

Good Day,

I am writing to demand that Vermont local and state police stop joining with ICE agents to carry out illegal arrests. Their actions are creating an oppressive, totalitarian reality in our formerly free thinking state. If police agents and agencies are not held accountable their lawlessness will continue.

As part of their justification for their recent actions in Burlington, police have claimed that ICE's actions on 3/11 were part of a criminal investigation, not civil enforcement. This claim is belied by the facts: ICE detained Johana, Camila, and Cristian without any criminal charges or suspicion of criminal offense. Even if one were to accept that claim, however, Vermont's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy still prohibits police collaboration. The policy states that "federal criminal immigration law is generally not a priority," specifically naming the "unlawful reentry" charge that was used to justify the raid and discouraging police from "expend[ing] resources investigating or enforcing" such offenses.

Sincerely,

Julia Friend

Brattleboro, VT