

Disappeared In America Photo Petition



June 26, 2025

Disappeared In America Photo Petition HOST TOOLKIT

#DisappearedinAmerica

[Disappeared in America Website Link Here](#)

Important: [Post Your Local Rally Here To Get Started!](#)

[Watch the 6/9 Host Training](#) **Passcode: DXu?&8ot**

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BACKGROUND:

In order to help raise awareness about the disappearances, detentions and deportations being conducted by the Trump administration without due process, the Not Above the Law coalition seeks to launch a national photo petition day of action where people assemble in front of their local courthouse, take a group photo (or selfie) with one or more Disappeared By Trump downloadable posters (with images of those who have been disappeared), and upload the photos to social media with the hashtag #DisappearedinAmerica.

To show the diverse breadth of support for due process and rule of law, we encourage people to wear the attire of their respective professions (i.e. doctors wearing white coats, lawyers wearing suits, other professional or work uniforms, etc)

It is critical that we demonstrate that Americans across the country stand in opposition to the violation of due process, and in support of those who are being targeted by the Trump administration. This photo petition action can be a great way to engage a broad cross section of your community in a creative, low lift action that can result in powerful visual content that can be shared online, mobilize others to take action, raise awareness about the issue and attract media attention.

MORE THAN JUST ONE DAY

#DisappearedInAmerica is a campaign led by a growing coalition of immigrant rights, faith, rule of law, and pro-democracy organizations. Together, we're mobilizing our members—online and in person—to shine a light on a disturbing reality: under Trump's immigration agenda, people are being forcibly detained, deported, and even disappeared. Your participation in this photo petition day of mobilization on June 26 is a crucial way to get the word out that we will not accept our neighbors being disappeared. **But, it's essential to understand that this day of visual photo petition actions is not one and done, it is one of a series to help elevate these disappearances and ensure those who have power to stop them are moved to action.**

At the center of these mobilizations there is a national faith-based moral call to action for people of faith and conscience to ask sheriffs not to cooperate with ICE in these disappearances. **This is a tangible way we can limit the Trump's administration's ability to carry them out in the future.**

Here is a quick summary of this action series:

- Signatures are being collected for the [Faith Leaders and People of Conscience Letter](#) to the National Sheriff's Association on an ongoing basis - please sign!
- Click [here](#) to learn how to [Call On Your Sheriff](#) and to not cooperate with ICE
- June 24 [Faith Leaders and People of Conscience Petition Delivery](#)
- June 26 [#DisappearedInAmerica Photo Petition Actions](#)
- June 30 [National Call Your Sheriff Training for People of Faith and Conscience](#)

Please take a look at these actions and see what you can do to engage in #DisappearedInAmerica actions from the June 26th mobilization and beyond.

TALKING POINTS FOR HOSTS

Talking Points

This Isn't Who We Are

- In America, we don't let the government secretly detain or abduct people without trial — that is not the country we claim to be.
- The Trump administration has admitted it wrongly deported Kilmar Abrego Garcia, yet it continues to defy multiple court orders — including a unanimous ruling by the Supreme Court — demanding his return.
- This kind of lawless behavior isn't just immoral, it's un-American, and we must draw a clear line against it.

Due Process

- The U.S. Constitution guarantees due process to everyone in this country, regardless of immigration status — that means no one should be detained or deported without a fair hearing.
- Disappearing Kilmar and others without a trial was a direct violation of this core principle, and the administration's continued defiance of the courts is an attack on our legal system.
- If the government can pick and choose who deserves due process, it puts all of our rights at risk.

Not a King/Checks and Balances

- In a democracy, no one — not even the president — is above the law, and court rulings are not optional.

- When the administration refuses to obey a unanimous Supreme Court decision, it undermines the very checks and balances our system depends on.
- This isn't just about immigration policy; it's about whether we're going to let one man operate like a king or hold him accountable to the Constitution.

Human Impact

- Kilmar Abrego Garcia is a father, husband, and long-time resident of Maryland — he has a wife and three children, all U.S. citizens, including one with special needs.
- Because of this unlawful abduction, his children are growing up without their father, and his family is suffering every day that he remains imprisoned abroad.
- This crisis is personal for so many families across the country, and we need to center their stories in this fight for justice.

It Could Happen to Anyone

- The Trump administration has already floated the idea of kidnapping and deporting U.S. citizens — and if they can defy the courts in one case, they can do it in others.
- What happened to Kilmar isn't just about one man — it's about whether anyone in this country is truly safe from unlawful detention and deportation.
- If we don't stop this abuse of power now, we risk normalizing a system where no one is protected from government overreach.

Local Sheriffs Must Stop Enabling ICE

- Local sheriffs are not required to help ICE enforce federal immigration laws — they have broad discretion over whether to participate in activities like detentions, transfers, or immigration raids.
 - When local law enforcement gets involved in federal deportation efforts, it puts additional strain on resources and shifts the burden of federal policy onto local communities.
 - This kind of cooperation with ICE damages public trust — especially among immigrant communities who may fear calling the police or reporting crimes, knowing local officers might work with immigration agents. This makes everyone less safe.
 - Petition Link: <https://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/NSA-ICE/>
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BEFORE THE EVENT:

Choose an event location:

- Try to choose a high foot traffic location such as a courthouse, town square, or other government building.
- This should be an area with plenty of space for people to gather.
- Do you need permits?
- Ensure your location is safe and accessible to all members of your community. The Pacific Alliance on Disability Self Advocacy has a great [guide to Accessible Event](#)

[Planning you can read here](#) (page 10 has an excellent site-visit checklist for accessibility when selecting a location).

Printing Downloadable Posters

- [Fill out the Poster Request Form by 6/17](#) (if you would like us to send you a set of 18"x24" posters to include in your photo, we need this form filled out asap so that we have time to print and ship them to you).
- A central component to this action is the images of individuals who have been disappeared, detained and deported without due process by the Trump administration.
- You can find the [print-friendly downloadable graphics here](#). Note that the optimal dimensions for printing these images are 18"x24" or "24x36".
- If you are not able to fill out the form by the 6/17 deadline, make sure to bring the files and consult with your local printer ideally at least a week or more before the action as it can sometimes take several days to print.

Volunteers

- Depending on your event, you may need many volunteers or just a few.
- Think through what roles you might need for this event and how many people should be assigned to each role. A suggested list of roles to ask people to fill:
 - ◆ Photographer to take the photo of the group with the posters.
 - ◆ Crowd wrangler to ensure the group is photo ready.
 - ◆ Someone to send out media advisories
 - ◆ Someone to make press calls
 - ◆ Someone to bring more materials

Pinning down local partners, speakers, allies, and visuals

- Local partners
 - ◆ Consider reaching out to local churches, synagogues and other communities of faith who might be interested in helping to turn out their members of this group photo action.
 - ◆ Other groups to consider could be local unions, student groups, professional associations or community organizations.
 - ◆ Try and reach out to as broad a network as possible, and remember the ask here is very simple: come up and be in a group photo in support of due process and stand against the illegal disappearances, detentions and deportations of Americans.
- Organizations/allies
 - ◆ Are you trying to get the attention of a specific person or include a specific organization? How can you best pitch the event to each organization to be involved in your event? Be sure to use language / target issues that speak to the functions and goals of those organizations. One place to start is to reference the list of [Not Above the Law](#) and [Declaration for American Democracy Coalition](#) member groups for groups with affiliates in your state.
- Event Speakers
 - ◆ It is absolutely not necessary to have speakers at your event, but if you want to include a speaking program it can add a compelling dimension to the event.
 - ◆ When thinking of speakers, consider inviting allied federal, state or local legislators, community activists and leaders.

- ◆ **Consider inviting people who have been personally impacted by illegal abductions, detentions and deportations.**
- ◆ Do your speakers represent diverse constituencies? What local elected officials can you invite?
- ◆ **Make sure if you anticipate a larger turnout you provide a *microphone* or *megaphone* the speakers can use.**
- [Speaker Invitation Sample Language](#)
- [How to find contact information for state legislators](#)

Turnout:

- Build a list of your friends, neighbors, local leaders, organizations, etc. to reach out to.
- Reach out to them.
 - ◆ Call, text, email, and Facebook message your network to invite them to the event!
 - ◆ [Here is a sample email you can use.](#)
- Keep track of responses to your calls. This will be helpful later on to remember if a person said they were coming or not. It will also help you avoid double-calling someone.
 - ◆ A great way to do this is by ensuring each guest RSVPs using the online event link for your event.
- Post a link to your event on your social media and do social media outreach!
- Send an email.
- Plan to remind your attendees 2 days before the event, the day before, and the morning of the event for best success.

During or Immediately After Your Event:

- You should post a picture of your watch event to any and all social media you have - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc. and ask others at your event to do the same.
 - ◆ Find our [social media toolkit here](#) for sample content
- If you do not have social media - that is ok, make sure the other participants post
- BE SURE to use the hashtag #DisappearedInAmerica
- It is good practice to have sample posts - with prepared language ready to post during and right after your watch event
- [Graphic Templates](#) (create your own #DisappearedInAmerica posters with the names and pictures of others)

Create a Media Plan

Boost your chances of getting media to your event

- Invite your Member of Congress or other local leaders to your event!
- Ask 1-2 local officials issue a proclamation in support of the event and join you as speakers
- Have good visuals!

Build your media list.

- [Here is a sample Media Advisory Template](#)

- Having a good list of press contacts will be critical. If you need help getting contacts, email democracyaction@citizen.org to request a media list as soon as possible
- You can create an email list by searching the internet for lists of media contacts, or just go to the websites of the local media outlets in your area and find contacts for their newsroom or assignment desk.
- See who covers this type of story not just in your local paper, but on local radio, TV, and blogs. 68% of Americans get some news from TV - so make certain to call the 2-3 most popular local TV news stations including your local FOX affiliate and 1-2 news radio stations.
- There are lots of sites that maintain contact lists. Here are a few good places to start:
 - ◆ <http://www.usnpl.com>
 - ◆ <http://www.newslink.org>
 - ◆ <http://capwiz.com/capwiz/dbq/media/>
- Ask people in your network if they have any strong personal media connections.
- Outside of traditional media, be sure to make lists of independent bloggers and photographers as well as local individuals with social media influence.

Send out the advisory before the event.

- [Media Advisory Template](#)
- List someone who will be at the event as one of your points of contact.
- Find good messengers to quote in the release.
- Email reporters with the advisory **in the body** of the email, **not** as an attachment.
- Call to follow up - this is the most important step. Ask for help with this if you expect to be busy the day before / day of the action.
- If you need help from us, ask! Email democracyaction@citizen.org and we can send your advisory for you.

Contact reporters.

- Follow up after you've sent the advisory in the body of an email (not as an attachment). Make it clear why it's incredibly important that they cover your event. This phone call is the most important part of earning media coverage.
- Call reporters on the day of the event. Give them a quick update (e.g., how many people you're expecting). Make sure they still have your advisory and resend it if they don't.
- Talk to the reporter or editor where possible; don't settle for leaving voicemails or messages with the receptionist. Your pitch calls are your best tool; make sure you're using it.

DURING THE EVENT

Prepare the Space

- Set up your location in a place where all attendees will be able to arrange themselves for the group photo.
- If you are having speakers, make sure there is a space that speakers can be positioned so they can easily be seen and heard.
- Make sure all technology is working properly.
 - ◆ Test your tools before the event starts.
 - ◆ If possible, run through the itinerary beforehand.

Prepare your volunteers:

- **Arrive at your location 15 minutes early, actively greet any early arrivals, greet the media and direct them to your spokespeople proactively.**
- Make sure everyone feels clear and good about their role.
- When you feel that you have critical mass of attendees, have your stage manager line people up with posters in front of the local courthouse (or wherever you have chosen to hold this photo petition) and have your designated group picture taker (does NOT need be a professional photographer) weigh in about how people and signs should be arranged.

Timing & Agenda:

- Don't delay more than ten minutes after your advertised start time—especially if any members of the press show up.
- Have an agreed upon agenda beforehand to help with the flow of the watch event.
- If you have speakers, follow your planned agenda and make sure to keep things moving.

Look for reporters at your event:

- Have a designated media liaison.
- Greet reporters and answer any questions they have.
- If they have cameras, help them get the shots they're looking for by ensuring your group is arranged in a photo friendly way.
- Don't be afraid to call the media back again if they didn't show up to a previous event.
- Build relationships. Reporters are people too. If they know and trust you, they're more likely to come.

Tell the story of your event

- In addition to your group photo taken by a designated picture taker, you and your attendees should take screenshots/ photos and live Tweet/Facebook and share on Instagram. Make sure to use the #DisappearedInAmerica hashtag so that we can find and amplify your posts!
- Tag the profiles of elected, orgs, news outlets, etc. as soon as you can after the event.
- Take note of the number of attendees at your event so that you can report that number to the media right afterwards.

Post on Social Media:

- You and your attendees should take as many photos of people in attendance with their signs as possible, in addition to the orchestrated group photo. Tag the profiles of elected officials, organizations, news outlets, etc. as soon as you can after the event. Be sure to announce the hashtag to your attendees in advance and encourage them to post.
- Take note of the number of attendees at your event so that you can report that number to the media right afterwards.
- Our [Social Media Toolkit](#) will have sample posts you can use.
 - ◆ **Primary hashtag:** #DisappearedinAmerica

Finally, enjoy yourself!!! You've put the work in—now it's time to watch things come together!

AFTER THE EVENT:

Follow up email to reporters: **The first thing to do is follow up with the media.** Whether you had media present or not, send a post-event press release to all media in your area immediately after the event.

- Pre-write a short follow up message you can send after the action to reporters with a still photo from the event. Ideally you'll designate one person to do this, in case you're too busy to do it yourself. Prompt sharing of photos with traditional media and on social media with the #DisappearedinAmerica tag is essential for folks to see and hear about your event.
- If you have an event with prominent partners, you can do a formal press release with them that includes quotes from the different groups about why this is important. If you go this route, make sure to ask each group for a quote early to include and have the drafted release ready to send.

Thank your volunteers and attendees:

- Email your attendees (on FB if you did a FB event) to thank them for a great action. Immediate follow up is important for recruitment and group longevity!
- Sample Follow Up Email (Coming Soon)

Finally, share out how it went!

- After the action, we'll send you an email with a link to a short survey, and you can use that survey to tell us about your event.
 - You should **send your photos and highlights about the event to democracyaction@citizen.org**
 - Post them on Twitter and Facebook using the hashtags #DisappearedinAmerica
 - **Please fill out this Report Back Form (this is a placeholder and will be updated) to let us know how your event went!**
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HOST RESOURCES, SAMPLE LANGUAGE, & THINGS TO PRINT:

Below is a comprehensive list of additional training times, who to email with questions, and all of the links you will need to use/print out for the lead up and day of your rally!

Questions?

Email democracyaction@citizen.org with any questions and ideas you have!

Sample Language:

Recruitment Email Language can be found [here](#).

Speaker Invitation Language can be found [here](#).

Media Advisory Template can be found [here](#).

Follow-up to Attendee Language can be found [here \(Coming Soon\)](#).

HOST CHECKLIST:

Here's a handy checklist that can help keep you on track throughout the planning process!

- ☐ Host Movement Call Attended
- ☐ Outreach to co-planners, co-hosts, relevant local organizations
- ☐ Time & Date Selected
- ☐ Event submitted to Mobilize
- ☐ Posters printed
- ☐ Speakers Invited (if planning to have speakers)
- ☐ Initial Recruitment Emails Sent out
- ☐ Second round of recruitment sent out
- ☐ Local Press Outreach
- ☐ Visual Materials
- ☐ Run of Show Created and Shared with Organizers & Speakers
- ☐ Event space ready to go
- ☐ Photos and descriptions of events submitted after the fact
- ☐ Celebrate yourself and your co-planners!