

**Statement of Philip Hwang**  
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Kebin's case is the latest chapter in a long history of abuse and misconduct by immigration agents. During the Great Depression, U.S. agents illegally arrested and deported hundreds of thousands of American citizens and legal residents of Mexican descent. U.S. citizen children were illegally taken into custody and, in many cases, deported by U.S. officials. In the 1950's, immigration agents targeted Latino immigrants and U.S. citizens in a series of raids across the country. The U.S. referred to these raids as "Operation Wetback."

In recent years, U.S. immigration agents have illegally arrested legal residents and American citizens of all nationalities, without cause. This is the ninth case that the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights has brought against immigration agents in Northern California. In one of our earliest cases, immigration agents handcuffed and shackled an American citizen of Nigerian descent to a chair for over four hours at the airport because agents refused to believe that she was an American citizen, even though she showed agents her U.S. passport.

During recent immigration raids, government agents have entered homes without warrants and threatened and intimidated community members. Immigration agents have arrested American citizens, without cause. Community members have been stopped on the street and asked for their immigration papers, based on the color of their skin.

Government agents have broken the law and violated the civil rights of citizens, immigrants and refugees.

The latest, most shocking incident is the arrest of Kebin Reyes, a six-year old boy, by government agents. Kebin was taken out of his home in the early hours of the morning, locked in a room all day, and lied to by government agents. The agents never apologized to Kebin for how they treated him. This lawsuit is an important step in holding the government and the agents accountable.

In the months ahead, there will likely be more raids in communities across America. In the 1950's, the U.S. referred to the raids as "Operation Wetback." The name of the raids have changed, but the illegal tactics are still the same. U.S. citizens and legal residents are being taken out of their homes, without cause. Children are being mistreated. People of color are being rounded up by U.S. officials, without any regard for their rights.

We call upon the government to act responsibly and to treat all community members with respect. Government agents must receive proper training and be held accountable for their actions. Government agents who commit abuses must be fired. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights will be watching the government closely in the months ahead. We will take action to protect the rights of community members and hold the government accountable.

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