

Press release for immediate release

November 8th

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Media Advisory: Hundreds rallied in Boston to Stop Deportation of Single Mother Siham Biyah, Who Is Hunger-Striking Until she is reunited with her 8 year-old son

Boston, MA - Hundreds of community members, faith leaders, friends and family rallied in the evening of November 8th outside the JFK Federal Building in Boston, MA, demanding the release of community leader Siham Biyah from ICE custody. Siham is on hunger-strike until she is released and reunited with her son, who is 8 years old.

Siham Biyah, a 40 year old citizen of Morocco and mother to an 8 year old US citizen son, was detained after a regular check in with immigration authorities the morning of November 7th. She has lived in the U.S. since 1999, and is a resident of Nahant, MA. We are taking legal action to stop her deportation, but are demanding Siham's immediate release from custody.

She has been attending check-ins regularly for the past three years with no issues. We are shocked that she was taken into custody with no warning, which is not standard ICE policy.

"We were informed at the check-in that this decision was not made by the New England Field Office, and that it had come directly from DC. We have still not been provided with any reason why they have chosen to treat Siham this way, and must assume that it is politically-motivated."
- Matthew Cameron, Siham's lawyer

Siham has been an outspoken advocate for social justice, LGBTQ rights, and Arab Spring movements against repressive Middle Eastern regimes. She has been threatened with death and violence for her criticisms of the Moroccan government; deporting her to Morocco would put her life at risk.

"Our family is devastated that my sister has been detained. It will be even more devastating if she is deported, especially for my 8 year old nephew. We hope that she will be released soon so that she can go home to her son and also hope that her immigration status will be adjusted permanently so that she can continue living in the US and raising her beautiful boy. Siham loves this country, and that is why we have both emigrated here. " - Nizar, Siham's brother.

"I've known Siham and her son for six years, and she's the loving and committed parent that every child deserves. As a pediatric nurse who talks to DCF workers every day, I know how many at-risk kids they are trying to care for. There's no reason our country should be breaking apart such a vibrant, supportive family to add another kid to the foster system." - Charlotte Badler, pediatric primary care nurse in Boston.

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Photos and video can be found here (Credit to Steve Ahlquist):

<https://upriseri.com/immigration/2017-11-08-boston-rallies-to-free-siham-byar-from-ice-detention>

Facebook Event: [bit.ly/SihamRally](https://www.facebook.com/SihamRally)