



Lourdes M. Rosado  
President and General Counsel

August 22, 2025

Tania Reneaum Panszi  
Executive Secretary  
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
1889 F St NW  
Washington, D.C., 20006  
United States of America

RE: Request for a virtual hearing in the 194th Period of Sessions on Oswaldo Marcelo Lucero, et al v. United States of America (Case No. 13.735)

Dear Ms. Executive Secretary:

The undersigned parties, LatinoJustice PRLDEF (“LatinoJustice”) and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (“RFKHR”), write to request that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (hereinafter “IACHR” or the “Commission”) grant a hearing regarding the merits in Oswaldo Marcelo Lucero, et al v. United States of America (Case No. 13.735), in accordance with Article 37 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. We request a virtual hearing on a date between November 10 - November 16, 2025 that is not November 15, 2025 as our main witness will be unavailable on that day.

**November 8, 2025 marks 17 years since the death of Oswaldo Marcelo Lucero (“Marcelo Lucero” or “Mr. Lucero”) at the hands of a group of teenagers carrying out white supremacist violence.** In a widely reported hate crime, Marcelo Lucero, an Ecuadorian immigrant was attacked and killed on November 8, 2008 in Patchogue, Long Island by a group of teenagers called the “Caucasian Crew.” The attackers later admitted they had regularly engaged in “beaner jumping”—beating and robbing Latino residents—at least once a week since 2007. This hate crime spree followed several prior notorious hate crimes against Latinos in Farmingville, Long Island including the fire-bombing of a Latino home and hate crime assaults of Latino jornaleros day laborers. Violence continued across the country, including the beating death of Luis Ramirez in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. The Lucero attack came in the midst of the vitriolic anti-immigrant policies espoused by the then-Suffolk County Executive in combination with the immigration enforcement activities by the Suffolk County Police Department.

#### I. Context

In the wake of President Trump’s second term, xenophobia, racism, and anti-Latino bias gained even more momentum across the United States. Violence against Latinos and immigrants is on the rise, and the perpetrators are drawing their inspiration, their mandate and their immunity directly from the highest levels of authority in the U.S. government. Early into the second term, the Trump administration targeted programs to equalize opportunities for groups of people who are unfairly disadvantaged, which were intended to promote fairness within schools and workplaces.<sup>1</sup> During his

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<sup>1</sup> DEIA, *Trump’s Executive Orders on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Explained*, Leadership Conf. on Civ. and Hum. Rts. (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://civilrights.org/resource/anti-deia-eos/> [<https://perma.cc/4LZZ-88PN>].



presidential campaign prior to being elected, President Trump continuously made disparaging remarks about immigrants:

- “They’re poisoning the blood of our country. That’s what they’ve done. They poison — mental institutions and prisons all over the world. Not just in South America. Not just the three or four countries that we think about. But all over the world they’re coming into our country — from Africa, from Asia, all over the world. They’re pouring into our country.”<sup>2</sup>
- “The Democrats say, ‘Please don’t call them animals. They’re humans.’ I said, ‘No, they’re not humans, they’re not humans, they’re animals’ ... Nancy Pelosi told me that. She said, ‘Please don’t use the word animals when you’re talking about these people.’ I said, ‘I’ll use the word animal because that’s what they are.’”<sup>3</sup>

President Trump’s actions have followed suit. After announcing that he would deport millions on “Day One” of his presidency and promising to complete the “largest deportation operation in American history,”<sup>4</sup> the Trump administration has employed various, brutal attacks against immigrants and those perceived to be immigrants. Masked, unidentifiable plain clothed individuals, some presumably U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents, have been carrying out immigration enforcement raids en masse since President Trump’s inauguration, engaging in racial profiling and detaining “undocumented people, residents with protected legal status, and even American citizens” by the thousands.<sup>5</sup> Once detained, the government subjects immigrants to deplorable, subhuman conditions where they endure physical, verbal, and sexual abuse as well as inadequate medical care and neglect, solitary confinement, and even death.<sup>6</sup>

“The Trump administration has unlawfully used the Alien Enemies Act—a wartime authority that had only been invoked three times in over 200 years and only during a declared war—to falsely accuse individuals of being ‘enemies’ of the state in order to deport and disappear them to CECOT, a brutal prison in El Salvador, without due

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<sup>2</sup> *Trump on Immigration: Tearing Apart Immigration Families, Communities, and the Fabric of Our Nation*, American Civil Liberties Union, <https://www.aclu.org/trump-on-immigration> [<https://perma.cc/L46P-Q84Z>] (last visited Aug. 20, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Ali Bianco, *The US has Deported Immigrants En Masse Before. Here’s What Happened*, Politico (Dec. 29, 2024), <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2024/12/29/mass-deportation-immigration-history-00195729> [<http://archive.today/Robvnl>].

<sup>5</sup> Amos Barshad, *‘People Are Scared to Go Out’: Fear of ICE Agents Forces Cancellation of US Summer Festivals*, The Guardian (Aug. 4, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/04/latino-festivals-cancelled-ice-immigration-raids> [<https://perma.cc/64DR-Q82D>]; Adrian Florido, *‘Antagonized for Being Hispanic’: Growing Claims of Racial Profiling in LA Raids*, NPR (July 4, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/04/nx-s1-5438396/antagonized-for-being-hispanic-growing-claims-of-racial-profiling-in-la-raids> [<https://perma.cc/qQNT-7XWT>]; Russell Contreras, *Bill Would Prevent ICE from Detaining or Deporting U.S. Citizens*, Axios (July 16, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/07/16/ice-us-citizens-detention-racial-profiling> [<http://archive.today/TSOEkI>].

<sup>6</sup> Navish Dholakia, *President Trump’s Mass Deportation Agenda Threatens to Dramatically Escalate Use of Detention, a System Plagued by Abuse and Neglect*, Vera Inst. (June 11, 2025), <https://www.vera.org/news/the-truth-about-immigration-detention-in-the-united-states> [<https://perma.cc/H6FV-L5KK>].



process.”<sup>7</sup> In July 2025, President Trump signed the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (“OBBA”) into law, authorizing an unprecedented \$45 billion to the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) to detain and deport immigrants through controversial programs like the 287(g) program, “which empowers state and local law enforcement to carry out federal immigration enforcement activities, incentivizing racial profiling and abuses.”<sup>8</sup> Alarming, the Trump administration recently directed the National Guard to assist ICE in at least 20 states.<sup>9</sup>

Crackdowns on immigration foment widespread, discriminatory attitudes and violence towards immigrants and those perceived to be immigrants—namely people of color. “According to data from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, anti-Latino hate crimes increased by 2.8% from 2021 to 2022 and by 41% from 2020 to 2021 in major U.S. cities.”<sup>10</sup> In 2025, hate crimes against Latino communities significantly increased, especially in cities across the Midwest and East Coast.<sup>11</sup> Hate crimes against Latinos rose sharply by 73% in New York alone.<sup>12</sup>

## II. Summary of Case

On November 8, 2008, Marcelo Lucero was assaulted, stabbed and killed by a group of seven young men motivated by racial bias in Patchogue, New York. The group of teenagers reportedly drove around the streets of Suffolk County looking for Latinos to assault, a practice they called “beaner jumping.” In the hours leading up to Mr. Lucero’s death, Marlon Garcia, 28, was shot with a BB gun in front of his home by two of the teens accused in the assault—both 17. Hours after Garcia was struck, the teens continued driving until they set upon 55-year-old Hector Sierra, who managed to escape into a nearby home. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Lucero and a childhood friend from Ecuador, Angel Loja, were ambushed by the teens. Mr. Loja, who survived the attack, testified at trial that the teens hurled racial slurs and epithets at him and Mr. Lucero before physically attacking them.<sup>13</sup>

## III. Object and Justification of the Audience

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<sup>7</sup> Sarah Mehta, *From Day One, Trump’s Immigration Agenda has Grown More Extreme*, ACLU (June 6, 2025), <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/from-day-one-trumps-immigration-agenda-has-grown-more-extreme> [https://perma.cc/R5D4-F9NJ].

<sup>8</sup> Heidi Altman, Tanya Broder & Ben D’Avanzo, *The Anti-Immigration Policies in the Trump’s Final “Big Beautiful Bill,” Explained*, National Immigration Law Center (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://www.nilc.org/resources/the-anti-immigrant-policies-in-trumps-final-big-beautiful-bill-explained/> [https://perma.cc/95LQ-7S42].

<sup>9</sup> Chris Cameron, Hamad Aleaziz & Eric Schmitt, *Trump Administration Authorizes Deployment of National Guard at ICE Facilities*, N.Y. Times (July 30, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/30/us/politics/trump-national-guard-ice.html> [http://archive.today/7kcrb].

<sup>10</sup> Veronica ‘Roni’ Miller, *When a White Man Shoots His Neighbor in Rural America: How “White Replacement Theory” Rhetoric and Lax Hate Speech Laws Create Anti-Latino Violence*, Iowa J. of Gender, Race & Justice (Nov. 24, 2024), <https://jgrj.law.uiowa.edu/news/2024/11/when-white-man-shoots-his-neighbors-rural-america-how-white-replacement-theory> [https://perma.cc/YWP9-WGE3].

<sup>11</sup> *The Rising Tide of Hate: Understanding the Surge in Anti-Latino Hate Crimes*, Utica Phoenix (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://uticaphoenix.net/the-rising-tide-of-hate-understanding-the-surge-in-anti-latino-hate-crimes/> [https://perma.cc/AT7M-GZSV].

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* April Xu, *Hate Crimes Against Migrants Surge in Manhattan Last Year, Even as Overall Numbers Fall*, Documented (Mar. 14, 2025), <https://documentedny.com/2025/03/14/hate-crime-new-york-manhattan-immigrants-latino-black/> [https://perma.cc/2SAY-MVJD].

<sup>13</sup> Manny Fernandez, *Racial Slurs Preceded L.I. Attack, Victim’s Friend Testifies*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 24, 2010), <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/25/nyregion/25patchogue.html> [http://archive.today/WyVqD].



Petitioners can provide testimony on three topics: 1) the impact Marcelo Lucero's death has had on his family and the systemic barriers hate crime victims and surviving loved ones face; 2) how the state and federal government fail to protect immigrants and encourage xenophobic and racist attitudes that can lead to hate crimes; and 3) the government's efforts to dismantle education and anti-bias trainings that help prevent hate violence.

If this hearing is granted, petitioners intend to present testimonial evidence from witnesses, including Joselo Lucero, Marcelo Lucero's brother, who can speak to the direct impact the death of his brother had on him and his family. He can also speak to how the tragedy motivated him to teach youth classes to prevent racially motivated violence and the importance of anti-bias curriculum.

For all of the reasons above, we respectfully request that the Honorable Commission grant a hearing in this case. Please contact us if you require further information.

Thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Counsel for Petitioners

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