

American Civil Liberties Union of Maine
121 Middle Street, Suite 200
Portland, Maine 04101

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions
The Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Immigration and Customs Enforcement Arrests at Maine Courthouses

Dear Mr. Attorney General and Mr. Secretary Kelly:

We were deeply disturbed to learn of the seizure by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents of a person at Cumberland County Superior Court in Portland, Maine on April 6, 2017. We write to add our names to the growing chorus of attorneys from across the country and across the political spectrum speaking out against the practice of ICE arrests at courthouses.

ICE arrests at courthouses undermine the fundamental constitutional guarantee that all people have the right to seek redress from our court system—including people accused of crimes, witnesses to crimes, and victims of crimes. No one should be afraid to seek justice because of his or her immigration status.

The Department of Homeland Security currently regards places of worship (such as churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples) as well as religious

ceremonies (such as funerals and weddings) as “sensitive locations” where ICE enforcement actions should be avoided. Courthouses are sacred to our democracy, and they should also be included on the Department’s list of sensitive locations.

We urge you to end this practice immediately, and to communicate this directive to your staff throughout the country and to the public.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Eben Albert	Ryan C. Almy	Oamshri Amarasingham
Nancy Anderson	Jennifer A. Archer	Cynthia C. Arn
Michael Asen	Emily G. Atkins	Amber R. Attalla
John C. Bannon	Joseph Barbieri	Connor Beatty
Henry Beck	Rachael Becker McEntee	Seth Berner
Alison Beyea	Timothy H. Boulette	Lauri Boxer-Macomber
Lee K. Bragg	Christopher B. Branson	Max I. Brooks
Juliet T. Browne	E. James Burke	Barbara A. Cardone
Michael E. Carey	Teresa M. Cloutier	Sarah E. Coburn
Catherine R. Connors	Emily L. Cooke	Mary E. Costigan
Carrie Cote	Stephanie Cotsirilos	Robert P. Cummins
Roberta L. de Araujo	Kevan Lee Deckelmann	Anthony R. Derosby
Jared S. des Rosiers	Amy Dieterich	Benjamin Donahue
Elaine Driscoll	Paul F. Driscoll	Susan B. Driscoll
Andrew S. Edwards	Meredith C. Eilers	Brian Eng
Angus Ferguson	Joan Fortin	Maria Fox
Carol J. Garvan	John W. Geismar	Philip Gleason
Kyle Glover	Abigail Greene Goldman	Betts J. Gorsky
Rachel E. Green	Rebecca West Greenfield	Gordon F. Grimes
Suzanne Grosh	James B. Haddow	Thomas Hallett
Daphne Hallett Donahue	Wendy Harlan	William S. Harwood
Danna Hayes	Zachary L. Heiden	Sara S. Hellstedt
Merritt T. Heminway	Michael C. Hernandez	Peter F. Herzog
Melissa A. Hewey	Toby Hollander	Martha Howell
Marcus B. Jaynes	Lee Johnson	Katherine A. Joyce
Charles J. Kahill	David M. Kallin	Stacey Mondschein Katz
Dennis C. Keeler	Daniel Keenan	Ronald Kreisman
Amy D. Kuhn	Matthew J. LaMourie	Peter J. Landis

Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Arrests at Maine Courthouses--3

Nelson J. Larkins	Ken Lehman	Margaret Coughlin LePage
T. Griffin Leschefske	Michael J. Levey	Molly Putnam Liddell
Ariel Linet	Paul Linet	Elizabeth Little
David A. Lourie	Suzanne Breselor Lowell	Arnold Macdonald
Anne Macri	Jana K. Magnuson	Elizabeth Mahoney
Andrea Mancuso	Peter G. Mancuso	Charles W. March
Robyn G. March	Christopher Marot	Jeana M. McCormick
Kelly W. McDonald	Linda McGill	Kai McGintee
Powers McGuire	Alysia Melnick	Jonathan G. Mermin
Robyn Merrill	M. Kathleen Minervino	Matthew D. Morgan
Stephen W. Moriarty	Joseph D. Moser	Sara Murphy
Peter S. Murray	Tina Heather Nadeau	Stacey D. Neumann
Christopher Northrop	Phil Notis	Richard L. O'Meara
Wendy Paradis	Cheryl Parker	Liam J. Paskvan
John Paterson	Patricia A. Peard	Logan E. Perkins
Russell B. Pierce	Peter S. Plumb	Jeremy Pratt
Patrice Putman	Vivek J. Rao	Stephen M. Rappaport
Nolan L. Reichl	Kimberly Richardson	Luke S. Rioux
Susan Roche	Daniel J. Rose	Robert J. Ruffner
Michael C. Ryan	Mary Schendel	Andrew Schmidt
Ronald W. Schneider, Jr.	Tina Schneider	Sigmund D. Schutz
Leonard Sharon	Leslie Silverstein	Ellen Simmons
Theodore Small	Beth A. Smith	Deirdre M. Smith
Michael S. Smith	David Soley	Annie E. Stevens
Stacy O. Stitham	Meagan Sway	Chistopher C. Taintor
Louise K. Thomas	Michael D. Traister	Sharon Anglin Treat
Vendean Vafiades	Virginia G. Villa	Sally Wagley
Matthew S. Warner	Robin Watts	Anna R. Welch
Michael J. Welch	David Weyrens	Michael Whipple
Lucinda E. White	Valerie Z. Wicks	Lauren Willie
Judith Fletcher Woodbury	Jack Woodcock	Andrew Wright
Jeffrey N. Young	Timothy Zerillo	