

Maine father murdered by immigration Gestapo, prompting protests

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Less than one week after Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents murdered construction worker Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Texas, the immigration Gestapo shot and killed another immigrant worker Monday morning in Biddeford, Maine.

The victim has been identified by neighbors as Joan Sebastian Guerrero, a 26-year-old originally from Colombia, according to the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition and Presente! Maine. Nelson Elias, a neighbor of Guerrero, told the *Portland Press Herald* that the young man had a wife and daughter. After hearing the shooting, Elias stepped outside his house, located across the street from where it occurred, and saw Guerrero's wife crying while holding her daughter's hand.

Videos and eyewitness testimony indicate that immigration agents pursued Guerrero through downtown Biddeford in unmarked vehicles, rammed the passenger side of his white sedan and surrounded it with their weapons drawn. After agents fired at least six shots, footage shows them pulling his limp body from the driver's seat, allowing his wounded head to strike the pavement and shackling his wrists behind his back as he lay dying.

The young father was not even the target of the warrant the agents were attempting to execute, according to Maine Senator Angus King, citing a phone call from Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin.

Federal officials have already offered conflicting accounts of the killing. Shortly after the shooting, Senator King said the Department of Homeland Security had told his office that Guerrero had tried to hit immigration agents with his vehicle. Hours later, however, ICE issued a written statement that made no claim that Guerrero had attempted to strike or run over

an agent. It stated only that he "attempted to flee the scene" and that an officer, purportedly "fearing for public safety," opened fire.

The disappearance of the initial allegation is highly significant. ICE's official statement does not identify any immediate threat to an agent or member of the public that could conceivably justify deadly force. By its own revised account, Guerrero was shot for attempting to drive away.

Witnesses said the father was still alive when agents pulled him from the vehicle. "He was bleeding profusely from the head," Biddeford resident Daniel Boucher told the *Portland Press Herald*. "He was talking. He said, 'I tried to stop.'"

Within minutes of being removed from the vehicle, the man's legs stopped moving. Boucher believed he had watched him die in the street.

Em Akerley, another Biddeford resident, told the *Herald* that she heard gunshots around 7:15 a.m. She looked out her window and saw a white car slowly circling the intersection outside her home. It appeared to her that the driver had no control of the vehicle.

She said she believed agents directed the white car into another vehicle to stop it because the driver was incapacitated. Akerley then saw agents pull the driver from the white sedan and place him on the pavement.

"No one went to him and no one did anything," she told the newspaper through tears.

Reflecting widespread sentiment in the community and throughout the country, both Boucher and Akerley questioned why Guerrero had to be killed.

"He was saying he was trying to stop and then he died. Why? Because he was driving a car?" Boucher told the *Herald*.

Akerley said, "I don't know who this man was, but he didn't deserve to be executed in the street. I'm

pretty [expletive] tired of people dying in the streets.”

As in the other murders carried out by ICE agents, Guerrero’s killers have yet to be identified, much less arrested. Federal immigration agents have been given virtual immunity to kill workers, while their victims are posthumously smeared as criminals and threats. In capitalist America, armed agents of the state can gun down a worker in broad daylight and remain anonymous and free, protected by official lies, withheld evidence and investigations designed to produce no charges.

The killing of the 26-year-old Colombian father is the 11th fatal shooting by federal immigration agents since Trump returned to the White House. At least 54 more people have died while in ICE custody, while more than 63,000 immigrants are presently imprisoned throughout the administration’s expanding network of federal and for-profit concentration camps.

The killing provoked an immediate eruption of anger in Biddeford, a working-class city of roughly 23,000 people located 18 miles southwest of Portland. Hundreds of residents poured into the streets, marching through downtown Biddeford and denouncing ICE as murderers.

Built around the enormous textile mills powered by the Saco River, Biddeford drew generations of Irish, French Canadian and other immigrant workers. Although the mills have largely been converted into apartments and commercial space, health care, education, construction, retail and service industries now employ much of the city’s population.

The similarities between the killings in Maine and Texas are unmistakable. Both victims were workers authorized to work in the United States. Both were driving when ICE agents in unmarked vehicles surrounded them. Both were shot behind the wheel. In both cases, the agency immediately blamed the victim for his own death, claiming he had used his vehicle against agents, despite video and eyewitness evidence contradicting the official account.

The same pattern extends to the investigations that followed. While the DHS conceals the identities of the agents involved and withholds evidence, state and local officials hold press conferences to urge patience and prepare the public for investigations that could drag on for months or years without producing charges.

At a press conference in Houston, Texas, Harris

County District Attorney Sean Teare acknowledged that “the federal government is not collaborating at this point” with his office’s investigation into the killing of Salgado. He warned that the investigation could take “many months” or even “years.”

Nearly a week after Salgado was gunned down, Teare admitted that “no one on the state level” knows the name or names of the agents involved in the killing “or where they are right now.”

Roughly six months after Renée Good was murdered by ICE agent Jonathan Ross in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Alex Pretti was gunned down by Customs and Border Protection thugs Jesus Ochoa and Raymundo Gutierrez, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty confirmed Monday that the state had obtained hard drives previously withheld by the federal government containing body-camera footage and surveillance videos of the shootings.

Moriarty also confirmed that the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) had obtained Good’s car. She did not announce any charges against the killers of Good or Pretti, claiming that the state needed more time to sift through the evidence it had received.

Moriarty went out of her way to praise the federal authorities that had withheld the evidence for months. “We are just extremely grateful that they recognized the need to get back to what’s normal here,” she said.



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