

Toolkit



FIFA World Cup New England Travel Advisory Toolkit

The Current Moment

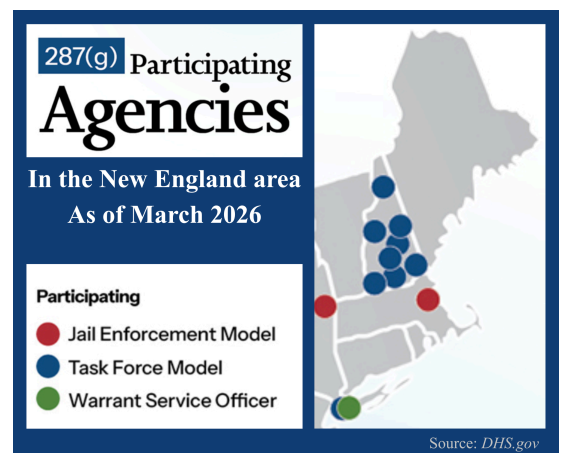
The New England region **expects 2-3 million visitors for the 2026 FIFA World Cup**, hosted jointly by the US, Mexico and Canada. These tourists may visit for any of the seven matches at Gillette Stadium near Boston from June 13 to July 9, with projections of 450,000 ticketed fans attending some high-profile matchups like England vs. Ghana, Norway vs. France, and Haiti vs. Brazil.

While soccer is known globally as “the beautiful game” that often unites international communities, plans for this year’s games are already dampened by [harsh new travel bans and exorbitant visa bonds](#) imposed by the US.

For those who can make it into the US, it could become a very different experience than anticipated, due to increasingly authoritarian trends in immigration enforcement.

Over the past year, masked agents from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol have been conducting nationwide operations — such as [“Operation Catch of the Day” in Maine](#) — in which **individuals are detained through racial profiling and without due process rights**.

Some local government agencies in New England are certified under [Section 287\(g\)](#) of the Immigration and Nationality Act program — meaning **state agents may cooperate with ICE**.



[An interactive map of 287g agreements can be found here.](#)



This expansion of deputizing local law enforcement to assist in immigration enforcement carries significant implications for community trust and for non-citizens (including visitors). **The 287(g) program has been criticized for blurring the line between regular police services and immigration policing**, which can discourage people from seeking help or interacting with authorities when needed.

While 287g agreements can increase the rate and the pace of local cooperation with federal enforcement agencies, **city police and county sheriffs often *opt to cooperate voluntarily in the absence of these agreements.***

For international visitors to New England, this cooperation with [rogue federal agencies](#) raises particular concerns: even if a person is visiting, operations that involve unmarked or masked agents, detentions without obvious identification, or a local police force that now has immigration-enforcement authority can create uncertainty and heightened risk. Visitors have become entangled in enforcement actions, scrutiny, questioning; some have been jailed and deported.

In short, the mechanics of masked/anonymous agents and expanded local enforcement authority mean that the safeguards for visitors or even lawful residents are weaker, and the risk of arbitrary or mistaken enforcement is higher.

For these reasons, New England area immigrants' rights organizations have created this toolkit and travel advisory to provide information, [travel tips](#), and [resources](#) that can **prepare and assist visitors who are attending games, watch parties, community events, or engaging in recreation activity** across the region.

NOTE: *At state and municipal levels, policies overseeing collaboration with federal agencies are undergoing development, with some expecting implementation by the time of the summer games, changing the risk levels. For example the [PROTECT Act in Massachusetts](#) and [local ordinances across Maine](#) which aim to reduce the likelihood of hand-offs to ICE during traffic stops or other random encounters.*

[Click here to view the New England Travel Advisory](#)

We've joined [over 120 civil society groups who have issued a travel advisory](#) for the U.S. ahead of the FIFA World Cup.



ALSO Take action: ask FIFA and Boston26 welcoming committee members to honor their commitment to human rights.

Goals

- Uplift risks to human rights for residents, visitors, and tourists ahead of the FIFA World Cup games in New England.
- Provide resources for preparing for and responding to encounters with law enforcement.

Primary partners in creating this travel advisory

- Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
- Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)
- Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
- Various regional rapid response hotlines

Hashtags:

- #FIFAUSAisnotsafe
- #FIFAUSAtaveladvisory



Main Talking Points

- Under the strongman push of President Donald Trump, local law enforcement agencies are engaging in tactics previously foreign to their work. Without much training, **local law enforcement agents are engaging in egregious racial profiling tactics based on appearance, language, or accent to detain and often kidnap people** going about their business, separating husbands from their wives, and mothers from their children in gut-wrenching scenes. In response, statewide and national organizations have put out a preemptive emergency travel advisory warning tourists and visitors to exercise increased caution.
- This year, there have been **countless cases of visitors and tourists** getting caught in the immigration hysteria dragnet. From an Irish father coming to visit his



girlfriend to Canadians on roadtrips, and German tourists imprisoned for over a month, the risk is too big to deny. *(See more examples below.)*

- Tourism depends on freedom, safety, and dignity for all. A country that enables secret police tactics, racial profiling, and masked enforcement **cannot offer those values to its visitors.**
- **State-Sanctioned Profiling:** Under expanded Police-ICE agreements, known as 287(g) agreements, some local police are now acting as immigration agents — turning traffic stops and routine encounters into potential immigration checks fueled by a mad-dash to meet Trump’s quota of 3,000 arrests per day.
- **Danger to All Visitors:** Reports have surfaced of US citizens, international students, and lawful visitors being detained or questioned about their status. No one is immune to wrongful targeting under these policies.
- **Erosion of Civil Rights:** The lack of oversight and transparency has led to a collapse of due process protections. Masked enforcement and unaccountable policing are incompatible with the safety expectations of travelers.
- **Atmosphere of Fear and Intimidation:** Communities across New England are reporting increased surveillance, raids, and kidnappings by enforcement agents operating in neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.
- **Travelers Should Exercise**

Extreme Caution: International visitors, immigrants, and people of color are at particular risk of harassment or unlawful detention. International IDs, such as international driver’s licenses, have been under heightened scrutiny. Until the US restores transparency, accountability, and civil protections, travel in the country poses serious safety concerns.

Multiple networked hotlines exist to provide referrals to regional resources.

[Click to view/share full size image:](#)

SEE ICE? — SPREAD INFO, NOT PANIC

Size	How many agents / officers?
Activity	What are they doing?
Location	Address or intersection/neighborhood
Uniform	Letters, patches visible on jackets, vests, vehicles
Time	When did you witness this?
Equipment	What do they have with them?

RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINES

- Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition: 207-544-9989
- Vermont Migrant Justice: 802-881-7229
- NH Solidarity Network: 978-219-7586
- New Haven Rapid Response: 854-666-4472
- Mt. Washington Valley Rapid Response Team: 603-726-6680
- LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts: 617-370-5023
- AMOR Rhode Island Defense Line: 401-675-1414



Focus on New England states

Massachusetts: Recent data indicates a massive increase in arrests — more than 7,000 arrests — nearly five times higher in early 2026 compared to the same period in the prior administration, according to a [WBUR analysis](#).

Maine: A January 2026 surge in ICE activity across the southern portion of the state resulted in near 200 arrests in under one week, with [only about 5% having criminal records](#). And ICE / Border Patrol arrests have generally seen an increase of 50% over the past year.

Vermont: Reports from 2025 indicate [a double in ICE detentions](#) in the state. A March 2026 incident involved hundreds of protesters, a nine-hour standoff, and the use of flashbangs and tear gas by federal authorities to remove three individuals, sparking outrage and legislative scrutiny.

Rhode Island: Reports indicated a significant increase in ICE arrests in Rhode Island, including a reported 182% increase mentioned in the [Providence Journal](#).

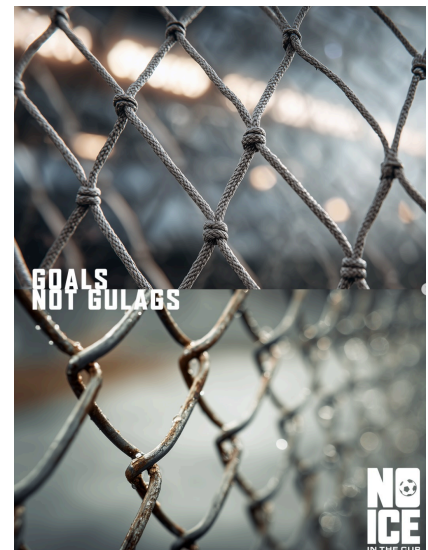
Connecticut: ICE arrests in the state [have nearly tripled](#) in early 2026, with significant operations targeting cities like Hartford, Danbury, and Stamford.

New Hampshire: ICE arrests have risen in the state, aided by 15 local police departments using 287(g) agreements, with [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) noting a doubling in detention over the past year.

ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES

If detained in:

- [Massachusetts](#)
- [Maine](#)
- [Vermont](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Rhode Island](#)





- [New Hampshire](#)

For international travelers planning to attend games in other places in the US, note that many states across the country have 287g agreements, with [the South having exponentially more](#), and [Florida at the top of the list with 80% of all agreements nationwide](#).

[Social Media Graphics](#) and [“No ICE in the Cup” artwork](#)

Post comments on the New England host committee’s [Boston26 Instagram](#).

Social Media Sample Language

Captions for posts (Add link for non-Instagram posts, put link in bio for IG posts)

Captions	Hashtag
<i>Masked agents, secret detentions, and racial profiling are putting residents and tourists at risk. Nobody is safe under these conditions.</i>	#FIFAUSAtraveladvisory #WorldCupSolidarity #FIFAUSAisnotsafe #NoICEintheCup
<i>Real people are being detained with no warning — visitors jailed for weeks, US citizens questioned, tourists profiled for their accents or appearance. Before traveling for FIFA 2026, understand the risks. Safety is paramount.</i>	#FIFAUSAtraveladvisory #WorldCupSolidarity #FIFAUSAisnotsafe #NoICEintheCup
<i>Collaboration with ICE turns routine moments — traffic stops, hotel check-ins, airport lines — into potential detentions. Tourists with visas have been jailed without a phone call. Travelers deserve transparency and safety.</i>	#FIFAUSAtraveladvisory #WorldCupSolidarity #FIFAUSAisnotsafe #NoICEintheCup



<p><i>Tourism depends on trust. Masked agents, racial profiling, and unaccountable policing break that trust and endanger international visitors. FIFA fans deserve to know the truth before they arrive.</i></p>	<p><i>#FIFAUSAtaveladvisory #WorldCupSolidarity #FIFAUSAisnotsafe #NoICEintheCup</i></p>
<p><i>Canadian, Irish, German, British, and Australian visitors have all been detained — in some cases for WEEKS — under the US immigration dragnet. Escalating enforcement puts FIFA fans at real risk. Reconsider travel until protections return.</i></p>	<p><i>#FIFAUSAtaveladvisory #WorldCupSolidarity #FIFAUSAisnotsafe #NoICEintheCup</i></p>

Real Life Cases of Tourists Harmed by the Current Immigration Enforcement Climate in the United States

Some visitors to the US have been deported; others spent prolonged time in detention centers, and family/consular access issues have been reported. These cases raised concerns about due-process, consular access, and the use of detention for visitors who present travel documents.

- [Fabian Schmidt](#), a German-born New Hampshire resident and green card holder since 2008, was returning from a family visit in Europe when he was stopped at Logan Airport in March 2025. His family reported he was stripped naked, placed in a cold shower, violently interrogated, denied medication for anxiety and depression, and given little food or water. He was held for nearly two months at the Wyatt Detention Facility in Rhode Island before being released. His attorney said his detention eventually broke him to the point that he needed to go to the hospital.
- [Paul Dama](#), manager of the acclaimed Roxbury restaurant Suya Joint, was driving to church in Brockton on Father's Day when he was pulled over and detained by ICE. He spent nearly 100 days in a New Hampshire detention facility while his long-pending asylum case worked through the courts. Dama said the experience brought up the trauma of political persecution he had fled in Nigeria. "I kind of felt like it was a kidnapping again," he said. He was ultimately granted asylum.




- [A Rhode Island high school intern](#), who was not named, was detained and questioned by ICE agents outside Providence Superior Court while being driven to school by a judge. Six federal agents surrounded the car, restrained the teen's hands behind his back, and escorted him away before releasing him after his identity was verified. Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee called it "an outrageous and indefensible act that could have completely upended a young person's life."
- [Thomas](#), a 35-year-old tech worker and father of three from Ireland, came to West Virginia to visit his girlfriend last fall. It was one of many trips he had taken to the US, and he was authorized to travel under a visa waiver program that allows tourists to stay in the country for 90 days. He was detained by ICE in three different facilities, ultimately spending roughly 100 days behind bars with little understanding of why he was being held — or when he'd get out.
- [Jasmine Mooney](#), a Canadian national detained in ICE custody for two weeks, reported feeling that she had been kidnapped. After her visa had been approved, she traveled to the US only to have her visa instantaneously revoked upon arrival by a border officer. There was no explanation, no warning. An officer led her to a room, took her belongings, and ordered her to put her hands against the wall. In no time, she was in jail, in a freezing cell, with inadequate food and no phone call.
- [Jessica Brösche](#), a Berlin-based tattoo artist, had been vacationing in Mexico when she decided to travel to the US from Tijuana with an American friend. But at the San Ysidro port of entry, immigration authorities took Brösche into custody. She was detained and jailed. After 9 days, she began punching a wall out of frustration, which landed her in solitary confinement for 8 days. Her detention lasted over a month.
- [Lucas Sielaff](#), 25, of Germany, said US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers put him and his American fiancée in handcuffs after they tried to enter the San Diego-Mexico border from Tijuana. "They accused me [of living] in America instead of visiting, but there was no proof that I overstayed anything." He was in jail for over 2 weeks.
- [Rebecca Burke](#), a British tourist on a four-month backpacking trip around North America, was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the US for 10 days after trying to enter the country via the Canadian border on a valid tourist visa. She was handcuffed and put in a cell before being taken to the Tacoma Northwest detention facility in Washington state. She was held for over 10 days in deplorable conditions.







- [Alistair Kitchen](#), an Australian man, was detained upon arrival at Los Angeles airport and deported back to Melbourne after United States border officials told him it was due to his writing on pro-Palestine protests by university students. He was detained for 12 hours and interrogated by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials during the stopover in Los Angeles. The 33-year-old said he was “clearly targeted for politically motivated reasons” and said officials interrogated him about his views on Israel and Palestine, including his “thoughts on Hamas.”
- [Carlos Martin Gonzalez](#), a Mexican tourist, had a valid tourist visa and a ticket to fly home on July 15. He was detained during a July 7 traffic stop in Orlando and sent to Alligator Alcatraz. He described the conditions there as inhumane. He was shackled inside the airplane in which he was sent back to Mexico, after his case garnered international attention.

International Travel Tips for Green Card Holders



Lawful Permanent Resident Card (aka Green Card) holders need a valid, unexpired Green Card or a valid re-entry permit to travel internationally and re-enter the United States.

[Access these travel tips in multiple language here.](#)

Required documents for international travel	Special Circumstances
 <p>Green Card or Reentry Permit: You will need a valid, unexpired “Green Card” (Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card) to enter the United States after temporary travel abroad.</p>	<p>Expired Green Card: Your green card must be valid on the day of your return to the US.</p>
 <p>Visas: Check if the country you are visiting requires a visa for your nationality.</p>	<p>If your green card has expired, you may be able to present your expired green card as well as a notice from USCIS showing that your green card validity has been extended while an application is pending, or a temporary I-551 stamp in your passport.</p>
 <p>Passport: As a green card holder you do not need a passport to return to the US, but you likely need to present a passport to board a flight or enter another country. Some countries require that your passport be valid for a certain amount of time (for example, at least 6 months).</p>	<p>Lost or stolen Green Card: If you lost your green card while outside the US, you will need to file a Form I-131A, Application for Travel Document (Carrier Documentation), to be able to board a flight back to the U.S.</p>
 <p>Airline requirements: Confirm with your airline before traveling, as they may have their own requirements.</p>	<p>This carrier documentation will allow an airline or other transportation carrier to board a lawful permanent resident bound for the United States without the carrier being penalized.</p> <p>Longer absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A green card holder who has been outside the U.S. for more than 180 days may face increased scrutiny.

Be careful!

Any time you travel internationally you will interact with immigration agents at the airport or border. This gives

Long absences can lead the government to think you have abandoned your permanent resident status.

Advisory text

New England FIFA Travel Advisory

Issued to: Tourists, visitors, and delegations planning travel to the United States for FIFA 2026 matches in New England, and elsewhere in the US.

Date: June 1, 2026

SUMMARY

Recent reporting and civil-rights litigation document growing instances in which visitors, tourists, lawful residents, and even US citizens have been detained, questioned, held in immigration custody, or removed from the United States following encounters with federal immigration enforcement and local law enforcement acting under expansive immigration partnerships. Because these enforcement activities have included operations in New England states and because the Boston-area will host FIFA 2026 events, travelers should be aware of heightened risks and exercise extreme caution. This advisory summarizes reported cases and offers safety recommendations for fans, tourists, and delegations planning travel.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR FIFA 2026 TRAVELERS

- Tourists are not exempt from this scrutiny, profiling, and heightened violence. The documented incidents include people from all backgrounds, including tourists, visitors, lawful US residents, and US citizens.
- Agreements that allow local law enforcement to perform immigration-related functions increase the chance that routine encounters — traffic stops, confusion at transit hubs, or even being in the wrong place at the wrong time — can lead to being dragged into the immigration enforcement dragnet.
- Reports of enforcement agents operating without clear identification or with masks make it difficult for travelers to know whether they are dealing with legitimate officers and heighten the risk of coercive or unlawful stops.

- FIFA events concentrate large numbers of international visitors in stadiums, transit hubs, hotels, and fan zones — areas where heightened enforcement activity can quickly affect big swaths of people.

POTENTIAL SCENARIOS OF CONCERN

- Detention after a routine stop or encounter (e.g., traffic stop, questioning near transit or accommodation).
- Difficulty obtaining timely consular access or legal representation for foreign nationals detained.
- Wrongful detentions based on limited English, speaking English with a non-American accent, or profiled based on race, ethnicity, or perceived national origin.
- Rapid placement into jailing facilities, trampling over human rights, including the right to counsel, due process, or a phone call. Delayed removal proceedings to elongate the stay in the for-profit prison complex.

RECOMMENDATIONS — BEFORE TRAVEL

1. Consider postponing non-essential travel to jurisdictions where aggressive immigration enforcement has been reported. If travel is essential, plan carefully.
2. Carry valid government-issued photo identification at all times. Foreign nationals should carry passports AND copies of any relevant US visa documentation. US citizens should carry proof of citizenship (e.g., passport or birth certificate).
3. Register travel plans with your embassy or consulate where applicable; save emergency consular contact information and the US emergency number (911).
4. Secure emergency legal contacts in advance — organizations that provide rapid support for detained travelers, local civil-rights groups, or immigration legal services. Save those numbers offline.

5. Brief traveling companions on how to respond to enforcement encounters: Remind each other to remain calm, ask if they are free to leave, and avoid resisting. Remember that travelers may politely decline to answer questions about immigration status while asserting their right to contact counsel and a consular representative (for non-U.S. nationals). If you have secure immigration status, you should carry copies of those documents so you can present them when asked, but not risk losing the originals.

RECOMMENDATIONS — DURING AN ENCOUNTER WITH ENFORCEMENT

- Remain calm and avoid physical resistance. Record the interaction if in a public space and if it's safe for you to do so.
- Ask to see official identification. If in doubt about an officer's identity, state that you will cooperate after you are shown official credentials.
- If detained: immediately request to contact your consulate, if you are a foreign national. For U.S. citizens, assert your citizenship and request access to documentation.
- Document names, badge numbers, locations, and any witnesses as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are unable to document anything yourself, ask others to do so by recording, taking pictures, or taking down information in writing.
- If you see people around you recording, yell your name and nationality, and ask them to send the video to your consulate or embassy.

NOTE: *If you are arrested on criminal charges by local or state police, you have the right to a government-appointed lawyer and a private phone call, and should ask for these immediately. If you are detained by ICE or Border Patrol, you have the right to hire a lawyer. The government does not provide one for you but they are supposed to provide a list of free or low-cost alternatives. You have the right to be visited by a lawyer in detention. You have the right to have your attorney with you at any hearing before an immigration judge.*

ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES

If detained in:

- [Massachusetts](#)
- [Maine](#)
- [Vermont](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Rhode Island](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)

DISCLAIMER AND NEXT STEPS

This advisory is based on documented reporting, litigation, and investigative accounts describing detentions, questioning, and removals affecting tourists, visitors, lawful residents, and citizens. It is intended to inform travelers of heightened risks and to recommend precautions for those planning to attend FIFA 2026 events in the United States. The situation is fluid — conditions and enforcement practices can vary by locality and over time.

DOCUMENTED CASES AND INCIDENTS

- [Fabian Schmidt](#), a German-born New Hampshire resident and green card holder since 2008, was returning from a family visit in Europe when he was stopped at Logan Airport in March 2025. His family reported he was stripped naked, placed in a cold shower, violently interrogated, denied medication for anxiety and depression, and given little food or water. He was held for nearly two months at the Wyatt Detention Facility in Rhode Island before being released. His attorney said his detention eventually broke him to the point that he needed to go to the hospital.
- [Paul Dama](#), manager of the acclaimed Roxbury restaurant Suya Joint, was driving to church in Brockton on Father's Day when he was pulled over and detained by ICE. He spent nearly 100 days in a New Hampshire detention facility while his long-pending asylum case worked through the courts. Dama said the experience brought up the trauma of political persecution he had fled in Nigeria. "I kind of felt like it was a kidnapping again," he said. He was ultimately granted asylum.
- [A Rhode Island high school intern](#), who was not named, was detained and questioned by ICE agents outside Providence Superior Court while being driven to school by a judge. Six federal agents surrounded the car, restrained the teen's hands behind his back, and escorted him away before releasing him after his

identity was verified. Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee called it "an outrageous and indefensible act that could have completely upended a young person's life."

- [Thomas](#), a 35-year-old tech worker and father of three from Ireland, came to West Virginia to visit his girlfriend last fall. It was one of many trips he had taken to the US, and he was authorized to travel under a visa waiver program that allows tourists to stay in the country for 90 days. He was detained by ICE in three different facilities, ultimately spending roughly 100 days behind bars with little understanding of why he was being held – or when he'd get out.
- [Jasmine Mooney](#), a Canadian national detained in ICE custody for two weeks, reported feeling that she had been kidnapped. After her visa had been approved, she traveled to the US only to have her visa instantaneously revoked upon arrival by a border officer. There was no explanation, no warning. An officer led her to a room, took her belongings, and ordered her to put her hands against the wall. In no time, she was in jail, in a freezing cell, with inadequate food and no phone call.
- [Jessica Brösche](#), a Berlin-based tattoo artist, had been vacationing in Mexico when she decided to travel to the US from Tijuana with an American friend, Nikita Lofving. But at the San Ysidro port of entry, immigration authorities took Brösche into custody. She was detained and jailed. After 9 days, she began punching a wall out of frustration, which landed her in solitary confinement for 8 days. Her detention lasted over a month.
- [Lucas Sielaff](#), 25, of Germany, said US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers put him and his American fiancée in handcuffs after they tried to enter the San Diego-Mexico border from Tijuana. "They accused me [of living] in America instead of visiting, but there was no proof that I overstayed anything." He was in jail for over 2 weeks.
- [Rebecca Burke](#), a British tourist on a four-month backpacking trip around North America, was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the US for 10 days after trying to enter the country via the Canadian border on a valid tourist visa. She was handcuffed and put in a cell before being taken to the Tacoma Northwest detention facility in Washington state. She was held for over 10 days in deplorable conditions.
- [Alistair Kitchen](#), an Australian man, was detained upon arrival at Los Angeles airport and deported back to Melbourne after United States border officials told him it was due to his writing on pro-Palestine protests by university students. He was detained for 12 hours and interrogated by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials during the stopover in Los Angeles. The 33-year-old said he was "clearly targeted for politically motivated reasons" and said officials interrogated

him about his views on Israel and Palestine, including his “thoughts on Hamas”.

- [Carlos Martin Gonzalez](#), a Mexican tourist, had a valid tourist visa and a ticket to fly home on July 15. He was detained during a July 7 traffic stop in Orlando and sent to Alligator Alcatraz. He described the conditions there as inhumane. He was shackled inside the airplane in which he was sent back to Mexico, after his case garnered international attention.

Press Releases

Press releases and media toolkits

- [National ACLU et al press release](#)
- [No ICE in the Cup toolkit](#)

For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACTS:

MIRA Coalition: Ellen Fleming efleming@melwoodglobal.com (617) 640-2101

MIRC: Mufalo Chitam mufaloc@maineimmigrantrights.org (207) 776-8138

New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees: Dylan Hoey dhoey@miracoalition.org

Vermont Asylum Assistance Project: Jill Martin Diaz, info@vaapvt.org

World Cup Travel Advisory Issued By New England Immigrant Advocacy Organizations

Regional coalition warns international fans, journalists, and visitors of potential rights violations during the tournament

BOSTON, MA – International travelers, fans, journalists and delegations are being urged to exercise extreme caution while traveling in Massachusetts and the United States in June and July for the 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup tournament.

New England immigrant and refugee advocacy organizations today issued a travel advisory warning that, in the absence of meaningful action from FIFA, host cities or the Trump administration, travelers to the US could be at risk of serious rights violations.

MIRA Coalition, the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition, the New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees, and the Vermont Asylum Assistance Project join more than 120 civil society organizations that have issued a national travel advisory warning that, in the absence of meaningful action from FIFA, host cities, or the Trump administration, visitors traveling to the United States could be at risk of serious rights violations. Boston is one of 11 official FIFA host cities in the US, with seven matches scheduled at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough between June 13 and July 9, making Massachusetts a significant destination for the estimated 10 million visitors expected to attend the tournament.

The advisory warns that travelers – regardless of visa status, citizenship, or documentation – could be at risk of:

Denial of entry, arrest, detention, and/or deportation

Screening of social media accounts and searches of electronic devices at ports of entry

Aggressive immigration enforcement, including racial profiling

Restrictions on free speech, protest, and assembly

Dangerous and degrading conditions in immigration detention

Journalists, athletes, and delegation members from Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and other regions are considered particularly at risk of being targeted based on national origin, race, or language.

"Soccer should be bringing families and communities together, not tearing them apart. FIFA must uphold its commitment to human rights by keeping ICE out of this year's World Cup," said Mufalo Chitam, Executive Director of Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition.

"The World Cup should be a moment when the world comes together through sport to celebrate our diversity and an international competition, but because of inaction, it could put waves of international travelers at grave risk," said Elizabeth Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition. "FIFA and the host committee must demand safety guarantees for local and international fans, vendors and journalists. We need local, state, and particularly federal leaders to join with these efforts to keep these games safe for all."

"New Hampshire has twenty active 287(g) agreements, a striking number for one of the smallest states in the country. The New Hampshire State Police is among the participating agencies, meaning enforcement authority extends to every highway and transit corridor in the state. For our community members and for travelers from Canada transiting New Hampshire en route to World Cup matches, know this - any interaction with law enforcement can have immigration consequences. We lament that the spirit of this World Cup is being diminished by enforcement priorities that specifically target our communities." said Dylan Hoey, Director of the New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees.

“As community defenders, our best strategy to reduce harm for those most impacted by U.S. immigration enforcement is to prepare for the worst while still hoping for the best,” said Jill Martin Diaz, Executive Director of the Vermont Asylum Assistance Project. “Failing to plan is planning to fail. We cannot afford to waste the relative calm of today when we know travelers may face heightened risks tomorrow. Everyone traveling for the World Cup should have the information they need to make informed decisions in the (increasingly likely) event of an ICE or CBP encounter. Here in Vermont and across northern New England, one practical warning is especially important: GPS directions can inadvertently route drivers across U.S.-Canada border crossings. We have seen at least one new detention per month in our region result from exactly that kind of GPS mistake.”

The coalition is calling on:

FIFA and the 2026 World Cup host committee to make good on their promise of a safe, welcoming, and inclusive tournament by issuing enforceable safety guarantees for all fans, journalists, vendors, and residents affected by the games

The Trump administration to ensure ICE does not target fans, journalists, vendors, or visitors attending the World Cup and to cease unconstitutional enforcement tactics, including racial profiling

Host city officials to reaffirm local protections, and to publicly commit to the safety of all visitors regardless of immigration status

FIFA New England Travel Advisory

World Cup 2026 Know Your Rights & Event Resources for New England

###

The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition is New England's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the rights and inclusion of immigrants and refugees. MIRA advances policies and provides resources that support immigrant communities across the Commonwealth.

The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of legal, social, and economic outcomes for immigrants in the state of Maine. It is made up of a diverse network of over 100 organizations with the same goal: to foster immigrant inclusion and integration through both support programs and policies.

The New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees (NHAIR) is the New Hampshire chapter of MIRA Coalition, New England's largest immigrant advocacy coalition. NHAIR engages in legislative advocacy and provides training and limited immigration legal services for community members. NHAIR also serves as a resource for public officials and community service providers through its participation in the national Welcoming America initiative. NHAIR's mission is to build power in immigrant communities and to foster welcoming and inclusive practices in government and civic life across New Hampshire.

Vermont Asylum Assistance Project (VAAP) is a legal services and technical assistance organization that exists to raise Vermont noncitizens' awareness of and access to critical immigration legal help and support. We achieve our mission through statewide direct service

delivery, pro bono coordination, peer support, community education, and administrative and legislative advocacy. Serving as a bridge between service providers and regulators across the state and region, VAAP educates the public on immigration issues and advocates for policies and practices that advance immigrants' rights.

Additional resources



Additional resources

Legal tips for travel during World Cup

<https://nipnlq.org/work/resources/what-know-about-travel-us-during-world-cup>

Dorcas International Hotline for Rhode Island:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DQnGEZSEUbe/>

FARE (Anti-discrimination in soccer/futbol, international)

<https://www.instagram.com/farenet/>

ACLU et al travel advisory

<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/over-120-civil-society-groups-issue-travel-advisory-for-u-s-head-of-fifa-world-cup>

Travel tips:

<https://miracoalition.org/news/international-travel-tips-for-green-card-holders-12-17-25/>

287g interactive map

<https://www.ilrc.org/practitioners/national-map-287g-agreements>

African Health Cup

<https://ahc-ma.org/>

287g in MA

<https://miracoalition.org/what-is-a-287g-agreement/>

Protecting Massachusetts Communities campaign

<https://miracoalition.org/protecting-our-immigrant-communities-campaign/>

Boston/Foxborough games

Saturday, June 13: Group Stage (Haiti vs. Scotland)

Tuesday, June 16: Group Stage (Iraq vs. Norway)

Friday, June 19: Group Stage (Scotland vs. Morocco)

Tuesday, June 23: Group Stage (England vs. Ghana)



Friday, June 26: Group Stage (Norway vs. France)

Monday, June 29: Round of 32

Thursday, July 9: Quarterfina