.com/news/local/article/ice-shooting-victim-doordash-delivery-austin-22441179.php?utm_source=marketing&utm_medium=copy-url-link&utm_campaign=article-share&hash=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RhdGVzbWFuLmNvbS9uZXdzL2xvY2FsL2FydGljbGUvaWNlLXNob290aW5nLXZpY3RpbS1kb29yZGFzaC1kZWxpdmVyeS1hdXN0aW4tMjI0NDExNzkucGhw&time=MTc4OTk1NTM5MDE2NA%3D%3D&rid=MzFkYWM0N2YtMGY0Yy00Yzc0LWJiOGItODk1YTE5NjA4YjA2&sharecount=MA%3D%3D

https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/20/austin-immigration-shooting-texas/

Protesters gathered at the site.

https://www.youtube.com/live/ku-pcd1Z4dw

Austin's mayor said the shooting came amid increased ICE operations in recent weeks.

https://www.youtube.com/live/RheQIdAXbkE

Less than a year ago, aggressive immigration raids were drawing headlines and sparking protests. But the Trump administration has shifted its approach. Instead of relying as heavily on high-profile operations, federal immigration authorities are working with state and local police. especially in Republican-led states. The result is what some immigration advocates have called a shadow surge, a quieter form of enforcement that has helped drive ICE arrests to record levels, often with far less public attention.

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/shadow-surge-pushes-immigration-arrests-to-highs-as-trump-administration-shifts-tactics

The Trump administration has ordered caregivers for migrant children to stop reporting human trafficking concerns directly to the office created to help victims, which could make some vulnerable minors easier to deport. The directive could mean some victims would be denied services and face tougher odds of obtaining asylum and visas allowing them to stay in the U.S.

https://apnews.com/article/human-trafficking-claims-unaccompanied-minors-trump-4cd31c79202b49c6144f474c970eeff4

A new national survey conducted found 40% of pediatricians have noticed families staying away from care due to immigration concerns and 30% have seen families hesitant to apply for public health services and support, such as Medicaid. Some are not sending children to school.

https://www.npr.org/2026/09/17/nx-s1-5953989/immigration-crackdown-children-medical-care

https://stateline.org/2026/09/15/doctors-say-children-of-immigrants-are-missing-healthcare/

Most undocumented immigrants in immigration court do not have an attorney representing them in their cases. In fiscal year 2021, the likelihood of having an immigration attorney present was 63%, and in 2026, it's 32%, according to Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.
https://abc13.com/post/attorney-representation-immigration-court-decreased-50-2021-data-shows/19844963/

A new rule allowing authorities to deny green cards to immigrants on the basis of being a public charge, meaning they use programs like Medicaid or food assistance, went into effect Friday. New York and other states are suing. The Legal Aid Society, Democracy Forward and the Center for Constitutional Rights also filed a lawsuit Friday asking a judge to throw out the rule.
https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/public-charge-rule-donald-trump-administration-immigrants-ny-lawsuit/
https://democracyforward.org/news/press-releases/democracy-forward-legal-aid-center-for-constitutional-rights-file-lawsuit-to-vacate-new-rule-unlawfully-penalizing-low-income-immigrants-who-receive-public-benefits/

ICE has “lost count” of how many pregnant women and teenagers in detention centers have suffered miscarriages under its care, a new report claimed Tuesday, after civil rights agencies sounded the alarm on pregnant detainees being denied prenatal care while in custody.
https://www.forbes.com/sites/maryroeloffs/2026/09/15/ice-has-lost-count-of-miscarriages-amid-pregnant-detainees-report-claims/?utm_source=ForbesMainFacebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ForbesMainFB&fbclid=IwY2xjawUXtpBwZG9mBWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMXZXbnl4dUVkUlJTNGFYOGVzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEelezCKTde58TyqPYhjwO3uRvLM6aHSLKUJ5umLZ2EY4SJduxzLpn_qPh39_A_aem_OKZrWTcM0fhv_L42G-PMIg

The Trump administration’s unusual silence on the future of temporary legal status for people from El Salvador has plunged an immigrant community of around 200,000 people into limbo, leaving them uncertain when, or if, they will be allowed to stay in the U.S.
https://www.politico.com/news/2026/09/16/elsalvador-tps-immigration-status-uncertainty-01080983

The Trump administration is imprisoning Somali immigrants at Guantanamo Bay.
https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/09/the-trump-administration-is-imprisoning-somali-immigrants-in-gitmo/

Two men expelled to Equatorial Guinea were reportedly bound, fitted with bags over their heads, beaten and pushed down a flight of stairs, then taken to a prison. About 30 deportees remain trapped at a hotel. Detainees said they believe the men were beaten for telling the press and human rights advocates about the poor conditions and violence inside the hotel.
https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/18/us-men-deported-hotel-equatorial-guinea

ICE has begun quietly firing new officers hired during the agency's push to recruit thousands of "Homeland Defenders." ICE has started to dismiss some of its newest recruits, citing poor performance and red flags that should have been identified in the vetting process.
https://newrepublic.com/post/215433/ice-firing-purge-after-ignoring-red-flags

Brookings Institution research reveals cities that have experienced ICE enforcement surges have seen employment fall below its expected trajectory immediately. The employment shortfall shows no signs of recovery nearly one year after enforcement began.
https://www.brookings.edu/articles/beyond-arrests-how-ice-enforcement-depressed-local-employment-in-2025/

Minnesota officials on Thursday dropped their lawsuit against Gov. Greg Abbott to force the extradition of ICE agent Christian Castro, a day after arresting him in Minneapolis.
https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/17/texas-minnesota-extradition-ice-christian-castro-arrest/
Castro made his first appearance in state court in Minneapolis Friday. Castro, handcuffed and in an orange jumpsuit, said very little during the hearing. He did, however, sign a pre-waiver of extradition, agreeing to immediately return to Minnesota if he violates his conditions of release.
https://www.npr.org/2026/09/17/nx-s1-5973127/ice-agent-court-extradition-minnesota-immigrant-shooting

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General issued a damning report last week about the conditions at Florida's soft-sided immigration detention facility known as "Alligator Alcatraz." Some issues noted are common among immigration detention facilities.
https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/alligator-alcatraz-dhs-oig-oversight-report/

Concerned about conditions in federal immigrant detention facilities but often barred from entering them, some Democratic-led states are fighting to enforce their own health and safety standards at the sites.
https://stateline.org/2026/09/17/states-fight-to-inspect-federal-immigrant-detention-facilities/

La Unión del Pueblo Entero, the nonprofit civil rights organization founded by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta in 1989, is experiencing growth and greater engagement, particularly with members younger than 45.
https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/17/trump-immigration-policies-lupe-increase-membership/

Immigrants seeking documents from the government to prove they are in the country legally are being rebuffed or provided heavily redacted paperwork, according to dozens of immigration lawyers, who say the refusals put their clients at risk of deportation.
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/14/us/politics/immigrants-foia.html?unlocked_article_code=1.BVE.0crh.jjY-YuiI-wCt&smid=url-share