

We believe immigrants, their families, and their attorneys.

All information is from news reports, interviews, affidavits, and testimonials.

On Wednesday evening in the pouring rain, ICE agents put Jemmy outside with no transportation and no phone. Jemmy walked to the Burlington Mall, and entered The Cheesecake Factory for shelter. She asked strangers if she could borrow their phone. When her husband and her lawyer arrived at the mall, Jemmy “couldn’t even stand up”.

Her lawyer told a reporter that “She was completely disheveled ... She reminded me of asylum seekers who have been absolutely victimized. She was constantly breaking down in tears. She was trembling. All she did was just hold on to her kids and hold on to her husband, and she just sat there and cried for 45 straight minutes. She couldn’t even function.”

The government has not given any reason why they arrested, abducted, and imprisoned Jemmy, or even a reason for why they released her.

Crystal was imprisoned in Burlington in a cell so small she and two other women had to take turns lying down while one leaned against the toilet. The concrete floor was extremely cold so she asked ICE agents if she could have a sweatshirt. They denied this request, and one agent printed out a photo of her face, taped it up on the cell wall with a note that she should not be given anything because “she had already been asking for too much.”

“Burlington was hell. Good treatment does not exist there. There was a camera filming us using the toilet. The treatment one gets there is only for criminals. There are no criminals there. It was just honest people trying to live their lives they brought in.”

Yury was born in Honduras, where she worked as a political organizer. In Honduras, operatives from the opposing political party harassed Yury and her family, sexually assaulted her multiple times, and murdered her brother.

Yury fled that violence and sought asylum in the U.S. with her husband, Victor, and 3 children. Initially, Yury and Victor were monitored by ICE through the SmartLink app, and later they were fitted with ankle monitors.

In 2025, Yury and Victor left their home in New Bedford to attend a mandatory check-in appointment in Framingham. Yury was abducted there and imprisoned in Burlington. Four days into her imprisonment she had her period. The agents denied her any menstrual products or a shower, and instead gave her a bottle of water to pour on herself.

When I spoke with my client on Wednesday, June 4, more than 18 hours after she had been arrested by ICE, she stated that she had only been offered one apple and a small amount of oatmeal. She described conditions at the Burlington field office as “terrible” and “miserable.” She described being held in a cell with about 12 other women. She stated that she had to sleep on the floor... that all of the women in the cell must share one toilet, and there is no privacy... no place to bathe, and it is very cold.

“I still can’t sleep. I have nightmares every night, and my daughter is living in fear. She cries when she sees the police. I came to this country for safety. ICE treated me like a criminal because of how I look and where I’m from—even though I followed every rule.”

Without consent, a warrant, or any justification, ICE agents searched Jose and confiscated his wallet with his driver's license, Social Security card, employment authorization card, credit card, and \$600 in cash. Jose was imprisoned in Burlington, locked in a cell that was so overcrowded with more than 40 people that he had to stand for nearly 36 hours. Three months after releasing Jose, ICE has still not provided any reason for his arrest, abduction, and imprisonment. They never returned his money.

A woman who was 3 months pregnant was imprisoned in Burlington, and after telling the agents that she was pregnant, they crammed her in a cell with 10 other women, gave her a couple spoonfuls of rotten food, and denied her medical care.

Inhumane and Unconstitutional Conditions



June 2025
Burlington

The cell had no furniture, no beds, no mattresses. Just a small sink and one exposed toilet amidst the crowd of bodies. There was no privacy. There was no soap. Jose was never given a toothbrush, clean clothes, or access to a shower. An intense, bright light shone in the room at all times, day and night.

“They fastened the cuffs around my legs so tight that I couldn’t move, they hurt so much,” she recalled, bursting into tears. “I kept telling them it hurts. I begged them to loosen them, but they just said I was lying.”

“The sad reality at the Burlington ICE detention center rivals those found in some of the most repressive regimes around the world... detention under these conditions is unlawful. The barbaric conditions drastically fall below the minimum standard under the well-established legal precedent... requiring safe and sanitary conditions.” —*Immigration attorney*

Alejandro has a green card and works in construction. ICE abducted him in Lynn. He told agents he was a legal resident with a green card, but they didn't listen. On the way to Burlington, the agents pulled over in Pine Grove Cemetery, took Alejandro out of the vehicle, and beat him.

Alejandro said, "When we got to the top of the cemetery, we stopped there and they took off their vests because that's where they have the camera[s]. Then they pulled me out of the car and kicked me."

They broke his nose, and left wounds all over his body. While being beaten, Alejandro repeatedly asked them to look at his green card. One of the agents said, "Do you think you're a big shot just because you have a green card? I'll make sure they revoke that green card of yours. I'm going to do everything I can to get this paper revoked."

After beating Alejandro, agents brought him here to Burlington and left him in a cold cell, refusing to give him water. They falsely charged that he had assaulted them. A judge heard the case, looked at the evidence, and immediately dismissed the assault charges and ordered Alejandro's immediate release.

Kary fled the Dominican Republic to escape domestic abuse. She is married to a U.S. citizen, has no criminal record, and is eligible to apply for a green card. Kary arrived at Boston Immigration Court for her scheduled immigration hearing, where ICE agents abducted her and imprisoned her in Burlington for 8 days. At this facility, Kary's health deteriorated. Her face and eyes grew swollen, and her hair began falling out. Eventually Kary attended a court hearing to request a transfer out of Burlington. Upon seeing Kary in person, seeing what this facility and the agents had done to her, the judge granted the request, and she was moved to a Detention Center in Vermont. Later, upon further review of her case, the judge declared that Kary's arrest and detainment was illegal.

The ICE agent told the husband of the detained woman that “he could neither confirm nor deny” where his wife was located due to “privacy laws.” The agent refused to say anything about the woman’s health, despite her recent hospitalization, and said to her husband, “We’ll notify next of kin if she dies.”

Marcelo, a high school student, was imprisoned in Burlington in a small cell crowded with dozens of men. He told his lawyer about “one incident during which a guard pretended to open the door to the holding cell as if he was about to free the detainees, only to quickly close it while saying ‘sike,’ prompting laughs from the other guards.”

For 20 years, Alejandro has been working in the U.S. as a cook. Six days a week, he works from 11am until 10pm at one restaurant, and then works until 2:30am at a second restaurant. One Saturday morning at 3am, Alejandro finished his shift and was walking toward his apartment in East Boston. ICE agents pulled up in an unmarked van and abducted him.

One of his four daughters, Yoana who is 22 years old, rushed outside and saw ICE agents loading another man into a van: “I asked them if they had arrested [my dad] and I gave his full name. The agents were struggling to figure out if they’d detained him. And then they said, ‘Is he the father of four daughters?’ I said, ‘Yes.’”

Yoana told a reporter, “I think it was random — just they saw him and they saw that he was Hispanic and then that’s why they just grabbed him.”

ICE did not allow Alejandro to communicate with his family for more than one week after his abduction. To support her mother and younger sisters – who are 12, 9, and 4 years old – Yoana works full-time as a receptionist at a Neighborhood Health clinic, drives for Uber Eats, and is looking for a third job. She will need to drop out of school where she had been training to become a pediatric nurse, which was her dream.

Jhon and his wife live in Lowell, and they have a 3-month old baby. On September 8th, ICE arrested Jhon outside of his home. Agents told him he was wanted for a 2007 criminal charge and that he missed his immigration hearing. But Jhon arrived in the U.S. in 2022. He claimed asylum at the border and was legally allowed to enter this country. Jhon has a valid work permit, no criminal history, and has followed the legal pathway, always showing up to his check-in appointments. His next immigration check in date was scheduled for April 2026.

ICE had the wrong person, but even after Jhon told him his name and showed them his ID, ICE abducted him anyway. They brought him here to Burlington, where he was forced to wear a wristband with someone else's information on it. Jhon told agents here in Burlington that he is not that person, but as he would later tell his wife in a phone call, no one here cared, and no one listened.

Without allowing him to call his wife or a lawyer, ICE transferred Jhon from Burlington to Buffalo to Texas to Arizona to California, and back to Arizona, where it's believed he is still imprisoned today. ICE has not provided any explanation for why they arrested him, or why they're imprisoning him.

Nexan was born in Guatemala, has no criminal record, is married to a U.S.-born citizen, and has two twin boys. Nexan and his wife started their own construction company, and he had been in the process of applying for a green card.

One morning, Nexan pulled out of his driveway in Milford to go to work. From inside the house, his wife heard one of their boy's screaming. From the window they watched ICE agents violently arrest Nexan. ICE said that they pulled him over because they were looking for his brother Victor, so Nexan showed them his ID, explained his immigration status, and his wife showed the agents his approved petition for legal residency. The ICE agents abducted him anyway.

Nexan was brought to Burlington, but the cells were so overcrowded that agents shoved him in a small bathroom. They locked him inside there for two days, denied him a phone call, and he had to sleep on a floor that was wet with urine and feces.

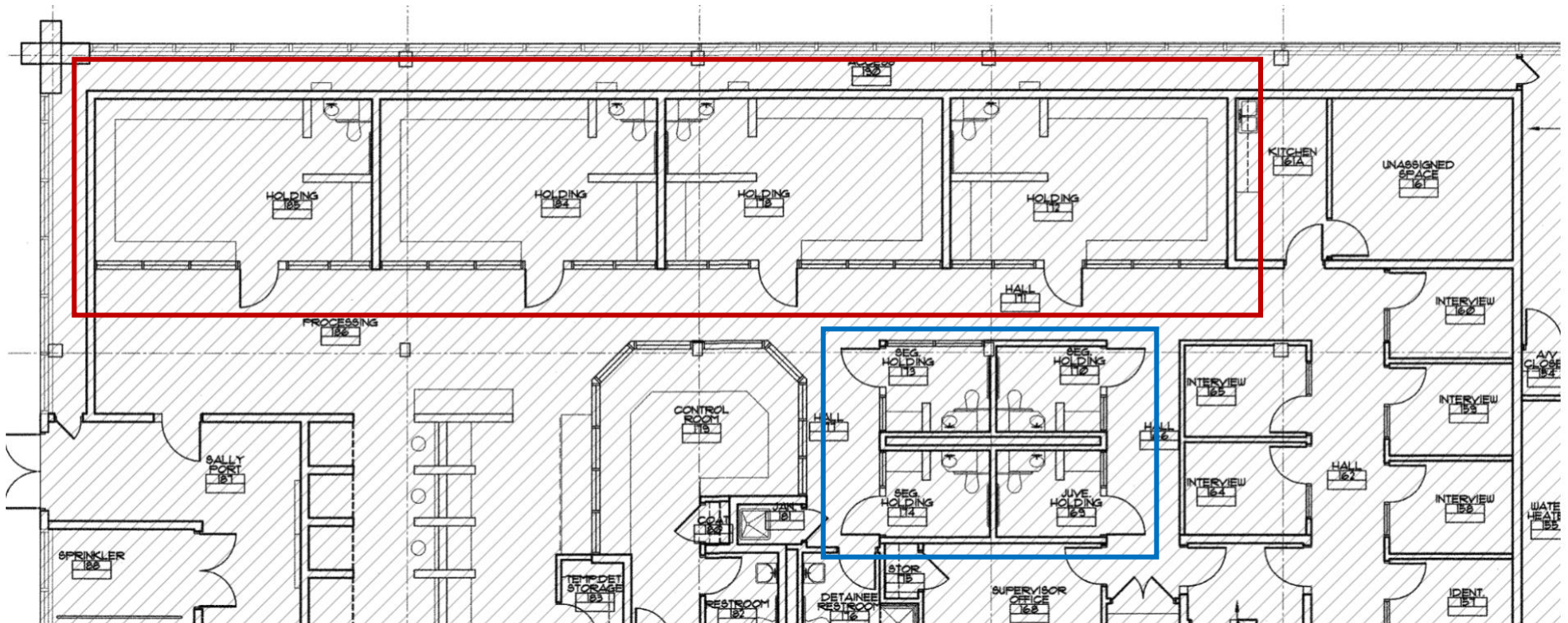
Andrés is a Guatemalan man who worked at a seafood processing plant in New Bedford. He has no criminal record and a work permit that contains the code for individuals in the asylum process who are authorized to work.

ICE agents abducted him, and he spent 36 hours in Burlington in a freezing room without food or water.

“Agents treated me like a dog. They told me I was not allowed to talk or move. When we complained, they told us that’s what we deserved.”

Andrés said agents pressured him to sign a self-deportation order. “I didn’t want to sign, and they yelled at me, telling me I had to,” he said. “It’s hard to explain, but I thought I was going to die.”

8 cells: 4 holding cells and 4 small (8 x 10 ft.) cells



“The small cell had no windows that looked outside. The wall that faced the hallway was glass. It was like being in a fishbowl. I had no idea what time of day it was because there were no clocks in that cell or in the larger cell where they moved me. I felt like I was being tortured.”