

ICE Agents in Ski Masks Snatch Migrant Out of Lawyer's Car

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents clad in tactical gear and ski masks stopped a Connecticut lawyer's car outside a courthouse and arrested his client, a Polish immigrant working to adjust his visa status.

Adrian Baron, a New Britain-based attorney, detailed the incident on social media, describing how multiple blacked-out vehicles surrounded his car after he left a local courthouse.

"You might have heard that ICE is only going after hardened criminals, drug dealers, and gang members. It's simply not true," Baron said in a statement.

Newsweek reached out to ICE for comment via email.

Why It Matters

The event has sparked concern over the aggressive enforcement tactics employed by ICE agents and other federal agencies as they look to carry out President Donald Trump's mass deportation program.

Immigration policy continues to be a top concern in the U.S., especially after the reelection of Trump, who centered his campaign on mass deportation and tougher border security measures. His administration has pledged to carry out the largest mass deportation effort in U.S. history, focusing on the estimated 11.7 million individuals living in the country without legal status.



File: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers wait to detain a person in Silver Spring, Maryland, on January 27, 2025. Alex Brandon/AP

What To Know

Baron, a partner at Podorowsky Thompson & Baron, had just finished defending several clients when the incident occurred, according to his statement.

He was giving his client a ride home when his car was boxed in by four federal vehicles. Armed agents from ICE and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) ordered Baron to shut off his engine before removing his client from the vehicle.

According to Baron, the immigrant had legally entered the country on a tourist visa, which he later overstayed. While overstaying a visa is a civil infraction, not a criminal offense, it has become a growing target of federal immigration enforcement.

Baron criticized the use of heavily armed federal agents for such cases, arguing that resources should be focused on criminals and public threats rather than individuals trying to adjust their status legally.

"Instead of ATF guys going after gun smugglers, DEA agents going after drug dealers, FBI going after terrorists, they are instead using these guys to go after undocumented immigrants. For example, a guy who overstayed a visa."

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"In my opinion, this was purely for optics and show. A waste of resources of multiple agencies," he said.

Baron also raised concerns over the secrecy surrounding his client's detention, noting that the man's family had no idea that he had been taken.

"My witnessing the incident is the only reason his family knows why he didn't come home. They still don't know where he was taken," he said.

Baron also expressed disbelief at the level of force used by authorities.

"The guys that go after gun smugglers and bomb makers. Like I'm Pablo Escobar or something. Thank God I dropped my 4-year-old off at preschool earlier that morning."

Baron later reiterated in a social media post, "I will also state emphatically that the agents involved were respectful and professional towards me and my client. I know they have a job to do. I think that this is as much a disservice to them."

What People Are Saying

Attorney Adrian Baron, in a statement: "My client is a Polish immigrant with a family. His violation was overstaying a legal tourist visa. He didn't sneak over the border. He entered legally. His visa expired."

"Overstaying a visa is often considered a civil infraction. If you overstay a tourist visa, there are ways you can fix your status. You may be eligible if you are an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, such as a spouse, parent, or unmarried child under 21. You must have entered the U.S. legally, even if your visa expired and you should not have any criminal offenses or other immigration violations. This guy was in the process of adjusting his status."

"I'm not against deportations when warranted. I have no objection to gang members and criminals being deported. And yes, you can be deported for overstaying a visa. People need to obey our laws. But, even if you agree with these deportations, there was no reason for

such a gross public display of force over a guy with an expired tourist visa."

What Happens Next

Baron's client remains in custody.

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