

## POLITICS

# Video shows masked ICE agents detaining 2 outside Douglas County courthouse

ICE agents detained three people outside Douglas County Courthouse, raising concerns over courthouse enforcement.

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CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents detained at least three people outside the Douglas County Courthouse, with two of those detainments captured on video.

Midian Shofner, a community activist who runs the nonprofit Epitome of Black Excellence and Partnership, recorded the incident at the courthouse while preparing for a rally supporting [Jalin Seabron](#), who was shot and killed by police.

She noticed police activity and law enforcement agents as they were setting up for the rally and observed what appeared to be coordinated signals between individuals outside and at the courthouse entrance before the detention occurred.

"They just came out the courthouse," Shofner said in the video.

The footage shows masked men, identified as ICE agents. Shofner says at least one person was held at gunpoint by an ICE agent during the operation.



"I would have literally thought they were kidnapping these three men," Shofner said, describing the scene where agents instructed the individuals to get on the ground.



Midian Shofner said that one man was detained and then released about 15 minutes later because he could prove that he was a U.S. citizen.

The incident has raised alarm about ICE operations at courthouses, which were previously considered "sensitive areas" where enforcement actions were limited.

"It's making the community unsafe because now all of those people that were by that courthouse," said Andrea Loya with Casa De Paz. "If they were victims and they were immigrants themselves, they are going to be wondering if they are safe for testimony or if they are safe for reporting the next crime for them."

Loya added that current enforcement appears to operate outside previous protocols.

"It's terrifying, and I think now what we are seeing is that there are no rules," Loya said. "They are not playing by any rule book."

For Shofner, the detention evoked a parallel with the police brutality the Black community has experienced.

"Watching those individuals being dehumanized and being taken and having to scream for their life, that is something that I'll never normalize in my heart," Shofner said. "It aligns very parallel with the continued killings and the continued torture that the Black community experiences with law enforcement. It really is all intersected, and that's why we should be standing together in this fight," Shofner said.

While Casa de Paz encourages immigrants to know their rights when encountering law enforcement, Loya emphasized that changing tactics makes this challenging. Community members are advised to seek education and community support as ICE operations continue to take place.

