

# Statesman

## Group protests against federal immigration operation in Austin area

11:22 p.m Friday, Feb. 10, 2017



About 20 people protest Friday evening at the intersection Rundberg Lane and Lamar Boulevard against a recent federal immigration operation to capture unauthorized immigrants in the Austin area. Perla Arellano / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

More than 100 people are protesting in North Austin against a recent federal operation to detain unauthorized immigrants with criminal records.

The group is gathered at the corner of an H-E-B store on Rundberg Lane and North Lamar Boulevard, where protesters say a man was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials Friday morning.

[A video widely shared on social media](#) on Friday shows a handcuffed man sitting against a vehicle in front of a nearby Whataburger while officers who appear to be ICE agents walk around.

People started arriving about 9 p.m. and the group was still growing as of 10:30 p.m. Protesters crafted signs on the sidewalk, waved flags from the United States and Honduras to passing traffic, and chanted phrases like “our strongest weapon is solidarity” and “immigration is a human right.”

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"La inmigración es un derecho humano". [pic.twitter.com/Ehxx9Rxx9S](https://pic.twitter.com/Ehxx9Rxx9S)

— Perla Arellano (@PerlaYArellano) [February 11, 2017](#)

Protest continues, cars honk, more people join Rundberg & Lamar protest.  
[pic.twitter.com/vDtaa97yIS](https://pic.twitter.com/vDtaa97yIS)

— Perla Arellano (@PerlaYArellano) [February 11, 2017](#)

"Aquí estamos y no nos vamos, el pueblo unido jamás será vencido".  
[pic.twitter.com/phAE2V22pM](https://pic.twitter.com/phAE2V22pM)

— Perla Arellano (@PerlaYArellano) [February 11, 2017](#)

The protest follows news that ICE this week has been carrying out [an operation to capture unauthorized immigrants in Central and South Texas](#). According the Mexican consulate in Austin, more than 40 people suspected of living illegally in the U.S. have been taken into federal custody since Thursday.

“It’s not fair that my community is under attack,” said Manuel Muñoz, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, Council Number 22318.

Muñoz, who has lived in the Rundberg community for 26 years, said the raids were also an attack against public figures who have expressed support for the immigrant community, like Austin City Council Member Greg Casar, who has condemned ICE’s operation, and Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, who recently implemented a new policy at the county jail that limits cooperation with immigration officials.

Isamar Amaya Orellano said her husband told her that protesters were gathering in front of the H-E-B and she headed there with her brother, son and nephews to meet him.

Participating in the protest was important to her because “all my family live here.”

A man from Honduras who lives in the Rundberg area but didn’t want to be identified for fear of retaliation from immigration authorities said: “Family is the pillar of every society, and it is cruel to separate parents from their children.”

Protesters on Friday included University of Texas students as well as members of local activist organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens and Peaceful Streets Projects.

Organizers said they planned to return to the same corner Saturday at noon.