

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Joaquin Castro
U.S. House of Representatives
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Castro,

My name is Yasmina Codina. I am a life-long San Antonio resident and a constituent of the federal district that you represent. Currently, I am an enrolled graduate student and a graduate assistant at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). I am writing to you because I am concerned about my security, and I would like your assistance.

This past Tuesday, March 31, 2015, I volunteered for the Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) to deliver water to women being held by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the GEO Family Detention Center in Karnes City, TX. We were informed that nearly 70 women were on a hunger fast and demanding that their human rights are respected. As an educated woman who has been on a hunger strike, I understand the importance of providing clean water. In 2010, I went without food for 39 days, and met with Mayor Julian Castro in efforts to rally support to pass the DREAM Act.

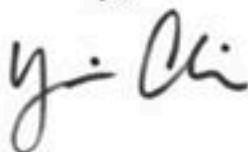
The delivery was accepted by the private detention center. Only a few hours after I left the property, I was notified by my supervisor at UTSA that she had received a call from ICE. She told me that they asked several questions about my activities outside of work and school.

As an individual, I fear that this type of action taken by the federal government could jeopardize my current employment and academic course of study, as well as my future standing within this or other academic institutions. As a voter and U.S. citizen, I am concerned that any person's participation with a faith-based community effort would result in a federal law enforcement agency contacting their employer and/or academic advisor.

To be clear, all I did was to deliver bottled water to women being held with their young children in a private, for-profit detention center who would otherwise have to purchase it from the facility-run commissary. I did nothing more than to support the health and human rights of these women and children; yet I fear for my own security and privacy. If I am being harassed for delivering water, I cannot imagine what these women and children must be experiencing behind closed doors.

Thank you in advance, Congressman Castro, for helping to ensure that this type of aggressive invasion into one's liberty and privacy does not happen ever again.

Sincerely,



Yasmina Codina
Resident
Texas' 20th District