

On January 4, 2016, the Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Jeh Johnson, [announced](#) that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had recently conducted operations to detain immigrants. Over the course of a few days, ICE has apprehended 121 people.

These “raids” have struck fear into the immigrant community causing confusion. There have been many rumors regarding what happened and whether they will continue to happen. Given the many myths that might create panic in our community, Catholic Charities wants to inform you on the facts:

ICE continues to follow the guidelines which were set out on [November 20, 2014](#) by the President, regarding priorities of detaining immigrants. One guideline is that immigrants who arrived in the United States *after* January 1, 2014 or who were issued deportation orders *after* January 1, 2014 would be a priority for ICE. The 121 immigrants detained by ICE at the beginning of the year all arrived in the United States *after* May 1, 2014 and had already been through the immigration process.

Catholic Charities, and many agencies across the country, has no reason to believe that ICE will begin detaining immigrants who have resided in the United States since before 2014, have no criminal record, and do not pose a threat to national security. Below are additional resources for more information on the recent ICE operations. Furthermore, should you find this information necessary, we are also providing a resource on knowing your rights as an immigrant. Please feel free to contact Catholic Charities if you have further questions.

Press Release by Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/01/04/statement-secretary-jeh-c-johnson-southwest-border-security>

NBCNews article on raids: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/dhs-announces-arrests-deportations-groups-scramble-warn-immigrants-n490011>

Previous press release by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on keeping families together: <http://www.usccb.org/news/2014/14-130.cfm>

Know Your Rights (English): <http://immigrantdefenseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/IDP-ICE-Raids-Booklet-ENG-FINAL-Jan-4-2016.pdf>

Know your rights (Spanish): <http://immigrantdefenseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/IDP-Redadas-Folleto-11-paginas-FINAL-4-enero-2016.pdf>

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