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First UA: 28/26 Index: AMR 51/0878/2026 USA of April 09, 2026

USA**ASYLUM SEEKER DENIED URGENT MEDICAL CARE IN ICE DETENTION**

Andrea Pedro-Francisco, a Guatemalan asylum seeker, was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Minneapolis, Minnesota on February 5, 2026. Authorities later transferred her to the El Paso Service Processing Center in Texas.

She has a large ovarian cyst and was scheduled for surgery on February 11, 2026. However, ICE detained her before the procedure took place. Since then, she has not received adequate medical care.

As a result, her condition has worsened. She is experiencing severe abdominal and lower back pain, along with other serious symptoms. Reports indicate that the cyst has grown significantly and may pose life-threatening risks if left untreated.

U.S. authorities must immediately release Andrea Pedro-Francisco. Until then, they must ensure she has access to urgent and adequate medical care to prevent further deterioration of her health.

Write to the El Paso ICE Field Office Director urging her to:

- Ensure that Andrea is immediately released and provided with the urgent medical care she desperately needs.

Write to:

Marisa Flores, El Paso ICE Field Office Director
11541 Montana Avenue, Suite E,
El Paso, TX 79936 USA
Email: ElPaso.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov

Salutation: Dear Field Office Director Marisa Flores,

And copy:

His Excellency Peter HOEKSTRA
Ambassador
Embassy of the United States of America
490 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1N 1G8
Tel: (613) 238-5335 / 688-5335 (24h) Fax: (613) 688-3082

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Andrea Pedro-Francisco, 23, is a Guatemalan asylum seeker who entered the United States in 2019. On February 5, 2026, ICE detained her in Minneapolis during "Operation Metro Surge," a large-scale immigration enforcement operation.

Authorities deployed more than 3,000 federal agents during this operation. Reports document excessive force, including lethal force, and racial profiling targeting Black, Latino, and other racialized communities. In addition, authorities targeted community members who documented enforcement actions and took part in protests.

After her arrest, officials transferred Andrea to the ERO El Paso Camp East Montana facility. In March 2026, they moved her again to the El Paso Service Processing Center, where she remains in detention.

The El Paso Service Processing Center is an ICE detention facility in Texas. [Amnesty International has documented](#) serious concerns at this site, including unsanitary conditions, abuse, and mistreatment.

Research also shows that people detained there face major barriers to healthcare. These include delays in treatment and, in some cases, complete denial of care. As a result, detainees with serious medical needs often do not receive timely or adequate treatment.

Andrea's situation reflects these broader failures in the system.

Under the Trump administration, the United States has expanded immigration detention on a large scale. In February 2026, more than 68,000 people were held in ICE detention. This number likely underestimates the total, as it excludes many held in other facilities.

At least 14 people have died in ICE custody in 2026. At the same time, detention conditions have worsened.

ICE has introduced a policy that denies bond to many people who entered the country irregularly. As a result, asylum seekers can remain detained for the entire duration of their cases.

In July 2025, the U.S. government passed the 2025 Reconciliation Bill, also known as the "*One Big Beautiful Bill Act*." This law allocated \$150 billion in public funds to expand immigration enforcement, including \$45 billion for ICE detention capacity.

These policies have increased the scale of detention while conditions continue to deteriorate. Authorities must end arbitrary detention, ensure accountability for abuses, and provide adequate medical care to all people in custody.

Please take action as soon as possible until May 31, 2026. The UA will be duly updated should there be the need for further action.