

Rebecca Adducci's Detroit ICE vs. MI and OH Families: Cruel, Incompetent, Dangerous

As Field Office Director of Detroit ICE, Rebecca Adducci is behind some of the most extraordinarily cruel immigration enforcement actions in the U.S. in decades. Although Detroit ICE has a record of inhumane enforcement actions, since President Trump signed the Executive Order: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States¹ which eliminated common sense enforcement priorities, Adducci and her officers have gone above and beyond in their targeting of immigrants in Michigan and Ohio - the two states over which her office has jurisdiction. Not only has she separated children from their parents, carried out military style raids, and detained and deported individuals who have lived in the U.S. for decades, she has targeted immigrants with disabilities, refused to release individuals who were granted asylum, and has deported people back to persecution, knowing full well the dangers they will face including slavery, statelessness and execution - a move in direct contradiction to the Trump Administration's stated goal of combatting human trafficking. In addition to going out of her way to target Midwestern families, Adducci has failed to adhere to court orders and was even scolded by a federal judge for failing to do so. Oversight of the ICE Detroit Field Office and Rebecca Adducci's cruelty and incompetence is urgently needed.

- **Detroit ICE Field Office Detains and Deports People Back to Persecution, Knowing Full Well The Dangers They Face - Including Black Mauritians and Christian Iraqis.** The U.S. government is now deporting Black Mauritians², who have lived in the US for decades to statelessness, extortion, and slavery. Ohio is home to most Mauritians living in the U.S., which falls under Adducci's jurisdiction. Rather than continue to allow these individuals to regularly check in with ICE, her office has instead detained and in many instances deported these individuals - a departure from previous foreign policy, and an action in direct contradiction to the Trump Administration's stated goal of combating human trafficking.
- **Seyni Diagne, OH Resident of 18 Years w/ Kidney Cancer and Hepatitis, Fled Persecution in Mauritania; Deported Under the Supervision of Detroit ICE Back to Statelessness and Arrest.** Before settling in Columbus Ohio, Diagne was arrested, beaten, and tortured on two different occasions because of the color of his skin in Mauritania. Under Adducci's management he was arrested in June 2018 and deported³, despite the persecution awaiting him and, his illnesses requiring urgent medical care including Kidney Cancer and Hepatitis.

- **Issa Sao, A Cincinnati Husband and Father to U.S. Citizen Wife and Children Was Deported to Mauritania by Detroit ICE in October 2018.** Sao who built a life with his American wife and two children was deported⁴ to Mauritania, despite the country having the highest rate of slavery in the world according to the CIA World Factbook⁵.
- **Adducci's Agents Arrested Over A Hundred Christian Iraqi Nationals in Detroit in June 2018, And Tried to Deport Them to Persecution.** Following their arrest the ACLU filed a lawsuit⁶ to halt what they referred to as "death deportations," arguing if deported to Iraq these individuals who are Christian and part of a religious minority would be targeted by violent extremist groups. In April 2019, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it would not consider a ruling in December by a three-panel judge that overturned a Detroit judge's decision that blocked their deportation. Adducci praised⁷ the outcome which is likely to result in their imminent deportation to persecution as a "decisive victory."
- **Detroit ICE Likely Violating the Fifth Amendment Rights of Asylum Seekers by Keeping Individuals In Detention Who Have Passed Credible Fear Screenings.** The Detroit ICE Office is a defendant along with five other ICE field offices who are being sued⁸ for unlawfully denying parole and holding individuals seeking asylum who have passed credible-fear determinations. Ansly Damus, a Haitian man who won⁹ his asylum case in Detroit twice, is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit brought by the ACLU and others. The Detroit ICE office twice took¹⁰ extraordinary and rare measures to appeal a judge's decision to grant Mr. Damus asylum on two occasions. On the government's second appeal, a judge reversed course and denied Mr. Damus asylum. However, through the class action lawsuit *Damus v. Nielsen*, Mr. Damus was released on parole after 14 months in detention on November 30th, 2018 while he appeals the judge's sudden decision to reverse course on his asylum case.
- **During a Stint as Interim Field Director for Boston ICE, Adducci Failed to Follow a Court Order, Was Berated by a Federal Judge.** Although Adducci claimed to have read a court order pertaining to a lawsuit against the Trump Administration over their practice of targeting spouses of U.S. citizens for deportation, she failed to convince a federal judge otherwise. In the 62-page order Judge Wolf described what he called "repeated violations of Department of Homeland Security regulations, and the due-process clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution, in the detention of aliens by the Boston Field Office that Ms. Adducci now directs." As part of the litigation the ACLU revealed evidence¹¹ demonstrating a pattern of collusion between ICE and USCIS to target immigrants attempting to gain legal status.
- **Under Adducci's Supervision, Detroit ICE Attempted to Deport Francis Anwana, a MI Man Who is Deaf With Cognitive Disabilities and Has Lived in the U.S. Since he Was 13.** Detroit ICE tried to deport Francis Anwana¹², a deaf man with cognitive disabilities who has thrived in the U.S. due to the treatment and care he has received over 34 years. After national backlash and pressure from U.S. Congressman Kildee and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Detroit ICE granted first a one month reprieve, and then a one-year reprieve¹³ of deportation. Rep. Kildee introduced a bill in Congress to grant permanent legal residency to Anwana who has until September 2019 to pursue other avenues of relief from deportation until his next check-in with ICE.
- **Adducci Has Insisted on Locking Critically Ill People up in Detention That do Not Have Facilities to Treat Them.** In Addition to locking up and deporting Seyni Diagne who has kidney cancer and Hepatitis to statelessness and slavery, Detroit ICE detained, Edith Andrade-Jimenez, a mother experiencing critical kidney failure. When she was unable to show a driver's license during a routine traffic stop, Andrade-Jimenez was taken into custody and placed¹⁴ in detention without proper medical equipment and necessary medication to address her serious health needs. After public outcry over her declining health and pressure from a state elected official calling for Andrade-Jimenez's release or for ICE to provide her with proper care, Adducci's office addressed the issue in a press release - though it failed to adequately speak to the seriousness of the situation.

- **In Addition to Targeting Individuals Who Are Sick, Have Disabilities Or Who Are Persecuted in Their Countries of Origin, Detroit ICE Has Carried Out Cruel Enforcement Actions Across MI and OH, Wreaking Havoc on Midwestern Families.**
- **Youngstown Businessman And Father of 3 U.S. Citizens Deported to Jordan After Living in U.S. For Four Decades.** Amer Adi, a Youngstown businessman¹⁵ credited for playing a major role in revitalizing downtown, was taken into custody¹⁶ at the Cleveland ICE office and deported after spending nearly 4 decades in the U.S.
- **Adducci's Agents Deported MI Father of U.S. Citizens Who Lived in The U.S. Since Age 10.** Adducci's agents deported Jorge Garcia¹⁷, a Michigan father of U.S. citizens who came to the United States at the age of ten. Jorge's deportation, after three decades in the United States, garnered national attention.
- **ICE Practices in Michigan Are Abusive, Including an Instance Where They Detained a MI Dreamer With His Mother And Forced Him to Watch While She Was Strip-Searched.** In May 2010, Michigan Dreamer Ivan Nikolov and his mother were detained¹⁸ in a Michigan detention facility, where he was reportedly forced to watch while his mother was strip-searched. When Ivan's mother objected to being strip-searched in front of her son, the ICE officer allegedly responded, "You're lucky we don't just shoot you in the head."
- **ICE Officers in MI Ate Breakfast at Ann Arbor Restaurant, Praised the Food Before Entering Kitchen to Arrest Staff.** According to the restaurant owner, ICE officials visited the establishment looking for an employee who was not working at the time. After failing to find the person they sought, the officers decided to sit down and eat breakfast¹⁹. After their meal, the officers complimented²⁰ the food before entering the kitchen area and arresting three employees, one of which was a permanent resident.
- **Three-Judge Panel of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Found Maribel Trujillo-Diaz, Fairfield, OH Mother of 4 U.S.-Born Children Was Wrongly Deported.** In January 2018, a three-judge panel²¹ of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals should not have rejected the motion filed to stop Trujillo-Diaz's removal who is the sole breadwinner of her family, and whose youngest daughter suffers from seizures. In May of the same year, her removal proceedings were reopened. Trujillo-Diaz's attorneys petitioned ICE to allow her back into the U.S. so she could attend her court hearings. She is now in the United States awaiting²² her hearing set for summer 2019.
- **ICE Tried to Deport Southgate Resident Dred Rranxburgaj, Despite Being the Primary Caretaker of His Wife Who Suffers from MS. After the Couple Took Refuge in a Detroit Church - ICE Labeled the Albanian Immigrant a Fugitive.** Dred Rranxburgaj and his family fled religious persecution in Albania, but were denied their application for asylum in the U.S. The couple has lived in the U.S. for more than 17 years and have a son who is a DACA recipient and another who is a U.S. citizen. Rranxburgaj and his wife were previously allowed²³ to remain in the U.S. while they regularly checked in with ICE, however, during a routine check-in in 2018, Rranxburgaj was told that he would have to leave the country, despite being the primary caretaker²⁴ of his wife who suffers from multiple sclerosis. After the couple took refuge in a Detroit church, Detroit ICE issued a press release calling²⁵ Rranxburgaj a "fugitive."
- **Northeast Ohio Residents, Kidnapped and Held For Ransom Hours After ICE Deported Them to Dangerous Cities.** Francisco Narciso was deported²⁶ to Mexico after coming in contact with law enforcement during a car crash – leaving behind his girlfriend and her two children. Less than a couple hours after being transported to the city of Nuevo Laredo - one of the most dangerous states in Mexico, two armed men kidnapped Narciso and another man, holding them for ransom. The men were locked in a room full of hostages, beaten and starved.

Narcisco's captors contacted his girlfriend in the U.S. demanding²⁷ money for his release. In another instance, ICE reportedly deported another Northeast Ohio resident to Mexico where he was murdered.

- **Washington Post Editorial Board Condemns Trump Administration's Harsh Interior Enforcement Policies; Includes Case Where Detroit Field Office Deports Man With Pending U-visa Application Who Assisted Detroit Police Officers.** Included in a Washington Post Editorial Board criticism²⁸ of the Trump's Administration's interior enforcement policies was Detroit ICE's deportation of Noe Lopez-Mulato, a father of two U.S. citizen children, who was deported²⁹ despite previously providing key testimony against a man who openly fired a gun at him, and having a pending U-visa application in relation to the assault.
- **A Detroit Police officer who oversaw the investigation and signed Lopez-Mulato's U-visa application said of ICE's actions:** "You just tore a family apart...How can you be so insensitive...It's a pitiful game what they're doing to these people." Washington Post's Editorial Board decried³⁰ the agency's cruelty and lack of common sense: "Cruelty now seems no impediment to its enforcement decisions and common sense appears to play a diminishing role." Three of the Five cases included in the piece fell under Adducci's jurisdiction.
- **Under Adducci's Management, Detroit ICE Has Carried Out Some of the Largest Workplace Raids Since the Bush Administration; With Military Weapons and K-9s in OH.** In June 2018, 200 ICE agents arrested³¹ 114 people in Sandusky and Castilia, Ohio, many of them women, between two different locations of Corso's Flowers and Garden Center. Dressed in plain clothes, undercover ICE agents began luring immigrant workers with free donuts claiming to be conducting a health inspection. Once the agents corralled the workers, a battalion of ICE agents barged into the building with K-9s and armed with military weapons. News of the raid echoed throughout the town leading some to leave their cars stranded on the road, bus riders to panic, and churches to take care of the children of those detained during the raid.
- **The Same Month ICE Conducted Another Workplace Raid, Apprehending 145 People at a Meatpacking Plant in Ohio.** Also in June 2018, ICE agents raided³² Fresh Mark, a meat packing company, in Salem, Ohio and its nearby locations in Massillon and Canton. ICE agents arrested 145 people making it one of the largest workplace raids since the Bush Administration. According to a Salem, Ohio Fresh Mark employee, ICE agents carried machine guns³³ on them: "We were working in the plant and the agents showed up with machine guns and started taking everyone outside."
- **Adducci's Agents Targeted Schools in Latino Neighborhoods as Parents Dropped Off Their Children.** On March 31, 2011, ICE agents surrounded³⁴ Hope of Detroit Academy elementary school located in a predominantly Latino community in Detroit. Driving six large SUVs, ICE agents began to target parents³⁵ as they dropped off their children; two families were detained. The following year ICE targeted parents at schools in the same area.

Endnotes:

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