

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF SALAH SARSOOR FROM U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the United States has long upheld the principles of due process, equal protection under the law, and fundamental fairness as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), commonly referred to as green card holders, are granted the right to reside and work in the United States under federal law, and their status cannot be revoked without adherence to due process protections; and

WHEREAS, Salah Sarsour is a Palestinian-born lawful permanent resident of the United States who has lived in the country for over 30 years and is the President of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, the largest mosque in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Salah Sarsour is a respected community leader, business owner, husband, father, and grandfather who has spent decades serving immigrant, Palestinian, and Muslim communities in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 30, 2026, Salah Sarsour was detained by agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, reportedly without clear cause and in a manner that raised serious concerns among community members and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sarsour was subsequently transferred across state lines, including to facilities in Chicago, Illinois, and later Indiana, while his family and legal representatives struggled to determine his whereabouts; and

WHEREAS, advocates and community organizations have raised concerns regarding due process, civil liberties, and the potential targeting of individuals based on their identity, background, or protected speech; and

WHEREAS, the targeting of individuals for their identity and lawful exercise of free speech undermines the values of democracy and justice that our city and nation hold dear; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sarsour has no criminal record in the United States and has long been regarded as a pillar of his community and a contributor to civic life; and

WHEREAS, the detention of community leaders under contested or unclear circumstances raises broader concerns regarding transparency, accountability, and the protection of constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, ICE has demonstrated a troubling pattern of perceived targeting of individuals who engage in constitutionally protected speech, including Mahmoud Khalil, Leqaa Korida, Mohsen Mahdawi, and others; and

WHEREAS, this committee held a subject matter hearing on March 19, 2025, calling for the release of Mahmoud Khalil in order to protect the due process rights of lawful permanent residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has a longstanding commitment to protecting immigrant communities, upholding civil rights, and ensuring that all individuals are afforded due process under the law; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chicago City Council strongly condemns the arrest of Salah Sarsour by ICE and calls upon the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to:

- **Immediately release Salah Sarsour from detention** to rejoin his wife, 6 kids, grandchildren, and community;
- **Ensure that his case is handled with full transparency and due process;**
- **Respect and protect the constitutional and civil rights** of all individuals, including lawful permanent residents;
- **Refrain from actions that may be perceived as targeting individuals based on their identity, background, or protected speech.**

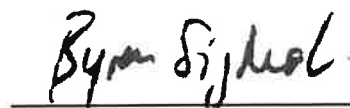
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon policymakers, legal institutions, and advocacy organizations to work collaboratively to safeguard the rights of immigrants and prevent any future abuses of power in immigration enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chicago City Council urges members of the Illinois Congressional delegation to:

- Seek immediate clarification from DHS and ICE regarding this case;
- Exercise oversight authority to ensure accountability;
- Advocate for the protection of civil liberties and due process protections for all residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of ICE, and all members of the Illinois Congressional delegation.


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Byron Sigcho-López
25th Ward Alderman