

CALIFORNIA

ICE raids across L.A. spark backlash; Trump officials vow to continue operations



ICE officers try to leave the scene after performing a raid but protesters block their way in Chinatown on Saturday in Los Angeles. (Luke Johnson / Los Angeles Times)

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Fallout from aggressive U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement sweeps in Los Angeles continued Saturday, with fierce pushback from protesters, open sparring

between L.A. leadership and federal officials and the Trump administration vowing to send the National Guard to the city to assist with operations.

Border czar Tom Homan told [Fox News](#) the Guard would be deployed Saturday night to help with operations. It's unclear how many Guard members would arrive and exactly what their role would be.

It came after a day of clashes between federal agents and protesters at a Home Depot in Paramount that was broadcast nationwide throughout the day.

The raids sparked outrage among state and local leaders.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday condemned the ICE raids in Los Angeles and the response by the Trump administration, and said he has deployed additional CHP officers to L.A. highways to “keep the peace” but not aid the federal actions.

“The federal government is sowing chaos so they can have an excuse to escalate. That is not the way any civilized country behaves,” [Newsom said in a statement posted on social media.](#)



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Live coverage: Trump administration sending National Guard troops to L.A. amid clashes over raids

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Newsom said the Trump administration is moving to take over the California National Guard and deploy 2,000 soldiers, which he said was “purposefully inflammatory” and would only escalate tensions.

Mayor Karen Bass spoke out a day earlier: “As Mayor of a proud city of immigrants, who contribute to our city in so many ways, I am deeply angered by what has taken place.

These tactics sow terror in our communities and disrupt basic principles of safety in our city,” she [posted on X on Friday](#) evening. “We will not stand for this.”

“We will,” FBI Director Kash Patel [replied Saturday morning](#).

Patel’s response came a day after immigration officials descended on businesses around Los Angeles [and arrested 44 people](#) on suspicion of immigration violations and another for obstruction. ICE has arrested a total of 118 people in L.A. in connection with suspected immigration violations this week, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

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Immigration rights advocates said conditions at the Metropolitan Detention Center downtown had become overcrowded, with 200 people packed into a facility built to hold only 100.

“They didn’t have access to food and water on a schedule. They definitely don’t have access to their medicines,” said U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles), who arrived at the facility to check conditions Saturday morning along with fellow representatives Luz Rivas (D-North Hollywood), Norma Torres (D-Pomona) and Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana).

“That’s not healthy for anybody,” Gomez said. “They do have a right to make sure that they’re treated fairly and that they’re allowed to see their attorney. So we’re here because

federal law says that we as members of Congress can show up and do a facility check on all those different issues.”

A federal agent turned the lawmakers away and told them to come back on Monday, the group said.

“That is not what the law says,” Rivas told reporters afterward. “We should be allowed any time for an oversight visit, and that was our intention — to come in to check in on the facility and to get a briefing.”

As advocates and families of detainees scrambled for information, federal officials made clear Saturday that more arrests were on the way.

“Federal law enforcement operations are proceeding as planned this weekend in Los Angeles County,” U.S. Atty. Bill Essayli said on X. “Anyone who obstructs federal agents will face arrest and prosecution.”

On Friday evening, crowds gathered outside the federal detention center in downtown Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Police Department declared an unlawful assembly and ordered the roughly 200 remaining protesters to disperse around 7 p.m.

Following reports of a small group of “violent individuals” throwing large pieces of concrete at officers, police authorized the use of so-called less-lethal munitions at 8 p.m., LAPD said. A citywide tactical alert was issued shortly thereafter.

As reports of new raids emerged Saturday morning, federal officials criticized protesters’ actions and warned of further consequences.

“The Left’s dangerous rhetoric against brave American law enforcement has fueled hatred and inspired violence. Democrats must immediately call on their supporters to stop the attacks on ICE officers who are simply doing their job — and have every right to

do so,” White House spokesperson Abigail Johnson said in a statement. “To those who harm law enforcement officers, know this: you will be held accountable to the full extent of the law.”



The Department of Homeland Security described the protesters as “violent rioters.”

Advocates have vowed to continue fighting back against the arrests.

“Our community is under attack and has been terrorized,” Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, or CHIRLA, told the crowd of protesters. “These are workers, these are fathers, these are mothers.”



Immigrant rights activists rallied and protested multiple immigration sweeps across Los Angeles on Friday. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

The scene outside one targeted business in the Fashion District turned violent after federal immigration authorities used flash-bang grenades and pepper spray on people protesting the employees' arrests. Hours later, hundreds rallied outside the Los Angeles Federal Building to condemn the crackdown and demand the release of Service Employees International Union California President David Huerta, who was injured and detained while documenting a raid, according to a statement from the labor union.

Carlos González Gutiérrez, consul general of Mexico in Los Angeles, said his team has identified at least 11 Mexican nationals who were detained during raids across the Southland. The office is offering them legal services, and he said he is monitoring detention conditions.

"The detention center seems to be at full capacity," he said. "Every cell seems to be occupied."

Federal agents executed four search warrants related to the suspected harboring of people illegally in the country at three locations in central Los Angeles, according to ICE.

CHIRLA received more than 50 calls on its hotline, with reports of ICE sightings and men in military garb in parking lots and in locations near schools, Home Depot stores and a doughnut shop, according to Salas.

Connie Chung Joe, the chief executive of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California, said she received a report of immigration enforcement going to a school in Koreatown.



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Multiple immigration sweeps reported across L.A., with a tense standoff downtown

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Huerta, 58, was treated at a hospital and transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown L.A., where he remained in custody as of 5:30 p.m., according to an SEIU spokesperson.

"What happened to me is not about me; This is about something much bigger," he said in a statement from the hospital. "This is about how we as a community stand together and resist the injustice that's happening. Hard-working people, and members of our family and our community, are being treated like criminals. We all collectively have to object to this madness because this is not justice."

In a [statement on X](#), Essayli alleged that Huerta had deliberately obstructed federal agents' access to a worksite where they were executing a warrant by blocking their

vehicle Friday morning. Huerta was arrested on suspicion of interfering with federal officers and will be arraigned Monday, the U.S. attorney said.

Elected officials representing Los Angeles at the city, county, state and federal levels released a flurry of statements condemning Huerta's arrest, criticizing the raids and decrying the Trump administration's escalation of deportations.

"This is a democracy," said L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn. "People have a right to peacefully protest, to observe law enforcement activity, and to speak out against injustice."

Assistant Atty. Gen. Harmeet Dhillon, who was appointed by President Trump to lead the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, pushed back on Democratic elected leaders' defense of Huerta.

"There is not a 1st Amendment right to physically obstruct law enforcement officers from executing a duly issued warrant," Dhillon said.

For several hours Friday, advocates gathered outside Ambiance Apparel's warehouse shouting legal advice to those being detained inside. They stood on a long bed truck parked in the middle of the street, jamming traffic on the busy road.



People gather in front of Ambiance Apparel after several employees were taken into custody by federal agents on Friday. At one point, federal agents had to shove protesters out of the path of a van that was being driven into the building's parking lot. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

"You are not alone," one said into a megaphone drowning out the sounds of the crowd.
"Do not sign anything. Do not tell them where you are from."

Katina Garcia, 18, pressed her face to the glass, looking for her father, who lacks proper documentation, who had gone to work there that morning, like any other.

"We never thought it would happen to us," she said, "I'm in disbelief."

After a couple of hours a legion of federal agents dressed in riot gear descended on Ambiance Apparel to confront more than 100 people who had gathered outside.

Blaring sirens announced the arrival of armored personnel carriers.

“Pigs,” one man shouted during the raucous scene.

“Fascists,” another said.

The agents disembarked and surrounded the gates protesters had tried to block. Some threw objects at the armed agents, as they yelled and filmed them. To disperse the crowd, pepper spray was used.

The agents who had been inside the store walked out at least a dozen individuals and boarded them in the vans as other agents in riot gear taped off the area.

“How do you sleep at night, tearing apart families,” one woman screamed at an agent.
“What if they took your family?”

The vans filled with migrants left first. Then the line of tactical vehicles and trucks backed out and left in the other direction. The crowd followed, filming with cellphones and surrounding the vehicles for at least a block. The agents used what appeared to be at least a dozen rounds of flash-bang grenades and pepper spray before protesters dispersed.

A group of 11 L.A. city councilmembers released a joint statement lambasting the “indiscriminate targeting of children and families” and vowing to fight to protect immigrants.

“We condemn this in no uncertain terms: Los Angeles was built by immigrants and it thrives because of immigrants,” the group stated. “We will not abide by fear tactics to support extreme political agendas that aim to stoke fear and spread discord in our city.”

The Police Department and the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department said in statements that they will neither participate in any enforcement of civil immigration laws nor seek to determine an individual’s immigration status.

"We want our residents to know that when they call for help, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will respond, investigate and protect everyone — regardless of a person's legal status," the department said in a statement.

The American Civil Liberties Union and elected officials including Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Councilmember Ysabel Jurado and Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles) raised concerns over reports that the LAPD was assisting ICE on Friday. [Videos](#) shared on social media showed LAPD officers gathering at 15th Street and Santa Fe Avenue, where a crowd was protesting the immigration action at Ambiance Apparel's warehouse.

"When masked goons are abducting and locking Angelenos in basements, when police are tear gassing protesters and legal observers exercising their 1st Amendment rights, and when union leaders are brutalized for daring to oppose blatant injustice, we ask our local and state leaders: Where are you? What will you do to end this madness?" said Andres Kwon, attorney and senior policy counsel at the ACLU Foundation of Southern California.

Kwon said city leaders "broke their promise" to preserve L.A. as a sanctuary city, a contention that LAPD officials denied.

"We received an officer needs help call from our federal partners and responded to separate the parties to maintain order," said LAPD spokesperson Jennifer Forkish. "We had nothing to do with the operation, but we do have an obligation to respond to any law enforcement agency requesting urgent assistance."

The Los Angeles raids come on the heels of several recent enforcement actions in the Southland — including an incident in which ICE agents deployed flash-bang grenades during operations at [two San Diego restaurants](#), and a raid at an [underground nightclub](#) in Los Angeles where Chinese and Taiwanese nationals were detained.

On Friday afternoon, U.S. Sens. Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla — alongside Reps. Scott Peters (D-San Diego) and Juan Vargas (D-San Diego) — demanded an investigation into the tactics used during the San Diego raids.

“This troubling incident is not an isolated case. Rather, it appears to be part of a broader pattern of escalated and theatrical immigration enforcement operations across the country,” the lawmakers stated. “These events raise serious questions about the appropriateness, proportionality, and execution of ICE tactics.”

Times staff writer Kaitlyn Huamani contributed to this report.

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