

HOTNIR Current Events Digest — September 28, 2026

Wilber Rafael Garces Perez, who was shot in the back by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Austin after a traffic stop on Sept. 20, reportedly needs surgery to avoid losing feeling on the left side of his body.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/26/venezuelan-man-ice-shooting-austin-texas>
<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/23/texas-austin-shooting-ice-officer-no-body-cam-reports/>

The Department of Homeland Security said he was the subject of a “targeted vehicle stop.”

<https://www.kxan.com/austin-ice-shooting/texas-ice-shooting-trump-immigration-policy/>

What happened at the hospital in Austin?

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/politics/immigration/2026/09/25/562902/the-austin-ice-shooting-has-raised-questions-about-medical-standards-for-detainees/>

Statement from Bishop Daniel E. Garcia of the Catholic church’s Diocese of Austin:

<https://www.austindiocese.org/news/a-message-from-bishop-garcia-regarding-todays-shooting-in-north-austin>

Texas Department of Public Safety officers on Saturday arrested Misael Ramos, a candidate for Austin City Council’s District 1 on riot charges for participating in a protest against the shooting. He was held in the Travis County Jail for eight hours.

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/misael-ramos-details-harrowing-arrest-for-protesting-ice/>

ICE is considering “mobile detention facilities.” Also, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security signed construction contracts worth over \$7 billion to expand immigration detention in several states - New York, Texas, and California.

<https://www.npr.org/2026/09/26/nx-s1-5978917/immigration-briefing-ice-eyes-mobile-detention-as-texas-agent-shooting-sparks-outcry>

Federal immigration agents have shot at least 21 people during Trump's second term.

<https://abcnews.com/Politics/federal-immigration-agents-shot-21-people-trumps-2nd/story?id=136692795>

A 36-year-old Costa Rican man was found unresponsive Sept. 18 at Winn Correctional Center in Winnfield, Louisiana. Carlos Josué Marchena was taken by ambulance to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. His family says he complained of missing insulin shots and meals to manage his diabetes. He is the third detainee to die in less than six months at an ICE facility in Louisiana.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/costa-rican-man-complained-lack-care-diabetes-death-ice-custody-family-rcna599374>

A man from Guatemala was injured after allegedly attempting to evade ICE in Galveston.

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/politics/immigration/2026/09/24/562803/ice-arrest-galveston-crash-tree/>

Federal immigration agents in suburban Chicago over the weekend mistakenly detained a U.S. citizen, who suffered injuries to his head, neck and teeth in the confrontation.

https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/23/us/ice-us-citizen-detained-evanston-chicago.html?unlocked_article_code=1.DIE.qec.P--wspxf4EUf&smid=url-share

ICE has stopped publicly revealing where it is holding thousands of detainees who are subject to final deportation orders, an unannounced move that has made it far more difficult for lawyers and relatives to find them, according to the Associated Press. ICE removed those detainees from its online detainee locator system on Sept. 15.

<https://apnews.com/article/ice-detainee-locator-disappear-removal-orders-c3329a70bce424879bc5880b286c019c>

The Trump administration has started sending a majority of undocumented children who came to the U.S. alone and have new immigration court cases to Texas, where government facilities for them are unlicensed, their chances of getting a lawyer are low and advocates fear that “a deportation churn-out factory” awaits them, the Guardian reported.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/18/trump-undocumented-children-texas>

The Supreme Court has given the Trump administration a green light to use a federal citizenship database to verify voters ahead of the midterm elections. However, the impact of the ruling is blunted by another federal law -- the National Voter Registration Act -- which prohibits states from purging voters within 90 days of the election.

<https://abcnews.com/US/supreme-court-allows-trump-administration-citizenship-database-ahead/story?id=136755610>

The Texas Cattle Feeders Association and sister organizations in Kansas and Oklahoma issued a statement last week saying “ICE operations are having a massive chilling effect on the legal, documented, skilled workers that put beef on the table and keep the cattle supply chain moving. Additionally, these types of disruptions will lead to higher beef prices for consumers.”

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/25/ice-cattle-beef-prices-trump/>

The arrests of plant workers and others around southwest Kansas began Tuesday, causing alarm and confusion across the region, where immigrants make up a large portion of the agriculture workforce.

<https://www.kcur.org/politics-elections-and-government/2026-09-24/kansas-residents-are-reeling-amid-sweeping-ice-enforcement-action-at-meat-processing-plants>

Nurseries are sitting on inventory nobody is trimming. Restaurants are running short-staffed through the dinner rush. Miami businesses say they can't find workers due to immigrant enforcement policy. Those saying so out loud aren't limited to one side of the political aisle.

<https://www.newsbreak.com/latin-times-560143/4894617445833-miami-businesses-say-they-can-t-find-workers-how-enforcement-policy-is-squeezing-local-business>

ICE wasted millions of taxpayer dollars in a rapid push to expand detention capacity, government watchdog finds. ICE used \$1.07 billion to purchase 11 warehouses it planned to convert to detention megacenters, seven of which the agency now plans to sell. Another \$2.2 billion was used to purchase four detention facilities from CoreCivic, a private prison company ICE separately pays to continue operating them.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-spending-detention-capacity-gao-report/>

Read the report: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-108663>

American taxpayers spend an average of \$2,358 per year on the administration's deportation efforts, according to a report from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). It contends mass deportations hurt the economy by disrupting industries and increasing the cost of living.

<https://davisvanguard.org/2026/09/aclu-afl-cio-deportation-report/>

Read the report:

<https://assets.aclu.org/live/uploads/2026/09/2026-09-15-AFL-CIO-Affordability-Report-final.pdf>

The global human rights watchdog Amnesty International has joined the call for on the United States government to abolish ICE. Nadia Daar, the executive director of Amnesty International USA, said ICE's militarized enforcement operations are intended to "instill fear" in immigrants and their families, but in practice, put everyone in danger. "ICE is fundamentally broken and cannot be fixed," she said.

<https://truthout.org/articles/the-movement-to-abolish-ice-is-gaining-momentum/>

For the first time ever, taxpayers may have to disclose their citizenship or work authorization status on their tax returns next year, according to IRS drafts of tax forms expected to be used this coming tax season. The added question aligns with plans to crack down on refundable individual income tax credits going to non-qualified individuals.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personal-finance/taxes/2026/09/25/irs-citizenship-status-question/91901367007/>

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has lifted a financial freeze on Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, restoring federal funding to the South Texas nonprofit run by prominent Catholic leader Sister Norma Pimentel, she said on Friday.

<https://religionnews.com/2026/09/25/dhs-lifts-financial-freeze-on-sister-norma-pimentels-catholic-migrant-charity/>

The Texas Tribune tells the stories of five Texas immigrants — from Mexico, China, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela — who shared their experiences of being arrested by ICE and living in detention centers across the state.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/22/texas-ice-detained-immigrants/>

Texas candidates' political advertisements have targeted the state's Latino population earlier and more intensely this election cycle, Immigration and deportation were the second-most important issue in upcoming elections, per recent polling.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/26/texas-candidates-latino-voters-tribfest-2026/>

Immigrant advocates went to federal court Tuesday seeking to block the Tennessee Highway Patrol from conducting traffic stops in tandem with federal immigration agents.

<https://www.newsfromthestates.com/article/immigrant-advocates-seek-immediate-halt-highway-patrol-traffic-stops-conducted-tandem-ice>

Homebuilders say they struggle to find workers amid ICE crackdowns.

<https://www.axios.com/2026/09/22/home-builders-immigrant-workers-ice>

Human Rights Watch has released a report detailing the hardships faced by hundreds of people deported by the U.S. to gang-ravaged Haiti. It is the first intimate look at the lives of deportees who have declined to speak at length with journalists because they fear for their safety. Gang violence is surging and hunger and poverty are deepening.

<https://apnews.com/article/haiti-deported-us-report-human-rights-6f94c9c087d375538779fe0ece4fd2ec>

Read the report: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/09/21/us-deportations-to-haiti-endanger-lives>

Federal immigration officials in Texas prevented U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-El Paso) from fully conducting her congressional oversight duties at a controversial ICE detention center. Escobar visited the Camp East Montana ICE tent facility on the Fort Bliss military base after two separate "disturbances" had been reported there. She was not allowed to speak with detainees and she has not received requested surveillance footage of the incidents.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/22/texas-democrat-visit-ice-detention-camp-east-montana>

Through the Eyes of a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Adjudicator:

<https://www.aila.org/blog/think-immigration-through-the-eyes-of-a-uscis-adjudicator>

OPINION

Voters trusted Republicans on immigration. Trump squandered it.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnist/2026/09/25/ice-shooting-dhs-immigration-republicans-hispanic-voters/91881557007/>