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## Comunidad Colectiva sues ICE over the surveillance of organizers

For immediate release  
May 13, 2020

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Today, [Comunidad Colectiva](#) filed a [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) lawsuit](#) against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for refusing to release information regarding its surveillance of the organization and its members.

Charlotte has been ground zero for ICE enforcement over the years with the start of the 287(g) program in 2006, which resulted in over 15,000 people placed in removal proceedings. [Comunidad Colectiva](#) continued the legacy of organizers before them in fighting back against the 287(g) program which led to its repeal.

Comunidad Colectiva and its lead activist demand an answer from ICE, which has investigated and tormented their communities for years.

“Through this complaint, we want to let ICE know that we will not be intimidated by their fearmongering tactics. Everyone has the right to confront injustice, especially if it is at the hands of state actors who must be held accountable,” said Stefania Arteaga, Co-Founder of [Comunidad Colectiva](#).

“ICE has an unconstitutional policy of selective intimidation and retaliation against immigrant activists who speak out about harmful immigration policies, including the leadership of Comunidad Colectiva. This lawsuit will bring transparency and accountability to ICE’s actions,” said [Sejal Zota](#), legal director at [Just Futures Law](#).

[Comunidad Colectiva](#) is represented by [Just Futures Law](#), the [Immigration Law and Policy Clinic of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law](#), and Clark Hill PLC in the FOIA lawsuit.

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