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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Workers' Rights on ICE**

*U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement colluded with guest worker employer Signal International to discourage workers from organizing and demanding fair treatment.*

WASHINGTON, DC – *Immigrant workers and civil rights advocates today revealed evidence of extensive collusion between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Signal International, LLC, to keep workers in involuntary servitude, threaten them with deportation, and retaliate against immigrant workers who attempted to organize. Below is a statement from Tyler Moran, policy director for the National Immigration Law Center:*

“The testimony we heard and the evidence that was presented today paints a damning picture of an immigration enforcement agency that put big business over investigating serious allegations of human trafficking and labor violations. When we ignore the rights of immigrant workers, we risk the rights of all workers.

“The brave men who testified today recounted tales of paying up to twenty thousand dollars for the chance to pursue the American Dream, only to be subjected to abusive behavior by their employer. Their allegations of abuse have sparked an investigation, but it has not yet yielded results, and many of them face deportation if the proper visas are not approved.

“We need policies that protect all workers from exploitation by holding employers accountable for labor law violations. When employers have the power and ability to threaten immigrant workers with deportation for exercising their labor rights, it harms all workers, including U.S. citizens whose job opportunities, wages and working conditions are undermined. It also undercuts any worksite enforcement system, because the economic incentive to exploit immigrant workers far exceeds the cost of complying with immigration, labor, or employment laws.”

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