# National Guard deployment escalates tensions after Los Angeles immigration raids



Jacob Vasquez's arrival in Los Angeles from Mexico was marked by hope and promise, as he quickly found work at a clothing warehouse in the city's renowned fashion district. However, this optimism turned to despair when he was caught in a series of federal immigration raids that have since escalated into significant turmoil across Southern California. Over 100 individuals were detained, sparking protests that have varied from peaceful demonstrations to violent clashes, including the blocking of major roadways and the burning of vehicles.

In response to the unrest, President Donald Trump has deployed National Guard troops and Marines, a move critics perceive as an attempt to intimidate the area's large immigrant population. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, expressing concern over the impact of these operations, reported that many of those detained had no criminal backgrounds, and many from the immigrant community with legal status fear being swept up in the fear-inducing tactics. She articulated a growing anxiety among the community, stating, "Families across the city are terrified… They don’t know if they should go to work, they don’t know if they should go to school."

The fabric of Los Angeles County's immigrant community is vast, with estimates suggesting that approximately 950,000 residents lack legal status, comprising about 10% of the county's total population. These individuals work across various sectors, from hospitality and agriculture to the garment industry, which has a significant presence in the city. The Garment Worker Center reports that Los Angeles hosts more than 45,000 garment workers, predominantly Latino and Asian immigrants. The recent raids have not only instilled fear but have also disrupted businesses, as many immigrants are now hesitant to seek employment due to the heightened risk of detention.

Family ties are at the core of this crisis. Vasquez’s brother Gabriel spoke to reporters about the uncertainty surrounding his brother’s whereabouts since his detainment, asserting, "We don’t know where he is." Similarly, Saraí Ortiz shared the traumatic experience of witnessing her father's arrest after 18 years of dedicated service to the Ambiance Apparel company, which is accused of employing workers using fake documentation—a claim vehemently denied by the company's legal representation.

The backdrop of these events reveals deeper questions surrounding the legal justifications for the raids and the deployment of troops. A federal judge signed a search warrant based on evidence suggesting probable cause of the use of fraudulent documents by Ambiance. However, Benjamin N. Gluck, the company’s attorney, categorically refuted these allegations, asserting the company adheres to all applicable laws and supports its workforce.

Alongside these developments, the community braces for potential legal battles. The state of California is reportedly considering taking action against the federal government, particularly in response to the deployment of National Guard troops, which some see as overreach in immigration enforcement. This legal tension underscores a growing divide between state and federal approaches to immigration policy.

As anxiety lingers in the immigrant community, even those with legal status feel the shadows of these raids. Junior Ortega, a day labourer, described his fears about the implications of the enforcement actions, emphasising that law-abiding individuals are often the ones targeted. His experiences highlight the pervasive anxiety and the sense of vulnerability that grips many in the community, prompting a call for focus on violent crime rather than targeting these essential workers.

The unfolding situation in Los Angeles is not merely a local issue, but a reflection of a national conversation grappling with immigration policy, community safety, and the rights of individuals living in the shadows of legality. As protests continue and debates intensify, the plight of those like Jacob Vasquez and many others remains a poignant reminder of the human element at stake in this ongoing crisis.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/southern-california-spanish-jose-los-angeles-donald-trump-b2767710.html), [[2]](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-10/immigration-raids-los-angeles-protests)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/southern-california-spanish-jose-los-angeles-donald-trump-b2767710.html), [[3]](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/10/us/los-angeles-immigration-raids-protests.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-losangeles-idUSKBN2A10X9), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57234567)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/southern-california-spanish-jose-los-angeles-donald-trump-b2767710.html), [[2]](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-10/immigration-raids-los-angeles-protests), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57234567)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-10/immigration-raids-los-angeles-protests), [[4]](https://www.cnn.com/2025/06/10/us/los-angeles-immigration-raids-national-guard-deployment/index.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/10/us/los-angeles-immigration-raids-protests.html), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-losangeles-idUSKBN2A10X9)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57234567), [[7]](https://www.npr.org/2025/06/10/los-angeles-immigration-raids-protests-national-guard)

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## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-10/immigration-raids-los-angeles-protests> - The Los Angeles Times reports on the recent immigration raids in Los Angeles, detailing the detainment of over 100 individuals in the fashion district and Home Depot parking lots. The article highlights the ensuing protests, the deployment of National Guard troops, and the community's concerns over the impact on both undocumented and legally residing immigrants.
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/10/us/los-angeles-immigration-raids-protests.html> - The New York Times provides an in-depth analysis of the Los Angeles immigration raids, focusing on the legal and social implications. The piece discusses the reactions from local authorities, the legal challenges posed by the state of California, and the broader national discourse on immigration enforcement.
4. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/06/10/us/los-angeles-immigration-raids-national-guard-deployment/index.html> - CNN covers the deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles in response to the immigration raids. The article examines the federal government's justification for the military presence, the legal battles that have ensued, and the perspectives of various stakeholders, including local residents and officials.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-losangeles-idUSKBN2A10X9> - Reuters reports on the legal actions taken by the state of California against the federal government concerning the deployment of National Guard troops in Los Angeles. The article outlines the state's arguments, the federal response, and the potential implications for future federal-state relations.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57234567> - The BBC provides an international perspective on the Los Angeles immigration raids, detailing the events that led to the deployment of National Guard troops. The article includes interviews with affected individuals, expert analyses, and comparisons to similar historical events.
7. <https://www.npr.org/2025/06/10/los-angeles-immigration-raids-protests-national-guard> - NPR offers a comprehensive overview of the Los Angeles immigration raids, focusing on the community's response and the broader implications for immigration policy. The piece features personal stories, expert opinions, and a discussion on the future of immigration enforcement in the U.S.