

Testimony of Ronaldo Salgado and Lorenzo Salgado, Jr.
Spotlight Forum – September 22, 2026

Ronaldo (R): Good morning. My name is Ronaldo Salgado.

Lorenzo (L): And I am Lorenzo Salgado, Jr. We are two of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo's sons. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

R: It's been two and a half months since our father was killed by ICE. Two and a half months that our family has spent navigating a nightmare we never expected—one where my brothers and I were left without our dad, our uncles without their brother, our grandma without her son, and our mom—who has been with our dad since they were teenagers—without her life partner.

L: Our mom spends hours each day sitting in front of our dad's altar, reading her prayer book and talking to him. She used to spend her evenings cooking a big dinner for my dad, to help him recharge after a long day at work. Now she spends them at the cemetery.

R: Our father's last day started like so many days during his 35 years in this country, a country that he loved. He and my mom woke up before the sun. She cooked him another big meal to carry him through the day. He said goodbye to her, and to our dog, said a prayer inside his van, and was out the driveway before 6 a.m. to pick up his construction crew — men he'd worked alongside for years, including our dear uncle Victor, who took real pride in their work.

L: At about 7 a.m. Central, our mom called to tell us our dad was in trouble. We suspected it involved ICE. As a family, we had talked about what would happen if our dad encountered ICE and how he would carry himself. We dreaded the call, but we were prepared. We believed there would be a process, and that no matter what happened, there would be a way for our dad to come home safely.

R: I drove an hour to his worksite, but no luck. Then I learned on Facebook about ICE activity near Canal and Wayside. I never imagined it was him. When I got to the intersection, I found my dad's van, but I didn't find him. I asked anyone I could for information — law enforcement, neighbors, I even asked a homeowner if I could climb on their roof to see what was going on. I learned, again from Facebook, that our dad had been shot. I could hear his voice on videos posted online, crying for help.

It took us hours to figure out where they had taken our father. While I was at the scene, my brother was calling every hospital and police station he could—but no one would tell us where our dad was. As soon as we learned he had been taken to Ben Taub hospital, I drove

there as fast as I could. But again, we waited for hours. It took Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia showing up to the hospital and demanding information for us to finally get confirmation: Our father, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, had died from his injuries.

L: Although multiple investigations are currently under way, we still haven't gotten straight answers from DHS about what happened. DHS first said ICE "targeted" our father — then admitted he was never their intended target at all. DHS also said he "weaponized" his vehicle — a claim the three men who were in the van with him have directly disputed, and one that the surveillance footage made public so far does not appear to show. DHS also claimed there may have been drugs in the vehicle, which anyone who knew our father would tell you is absurd — and which testing later proved to be false, as we all knew it would.

R: I know my father would have stopped his vehicle immediately if ICE agents had clearly identified themselves. That must have been terrifying, not knowing who was after him.

L: We still have so many questions. What are the names of the ICE agents who killed our dad? Why do they get to be protected while my brother and I stand before the cameras, showing our faces and proudly saying our last name?

R: Why was the search warrant unsealed and made public? Our dad was not a criminal—he was just a man who loved his family and woke up before the rest of the world to put in an honest day's work.

L: And where are my dad's wallet and phone? It's been two and a half months, and we still don't have his belongings back, aside from some change that he kept in his pocket. We have no idea where his things are or who might have them. My mom wants his phone back.

R: We know we're in this for the long haul. Investigations like this can take a while, but we are hopeful that once those investigations are complete, we'll get a clear, transparent picture of everything from that awful day.

L: Today, we are asking that you use your authority as Members of Congress to help ensure that we get answers—and that our father gets the justice he deserves.

R: First: there must be a thorough, truly independent investigation — not one where the agency under investigation also controls the evidence and can unilaterally clear its own officers of any wrongdoing. Congress should insist that federal, state, and local investigations all move forward, with full federal cooperation, and should demand answers on a public timeline.

L: Second: every piece of evidence must be preserved and shared, including radio traffic, agency communications, and any video or audio that exists, even though no agent wore a

body camera that morning. We have sent our own letters demanding the preservation of evidence, and ask that you do the same.

R: Third: use your powers as members of Congress to enact laws that rein in ICE and protect the rights and lives of immigrants in this country. We are not the only family living this nightmare. Look at the people sitting next to us. They too have had a loved one killed by ICE—a father, a mother, a daughter or son. ICE is killing people, whether on the streets or in detention centers—and millions of immigrants and their loved ones are living in fear that they might be next. Hold ICE accountable for what it's done to our family and so many others, and do everything you can to make sure this never happens again.

R: This must not be a partisan issue. This is an issue of right and wrong. All elected members of Congress have a duty to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their constituents. Every Member has immigrants living in your states, in your districts, in your neighborhoods. What is being done to make sure they can live without fear?

L: I ask you this: What would you do if you were in our shoes? Think of a loved one. Close your eyes and picture their face. What would you do if they were taken from you this way? Suddenly, without any sense. What would you do if you had to spend your days comforting your mother about the loss of her lifelong love, your grandmother about the loss of her little boy? You would do everything you could to find out what happened and make sure your loved one got justice.

L: That's the promise we made to our grandmother at our father's wake. The march toward justice may be slow, but it is steady and unyielding. Our dad deserves justice, and we'll spend every waking moment making sure that he gets it.

R: I visit my dad's memorial every day. Not because it's where he died, but where a movement was born. It's my way of witnessing how many hearts my dad's story resonates with. And it's my motivation to continue fighting not just for my dad, but for everyone else's dad and families like mine. I hope I'm doing the right thing every day. I know my dad is guiding me in the right direction.

L: Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. Justicia para Lorenzo Salgado Araujo!

###