



IMMIGRANT
LEGAL
DEFENSE

NEWS RELEASE
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**20 YEAR-OLD ASYLUM SEEKING COMMUNITY ACTIVIST SUBJECTED TO
“REMAIN IN MEXICO” PROGRAM NOW FACING INDEFINITE ICE DETENTION**

Oakland, California - Yesterday, after spending four days in the *hielera* at the U.S.-Mexico border, Bryan - a 20 year-old Honduran migrant who was forced to fight his asylum case for nine months while living in danger in Mexico pursuant to the Migrant Protection Protocols Program (also known as “MPP” or “Remain in Mexico”) - was transferred to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Despite repeated attempts by counsel, ICE has refused to communicate where they are currently holding Bryan. Bryan faces indefinite detention by ICE while he continues to fight his case. Bryan fled ongoing harm and violence in Honduras and lawfully applied for asylum in the United States. Contrary to long standing immigration law the Immigration Judge denied Bryan’s claim in violation of due process. Bryan and his legal team immediately filed an appeal. Despite Bryan’s detailed request for parole, providing evidence of Bryan’s community support and legal representation within the United States, the Department of Homeland Security continues to detain Bryan despite having the ability to immediately release Bryan. Bryan’s continued detention while he lawfully fights for asylum is inhumane and unnecessary.

His lawyer, Managing Attorney at Immigrant Legal Defense Siobhan Waldron, issued the following statement:

“Bryan has already been subjected to months of uncertainty and danger in Mexico pursuant to the unlawful MPP program. The continued detention of Bryan is not in the public interest, and Bryan poses no security or flight risk. On the contrary, he presented himself to CBP officials at the U.S.-Mexico border in January 2019 and expressed that he was afraid to return to Honduras. Bryan was one of the first individuals sent back to Mexico pursuant to the unlawful MPP program. In response to the severe insecurity he and other Central American migrants face in Mexico, Bryan helped build a community-run shelter for asylum seekers. The Trump administration’s continued attack on asylum seekers such as Bryan is immoral and unlawful. There is no just reason for keeping Bryan, a torture survivor with a pending asylum case, detained.”

We demand Bryan’s immediate release from detention. #FreeBryan