



2025 RESULTS

A LIFELINE TO JUSTICE ACROSS BORDERS



In a year marked by fear, instability, and government overreach, Justice in Motion has been a lifeline for migrants and deported immigrants.

Across the U.S., immigrants are being rushed through deportation proceedings, often before they can speak with a lawyer or even arrange care for their children. Chaos has become a deliberate policy tool of the U.S. government – designed to expel immigrants, silence those who seek justice, and violate well-established policies and laws. **This is a challenge not just to immigrant rights, but to the fundamental rights that protect us all.**

After years spent strengthening and expanding our Defender Network – now comprising over 70 locally-led human rights organizations and lawyers in Mexico and Central America – **we were ready for this moment.**

In 2025, we extended a lifeline across borders and into courtrooms, communities, and homes. In the pages ahead, see how Justice in Motion's lifeline made all the difference – turning despair into hope and possibility into justice.



A Defender's Creativity Frees a Child from Detention

An unaccompanied child from Nicaragua couldn't be released from U.S. custody because no one could locate family to take him in. The boy was so young that he couldn't tell his advocate where he was born – or even the full name on his birth certificate.

A Justice in Motion Defender proposed a creative solution: he sent the advocate a list of interpretation questions to identify key words unique to specific regions of Nicaragua and Honduras. This linguistic insight narrowed the search and led to the child's birth certificate – and a cousin in the U.S. ready to care for him. Through ingenuity and persistence, our Defender ensured that a child once lost in the system found both family and safety.

DEPORTATION RESPONSE INITIATIVE

Justice in Motion is leveraging the power of the Defender Network and our relationships with U.S. lawyers and policymakers to extend a lifeline across borders when deportations violate civil, parental, or constitutional rights.

Preparing Allies to Act

We trained over 1,000 lawyers and movement leaders across the U.S., expanding their ability to support deported immigrants, and shared a rapid referral tool so they can request urgent cross-border help when they suspect someone was illegally deported or their rights were violated during deportation.

Delivering Justice Without Delay

Defenders are interviewing deportees to screen for rights violations and connect them to legal counsel – creating a path to justice.

Building a Record of Truth

Defenders are documenting firsthand accounts of deportees' experiences during their arrest and deportation, creating a powerful record to inform legal action, policy reform, and public understanding.

Protecting Parents' Rights Across Borders

Our Parental Rights Across Borders Initiative enables deported parents' remote participation in custody and child welfare decisions — keeping children safe and connected, and avoiding unnecessary adoptions that permanently separate families.

Helping Congress Fight for Migrants

Our policy advocacy helps ensure that lawmakers understand the realities on the ground – and have the tools to demand accountability. This year we:

- Prepared members of Congress with key information for a hearing with U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem to expose ICE misconduct towards migrant parents and U.S. citizen children.
- Supported oversight inquiries into the legality and nuances of third-country deportations, as well as ICE policy and actions regarding the rights of detained parents.
- Led a rapid response to media and congressional interest in deported U.S. citizen children, and prepared a congressional caucus with information and communications guidance they used to advocate for these families.

Threads of a Lifeline: Stories of Support for Deported Immigrants



U.S. Citizen Children Deported Against Their Will

In several cases, U.S. citizen children were deported with their mothers, against the family's wishes. We provided immediate assistance in their countries of origin, conducted legal screenings, and fielded journalists' requests with a communications strategy that protected the families' interests across media, legal, and policy spaces.



A Mexican National Deported to South Sudan

In a shocking third-country deportation, a Defender documented violations of a Mexican man's rights and ensured his experience was recorded for legal and policy action.

JUSTICE ACROSS BORDERS: 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Using our powerful model for transnational collaboration, we are proving that borders cannot be used to hide abuse – or to shield perpetrators from accountability.

316

211

49

22K

IMMIGRATION CASES

Preventing deportations by helping migrants access asylum and protections.

CIVIL RIGHTS CASES

Reunifying families and delivering accountability for abuses during arrest, detention, and deportation.

LABOR RIGHTS CASES

Ensuring exploited workers received the wages and justice they deserve.

MIGRANTS IMPACTED

These cases impacted over 22,000 migrants and their families.

Family Separation: Eight Years Later, Families Need Protection

Nearly a decade after family separation under the first Trump administration, Justice in Motion continues to provide a lifeline, helping over 1,000 families in Mexico and Central America achieve justice under the *Ms. L v ICE* settlement.

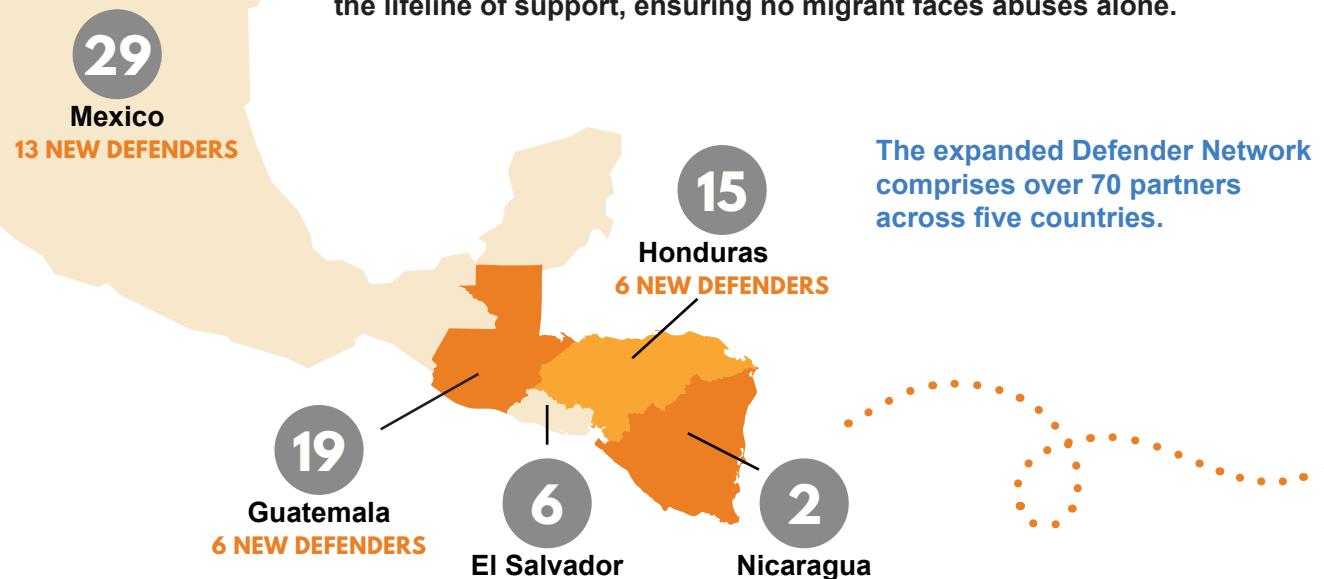


Justice for Workers After Harmful Pesticide Exposure

When an advocate called for help with a lawsuit over pesticide exposure, one of the workers had already returned to rural Mexico, struggling with health issues linked to the job. A Defender kept the worker connected to the case for the next two years and provided expert advice to help the advocate contact additional class members who were no longer in the U.S. **Because of that dedication, dozens of workers received financial compensation and acknowledgment of the harm they endured.**

AN EXPANDED DEFENDER NETWORK

One way we prepared for this moment was through a multi-year initiative to expand and strengthen the Justice in Motion Defender Network. This year, we completed that major expansion, adding 25 new members, including our first Defenders along the U.S.-Mexico border. **Each Defender we add strengthens the lifeline of support, ensuring no migrant faces abuses alone.**



PREVENTING ABUSE OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Migrants on H-2 visas build, harvest, and sustain the U.S. economy – but too often, they face wage theft, unsafe conditions, and labor trafficking; and workers who speak out risk retaliation and deportation. While we continue to advocate for improving these visas, we're strengthening awareness and accountability across the countries of origin so migrants can protect their rights in the U.S.

Training Ministries of Labor

We trained over 100 Honduran and Guatemalan officials to better support their citizens employed in the U.S., equipping them to provide oversight and support.

Referrals to Legal Assistance

Our new referral system allows Ministry staff to contact us when their citizens encounter issues while working in the U.S. Hundreds of workers have already benefited from support provided through these connections.

Know-Your-Rights Education

Working with Defenders and U.S. agency officials, we developed Know-Your-Rights booklets and workshops to prepare workers before they leave their home communities.

By empowering workers before they migrate, we extend the lifeline across the entire journey – ensuring that rights don't end at the border.

Photo credits: David Bacon; Kyle Grillot for Al Otro Lado; Justice in Motion.



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for migrants
across borders.

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Where Your Donation Goes

29%
Strengthening
the Defender
Network
10%
Fundraising

