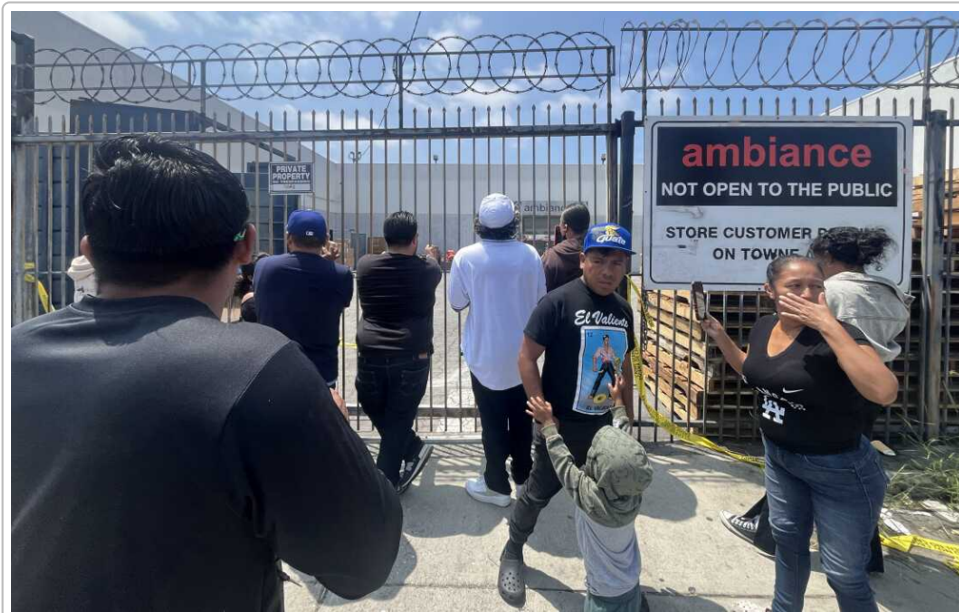


Los Angeles Raids and Protests – June 2025

Law Enforcement Raids in Early June 2025

In the first week of June 2025, federal authorities conducted a series of aggressive immigration enforcement raids across the Los Angeles area. Multiple agencies were involved, led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with support from other federal units. According to ICE and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), agents executed **“a multiagency effort”** serving criminal warrants in L.A.’s Fashion District as part of a cross-border crime investigation ¹. In practice, these operations drew in personnel from ICE’s Enforcement and Removal and Homeland Security Investigations divisions, Border Patrol tactical units, the U.S. Marshals Service, and even the FBI, DEA, and ATF ² ³. Local police were *not* directly involved in the federal raids – the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and L.A. County Sheriff’s Department later emphasized they did **“not partner with ICE”** on immigration enforcement ⁴ ⁵ – though sheriff’s deputies did show up to assist with traffic and crowd control once protests erupted.

Targets of the Raids: Federal officials stated the raids were aimed at criminal enterprises and individuals with serious offenses. A major operation on Friday, June 6 centered on *Ambiance Apparel*, a large garment factory in downtown L.A.’s Fashion District ⁶ ¹. DHS officials said this was **“not an immigration raid”** but an execution of **“three criminal warrants”** for a business suspected of money laundering, tax evasion, and customs fraud, involving tens of millions of dollars in undeclared goods ⁷. Notably, Ambiance Apparel had been implicated in a 2014 federal probe that seized \$36 million in cash from the company and its owner as part of a **money laundering** investigation ⁸. Federal agents returned in 2025 ostensibly searching for fake employee documents and illicit financial activity.



Family members and coworkers gather outside the gated Ambiance Apparel warehouse in downtown Los Angeles, after ICE agents detained dozens of workers on June 6, 2025 ⁶ . Many arrested workers were longtime employees of this Fashion District garment factory.

In total, ICE arrested **44 people on Friday, June 6** on immigration-related charges (and one additional person for “obstruction of justice” – a labor organizer accused of interfering) ⁹ . Ambiance Apparel alone saw **“more than 40 immigrant workers”** taken into custody ¹⁰ , including many Indigenous Zapotec employees from Mexico who had worked there for years. Those detained included line workers and at least one floor manager with 18 years at the company ⁶ . During the Ambiance raid, a prominent labor leader – SEIU California President David Huerta – was arrested on allegations of blocking agents; he was later released on bond and charged with conspiracy to impede an officer ¹¹ ¹² .

Other raids that day targeted several sites beyond Ambiance. ICE confirmed it swept **“businesses across Los Angeles”**, including at least **two Home Depot stores, a Fashion District warehouse, and a doughnut shop** ¹³ . One operation struck a Home Depot parking lot in the Westlake/Pico-Union area (Wilshire & Union) where day laborers regularly congregate. Witnesses report that around **8:30 AM on June 6, plainclothes federal agents in unmarked vehicles descended on the Home Depot and “within 15 minutes” arrested as many as 25 people – “as many immigrants as they could” catch** ¹⁴ ¹⁵ . **The agents did not present any individual warrants, according to those on scene, and appeared to be conducting a sweep of anyone suspected of being undocumented. Day laborers scattered; some bystanders shouted warnings (“‘La Migra’ [slur for immigration] ‘hijuep...’ – “immigration agents, sob’s!”) to alert others** ¹⁶ . **In the chaos, not only workers looking for jobs were detained, but also at least two women who were street vendors selling food in the area** ¹⁷ . **An ICE spokesperson refused to disclose details, citing agent safety, but stated generally that “ICE arrests foreigners who commit crimes and other individuals who have violated U.S. immigration laws”, noting that anyone** without legal status can be subject to arrest and removal** ¹⁸ .

The **breadth of the raids** – hitting a mix of workplaces and public gathering spots – generated confusion and fear throughout L.A.’s immigrant communities. Advocates and local officials reported that arrests weren’t limited to targeted criminal suspects. For example, the ACLU and CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights) documented arrests of a woman *with no criminal record* who was **pulled over while dropping off her child at day care**, as well as sweeps at **car wash** businesses and other day-labor sites ¹⁹ ²⁰ . These accounts directly **contradict the federal narrative** that only serious criminals were targeted. Even at Ambiance Apparel, the vast majority of those 40+ detained workers have no criminal histories – they were arrested for administrative immigration violations (being undocumented or using false work papers) rather than for the financial crimes that were the ostensible reason for the raid ²¹ ²² . ICE later admitted not everyone taken in had a record, saying simply, **“We’re going to enforce immigration law”** on anyone present without status ²³ ²⁴ .

Protests Erupt Across Los Angeles

The raids immediately sparked **public outcry and protests** that escalated over several days in Los Angeles (from Friday, June 6 through Monday, June 9, 2025). What began as spontaneous gatherings of family members and activists at raid sites quickly grew into large demonstrations against ICE’s actions across the city. Over four days, protesters mobilized in multiple locations – from downtown Los Angeles to several predominantly Latino communities – to denounce the raids and stand in solidarity with those detained ²⁵ .

²⁶ .

Friday, June 6 (Day 1): As news of the morning raids spread, crowds formed that same day. In downtown L.A., protesters rushed to the federal Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) and the Edward Roybal Federal Building where detainees were being processed ²⁷. Demonstrators physically blocked facility entrances and exits at one point ²⁸. Separately, at the Ambiance Apparel factory raid site, distraught relatives and coworkers gathered outside the gates (as pictured above) and confronted the agents in tactical gear ²⁹. Tensions rose when agents moved detainees into transport vans; some protesters attempted to **stand in the way of vehicles** or otherwise impede the arrests ³⁰. By afternoon, the scene downtown had grown chaotic – Huerta’s arrest at the garment warehouse rally further inflamed emotions ³¹ – and police declared an unlawful assembly. The LAPD, which until then had maintained a distance, now moved in **with riot gear, batons, and eventually tear gas** to disperse crowds around the federal facilities ³². Several protesters were arrested Friday evening as skirmishes broke out in the civic center area ³².

Saturday, June 7 (Day 2): Protest activity intensified and spread. In the morning, **rumors of new ICE raids in progress** circulated on social media – notably a report that agents were at a Home Depot in **Paramount**, a small city about 16 miles southeast of downtown L.A. ³³ ³⁴. Paramount’s Home Depot is a known day laborer pickup spot, and the mere *report* of ICE presence there drew a rapid community response. **Hundreds of protesters** converged near the store by late morning ³⁵ ³³. According to the L.A. Times, what began as a peaceful demonstration with chants of “*Fuera ICE*” (“ICE get out”) soon escalated into an **hours-long standoff** with federal agents at the scene ³⁶ ³⁷. The confrontation grew heated: protesters shouted and some threw water bottles and rocks, while agents from Border Patrol, ICE, and U.S. Marshals deployed **flash-bang grenades and pepper balls** into the crowd ³⁸ ³⁹. Around 4:00 PM, authorities declared an unlawful assembly in Paramount as well, ordering the crowd to disperse in both English and Spanish ⁴⁰ ³⁹.

The clash in Paramount turned **violent and chaotic**. At one point, a protester set a fire in the street and others reportedly hurled bricks; a vehicle was set ablaze during the melee ⁴¹ ⁴². Sheriff’s deputies and federal officers responded with waves of less-lethal munitions. Witnesses described the area being blanketed in tear gas and smoke, with **rubber bullets** flying “hundreds, if not thousands” of times ⁴³ ⁴⁴. Several people were injured: at least one female protester was seen bleeding from being hit, and one man was knocked unconscious by an impact (unclear if from a projectile or vehicle) ⁴⁵ ⁴². On the law enforcement side, officials later said a Border Patrol agent was hurt, and three sheriff’s deputies suffered minor injuries from thrown objects ³⁹ ⁴⁶. By evening, local authorities arrested a couple of individuals in Paramount on charges like assaulting an officer (one allegedly threw a Molotov cocktail) ⁴⁷, while federal agents on scene arrested **“more than a dozen”** protesters for obstructing enforcement ⁴⁸.

Importantly, it was later confirmed that **ICE did not** actually conduct a new raid at the Paramount Home Depot that day – a DHS official told reporters there was “*no raid*” in progress there on Saturday ⁴⁹. It appears the large federal presence in the area (possibly staging or surveilling) was enough to trigger panic and the ensuing face-off. Paramount’s Mayor Peggy Lemons, who came to the protest, noted that agents had been spotted **“staging in a nearby business plaza”** (where a DHS field office is located) and protesters reacted to that ⁵⁰ ⁴⁹. Mayor Lemons said she had *no communication* from federal authorities and was left guessing about their intentions, calling the situation “chaos and fear” due to lack of information ⁵¹. She’d been told informally that DHS **“was targeting Home Depots across the county in search of undocumented residents,”** which if true suggests a broad sweep plan, but even she wasn’t given official confirmation ⁵¹.

Sunday, June 8 (Day 3): By Sunday, the federal response to the protests had escalated dramatically. President Trump, acting without state approval, had ordered **2,000 National Guard troops** into Los Angeles on Saturday night ⁵² ⁵³ , and by early Sunday, Guard units (in military vehicles and fatigues) were visible patrolling parts of L.A. County including downtown and Paramount ⁵⁴ . Additionally, **700 U.S. Marines** from Camp Pendleton were put on standby or deployed to assist, an unprecedented domestic use of Marines in an immigration context ⁵⁵ ⁵⁶ . This build-up set the stage for the largest day of protests yet. On Sunday, **thousands of protesters** turned out in downtown Los Angeles ⁵⁷ , massing near City Hall, the federal detention center, and along major streets. Many waved Mexican and American flags (some hybrids of both), and chanted slogans like **"F— ICE, leave L.A.!"** ⁵⁸ ⁵⁹ . A group of demonstrators actually managed to temporarily **block a section of the 101 Freeway**, bringing traffic to a halt on a major artery downtown ⁶⁰ .

By mid-afternoon Sunday, LAPD in riot gear formed skirmish lines downtown and issued dispersal orders as some confrontations arose between protesters and law enforcement. Tensions flared when a black unmarked law enforcement vehicle tried to drive through a crowd – protesters surrounded and struck the car, shattering its back window ⁶¹ ⁶² . Police responded with baton charges and more less-lethal munitions. There were scenes of apparent **excessive force**: reporters saw officers shove and tackle non-violent protesters, and one officer was photographed striking a protester's sign and then their leg with a baton without obvious provocation ⁶³ . Amid the chaos, fireworks were set off by unknown individuals. Two people on motorcycles even rode through an intersection in a stunt-like protest move; they were arrested after one crashed near police lines ⁶⁴ . Elsewhere in downtown, a disturbing sight unfolded as **several autonomous vehicles (self-driving cars)** were set on fire during the unrest ⁶⁵ ⁶⁶ . These flaming cars (reportedly Waymo test vehicles) became a symbol of the turmoil.



A demonstrator holds signs protesting the raids ("I stand for all migrants... Born and raised in Los Angeles – deport me??") as smoke billows from burning vehicles in downtown Los Angeles on June 8, 2025 ⁶⁶ . The third day of protests saw isolated acts of vandalism and arson, including several self-driving cars set ablaze.

LAPD and supporting National Guard troops eventually moved in force to clear the downtown streets Sunday evening, again using tear gas, flash-bangs and rubber bullets. By nightfall June 8, the city was

placed under an **overnight curfew** and Mayor Karen Bass declared a local state of emergency to curb the “vandalism and looting” that had occurred in some pockets ⁶⁷ . (Notably, reports of actual *looting* were limited, but at least a few stores were broken into amid the confusion, according to local media.) The presence of camouflaged soldiers and military vehicles on Los Angeles streets was jarring for residents – it marked the first time since 1992 (the Rodney King unrest) that troops patrolled L.A., and the first-ever deployment of federalized National Guard over a governor’s objection ⁵² ⁶⁸ .

Monday, June 9 (Day 4): With the heavy federal deployment in place, protests continued on Monday but remained largely peaceful. A coalition of labor unions (including SEIU) organized a mass **rally of thousands at Grand Park** (adjacent to City Hall) to condemn the raids ⁶⁹ . Local officials like city council members and state legislators joined this daytime rally. By this point, the narrative of the raids had become a national issue, fueling political debate (see next section). Scattered unrest did persist Monday – for example, some protesters marched to a federal detention site in a suburban area (Santa Ana in Orange County) and there were minor clashes in that context ⁷⁰ . But compared to the weekend, Monday saw a de-escalation in violence. Over the four days of demonstrations, LAPD reported making **50 protest-related arrests** (from Saturday through Monday) for charges including failure to disperse, vandalism, assault with a Molotov cocktail, and even one for attempted murder of an officer ⁷¹ ⁷² . Among those arrested was again David Huerta – the union leader, who after being released once, was picked up a second time at a Monday action, though he was freed that afternoon with no immediate charges (his earlier obstruction charge remained pending) ⁷² . LAPD noted that five of its officers suffered minor injuries over the course of the protests ⁷³ . Protest organizers, for their part, accused law enforcement of overreaction and documented numerous injuries to demonstrators from police munitions. The LAPD announced its Professional Standards Bureau would investigate whether officers used excessive force during the protests ⁷⁴ ⁷⁵ .

Character of the Protests: It is important to note that the **vast majority** of those protests were peaceful gatherings – Angelenos holding signs, chanting, and exercising their First Amendment rights. The instances of violence and property destruction, while real, were limited to specific flashpoints and often provoked by aggressive crowd-control tactics. LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell (or Michel Moore’s successor – sources refer to McDonnell) acknowledged that “**while the protests have mostly been peaceful, some violence has occurred,**” perpetrated by a subset of participants ⁷⁶ . Videos show many protesters trying to calm its more unruly members and chanting for peaceful resistance. Still, the few dramatic incidents (burning vehicles, clashes outside Home Depot, etc.) were seized upon by some to paint the entire movement as a “riot.” By the end of that week, Los Angeles was a city on edge – under curfew and guard – but also galvanized in opposition to the sweeping immigration crackdown.

Political and Media Reactions Across the Spectrum

The raids and ensuing unrest in Los Angeles quickly became a **polarizing flashpoint** in the national immigration debate, eliciting starkly different reactions from the right, center, and left. Below is an overview of how various media outlets, public officials, and organizations responded:

Conservative and Trump Administration Responses

From the perspective of President Trump and his allies, the events in L.A. were framed primarily as a **law-and-order triumph** being undermined by lawless agitators. Almost immediately, Trump cast the situation in incendiary terms. He argued that Los Angeles had been “**invaded and occupied**” by immigrants and that “**insurrectionist mobs**” were attacking federal agents ⁷⁷ ⁷⁸ . While speaking to reporters on Sunday,

Trump called the protests **“a riot...very bad”**, and warned that state and local leaders who **“stand in the way of law and order”** could face federal charges ⁷⁹ ⁸⁰ . On his Truth Social platform, he outright labeled the protesters as *insurrectionists* and celebrated that the unrest **“only strengthen[s] our resolve”** to deport “illegal aliens” ⁸¹ . By invoking rhetoric of “insurrection” and deploying troops, Trump signaled a willingness to use extraordinary force against what he depicted as an uprising. (Notably, when asked directly if the L.A. protests constituted an insurrection – a legal trigger for the Insurrection Act – Trump said “no,” but then proceeded to use that term in his online posts anyway ⁸² ⁷⁷ .)

Top Trump officials echoed this hardline stance. **Tom Homan**, the administration’s newly appointed “border czar” (and former ICE director), vigorously defended the raids and crackdown. In media appearances, Homan insisted that **“The Fashion District wasn’t an immigration raid”** at all, but rather a justified criminal enforcement action ⁷ . He told Fox News that agents **“arrested a lot of bad people”** and claimed those taken into custody included **“child sex offenders, gang members and national security threats,”** though at the time he provided no evidence for those specific claims ⁸³ . Homan chided L.A.’s Mayor Bass, saying **“Mayor Bass ought to be thanking us for making her city safer”** by removing dangerous individuals ⁸⁴ ⁸⁵ .

DHS officials took a combative tone as well. **Tricia McLaughlin**, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at DHS, lambasted the protesters and California leaders in an interview with Fox News. She argued that **“rioters in Los Angeles are fighting to keep rapists, murderers, and other violent criminals loose on Los Angeles streets”** and asked rhetorically **“Why do Governor Newsom and Mayor Karen Bass care more about violent murderers and sex offenders than protecting their own citizens?”** ⁸⁶ ⁸⁷ . McLaughlin said Angelenos should be **“thanking ICE officers every single day”** for making communities safer ⁸⁷ . This messaging – painting the arrestees as “the worst of the worst” and the protesters as their enablers – was a centerpiece of the right-wing narrative (regardless of the fact that many detained were neither violent nor criminals, as noted in other sections).

To reinforce their point, federal authorities **publicly released details** about select individuals caught in the raids who did have serious criminal histories. For example, ICE highlighted the case of **Cuong Chanh Phan**, a 49-year-old Vietnamese national picked up on June 6, who had been convicted of second-degree murder for a 1994 shooting at a graduation party ⁸⁸ . They also touted arrests of people like a Filipino national convicted of sexual assault, and multiple individuals from Mexico with prior convictions for violent or gun-related offenses ⁸⁹ ⁹⁰ . Fox News and other conservative outlets prominently featured these mugshots and rap sheets, underscoring the message that *45 dangerous illegal aliens* were now off the streets ⁹¹ ⁹² .

Right-leaning media broadly supported the administration’s actions and amplified its framing. **Fox News** in particular devoted extensive coverage to the L.A. story with an emphatic slant. One Fox headline declared: **“ICE arrests ‘worst of the worst’ illegal aliens in Los Angeles while protesters advocate for criminals”** ⁹³ ⁸⁷ . Fox correspondents reported that ICE had **“captured...murderers, sex offenders and other violent criminals”** in the raids ⁹¹ . They noted approximately **45 arrests across several locations** (including *“two Home Depot stores, a store in the fashion district and a doughnut shop”*) and described how flash-bang grenades were used when protesters clashed with authorities at these sites ¹³ . Fox anchors and guests heavily criticized California officials: in one segment, DHS spox McLaughlin accused Democrats of giving “violent rioters a free pass” and scoffed at Democrats calling the protests ‘peaceful’ ⁹⁴ ⁹⁵ . Conservative commentators on Fox and talk radio portrayed the unrest as *organized anarchy* – some even invoked “antifa” – and praised Trump for **“restoring order”** with the National Guard. A former L.A. County

sheriff on Fox urged federal forces to **“control the Antifa crowd”** and labeled the L.A. riots “disgusting and un-American” ⁹⁶ .

Beyond media, **Republican politicians** generally backed the administration’s move. GOP lawmakers and Trump loyalists used the L.A. clashes to slam “sanctuary city” policies and Democratic governance. For instance, **Dan Bongino**, a conservative pundit newly placed as FBI Deputy Director, posted on X (Twitter) during the height of the Paramount standoff: **“You bring chaos, and we’ll bring handcuffs.”** He warned that agents were **“pouring through videos”** to identify protesters for arrest ⁹⁷ . This unusually political statement from an FBI official underlined the alignment of federal law enforcement messaging with Trump’s hard line. Meanwhile, House Republicans in D.C. reportedly cheered the operation as a long-overdue enforcement of immigration laws, criticizing California for “harboring” illegals. Some floated the idea of sanctioning L.A. or withholding funds if local authorities didn’t cooperate in the future (though the immediate situation had federal forces acting unilaterally regardless).

In summary, on the right end of the spectrum, the consensus was that **President Trump took decisive action to rid L.A. of dangerous criminals**, and that any ensuing unrest was the fault of radical protesters and feckless liberal officials. The deployment of troops was justified as necessary to quell a “riot” and an example of Trump’s commitment to law and order. This narrative often omitted the nuances of who was actually arrested in the raids or the largely peaceful nature of most protests, focusing instead on the most extreme elements on both sides (violent felons on one hand, and flag-burning, car-torching rioters on the other).

Local Officials and Centrist Media Responses

In Los Angeles and California, the reaction from officials was markedly different – one of **alarm and defiance** toward the federal operation. LA’s leadership had to balance denouncing the raids, supporting their immigrant constituents, and restoring civic calm. **Mayor Karen Bass** (a Democrat) spoke out strongly against both the ICE actions and the unilateral deployment of federal forces. Bass argued that Los Angeles was being used as a **“test case”** for an overreaching federal crackdown, warning that this move set a dangerous precedent of Washington usurping local authority ⁹⁸ ⁹⁹ . As violence escalated, she pleaded for calm but empathized with protesters’ fears, saying many Angelenos felt their **“community [is] under attack”** and were terrified by the sudden sweeps ¹⁰⁰ . After Trump sent the Guard, Bass publicly stated that she had been in contact with D.C. officials trying to find a resolution, and noted the city was still recovering from an unrelated **natural disaster** at the time – implying the federal government’s energy would be better spent on disaster relief than immigration raids ¹⁰¹ . Bass called the troop deployment **“purposefully inflammatory”** and an **“intentional effort to sow chaos”** in her city ¹⁰² ¹⁰³ .

California’s state leadership backed Mayor Bass and vehemently opposed Trump’s interventions. Governor **Gavin Newsom** blasted the federalization of the California National Guard as a **“blatant abuse of power”** and asserted that sending troops would **“only escalate tensions”** ¹⁰⁴ ¹⁰⁵ . He pointed out that **“there is currently no unmet need”** in terms of law enforcement that would justify the deployment ¹⁰⁶ , noting that local police had the protests largely under control. (Indeed, LAPD and the Sheriff’s Department had mobilized in large numbers by Saturday to handle the situation – something Newsom said the feds ignored.) After Marines were added, Newsom and the California Attorney General’s office explored legal options to challenge the President’s action, and by mid-week a federal judge would indeed rule the military deployment unlawful (though that was after the immediate crisis). State officials uniformly maintained that

California's **sanctuary laws** (which limit cooperation with ICE) were still in effect and that the federal government's heavy-handed approach was counterproductive.

Local government voices, including city council members and county supervisors, also condemned the raids' impact on the community. Several L.A. City Council members appeared at protests or held press conferences criticizing ICE. They highlighted that the city of Los Angeles has a **"sanctuary city"** stance and that these kinds of immigration sweeps violate the spirit of that policy, eroding trust in public safety. The **Paramount city officials** were particularly caught in the middle. As noted, Paramount's Mayor Peggy Lemons expressed frustration at the lack of communication from DHS and sympathy for her residents' anger ⁵¹ ⁵⁰. Paramount is a small working-class city (82% Latino) ³³, and its leaders noted they were blindsided by armed agents showing up. Local representatives from the area, such as Congresswoman **Nanette Barragán** (who represents Paramount in the U.S. House), were outspoken. Barragán rushed to the scene on June 7 and later tweeted, **"ICE has brought their terror tactics... in my district. This is unacceptable. We will demand answers and accountability."** ¹⁰⁷. She urged protesters to stay safe and peaceful, but made clear she stood with the community against the raids. Another local lawmaker, State Assembly member **José Luis Solache Jr.**, was present during the Paramount clash and recounted how he identified himself to federal agents and asked what they were doing – only to be stonewalled ¹⁰⁸. Solache said what he witnessed confirmed residents' worst suspicions: **"Our hardworking communities are being targeted. These are not criminals. [Agents are] going to facilities where people are literally working."** ¹⁰⁹.

Meanwhile, **centrist and mainstream media** provided extensive coverage that tended to validate many of the community's concerns while also reporting official statements. The *Los Angeles Times* (generally seen as center-left, but locally focused) ran detailed news stories each day. It reported on the **"surprise ICE raids"** that provoked **"fear and indignation"**, quoting elected officials who called the crackdown **"cruel and unnecessary"** ¹⁰⁰. The Times documented the scenes of confrontation – for example, describing in blunt terms **"the fiery and tumultuous clash"** at the Paramount Home Depot and the heavy-handed crowd control measures used ¹¹⁰ ³⁸. It also investigated the background of Ambiance Apparel, providing context that the company had past legal troubles but questioning why rank-and-file workers bore the brunt of the raid ¹¹¹ ⁸. Crucially, L.A. Times reporters confirmed from a federal source that **no actual arrests occurred at** the Paramount Home Depot on Saturday (the protest was prompted by fear more than reality) ⁴⁹ – a fact that helped clarify that the violent showdown there might have been avoidable with better communication. The Times also covered the plight of families searching for detained loved ones, noting that many detainees were being rapidly transferred to far-off detention centers and that attorneys were **denied access** to them for days ¹⁰ ¹¹². Such reporting reinforced that a humanitarian crisis was unfolding alongside the public order issue.

Nationally, outlets like **NPR**, **The Washington Post**, and **The Guardian** took a fact-focused approach, but with evident concern for civil liberties. **NPR's** coverage highlighted the human stories: families desperate for information, and community networks rallying to support them ¹¹³ ¹¹⁴. It noted that ICE's own statement admitted **"44 people were arrested in Friday's raid"** and that the operation was conducted **"in support of worksite enforcement"** – meaning many arrests were for *administrative immigration violations*, not criminal charges ¹¹⁵ ². NPR also listed the alphabet soup of agencies involved (ICE, FBI, ATF, Marshals, etc.) to underscore how large and unusual this action was ². In covering the protests, NPR correspondents emphasized that **most protests were peaceful** but there were instances of violence, largely after police intervention ⁷⁶ ¹¹⁶. They reported, for example, that LAPD had fired over **600 rounds of "less lethal munitions"** in the process of clearing crowds and that an internal review would examine whether some

uses of force were excessive ⁷³. NPR also gave voice to law enforcement's perspective: an LAPD spokesperson affirmed the department **supports the right to assemble** but warned that anyone who attacks officers or commits crimes under cover of protest will be arrested ⁷¹ ¹¹⁷. This balanced approach gave listeners a sense of the tension between maintaining public order and respecting protesters' rights.

The *Washington Post* and *Guardian* published deeper analyses that questioned the Trump administration's narrative. The *Post* reported on June 10 that some of the immigrants arrested on Friday **had already been deported within 48 hours** – notably a 23-year-old garment worker dropped off at the border after being misled into signing a form (thinking it was a COVID test consent) ¹¹⁸ ¹¹⁹. This raised alarms about due process; lawyers barely had time to act before removals occurred. Both the *Post* and *Guardian* pointed out that these rapid deportations and the **lack of criminal charges** against the employers contradicted the official line that the raids were purely about a criminal investigation ²¹ ²⁴. The *Guardian* explicitly noted **"conflicting accounts"** between federal officials and advocates, suggesting the raids signaled a **"turning point"** where enforcement had shifted from focusing on criminals to **"a broader deportation sweep"** of people without legal status ¹²⁰. These outlets also picked up on the data: a DHS official disclosed that nationwide ICE arrests on June 3 and 4 had spiked to over **2,300 each day** – a massive increase from ~660 per day earlier in the year ¹²¹. This was linked to **Stephen Miller's** directive (Trump's immigration advisor) aiming for **3,000 arrests per day** ¹²². Such context made clear that the L.A. raids were part of a much larger escalation of immigration enforcement under Trump's renewed term, not an isolated incident.

Local and national **center-left commentators** framed the events as evidence of governmental overreach and the perils of Trump's hardline immigration agenda. Many pointed to California's long history as a **"sanctuary"** state and warned that clashing with that ethos via militarized raids would only terrorize communities and spark unrest – exactly what happened. Editorials in the *L.A. Times* and *Sacramento Bee* criticized the **"show of force"** in Los Angeles, arguing it was disproportionate and politically motivated. They drew parallels to past episodes of federal overreach and even authoritarian tactics. *Time* magazine's website ran an opinion piece comparing Trump's use of the Insurrection Act threat in L.A. to his actions in summer 2020, suggesting this was a **"trial balloon for even more extreme measures"** if not checked.

In summary, the **centrist and local establishment response** condemned the disruption of trust caused by the raids, insisted that violent criminals should be the *only* focus of enforcement (not ordinary workers), and decried the deployment of troops as an unnecessary, inflammatory move. Officials like Bass and Newsom tried to project control of the situation, emphasizing that local law enforcement could handle protests and that communication, not force, was needed. Their calls for calm coexisted with sharp critiques of Trump – underscoring the deep state-local rift on immigration policy. Mainstream media largely validated the seriousness of protesters' grievances (fear of family separation, breach of local autonomy) while also reporting on the incidents of protester violence in a measured way. This middle-ground approach stood in contrast to the extremes of the right and left narratives.

Activist and Left-Leaning Perspectives

On the left end of the spectrum – including immigration advocacy groups, community organizers, and socialist or independent media – the events in Los Angeles were viewed as a **full-fledged assault on immigrant communities** and even a step toward authoritarian rule. These voices were the most critical of law enforcement and offered the most unfiltered support to the protesters.

Immigrant rights organizations responded swiftly by activating emergency hotlines, legal aid networks, and “rapid response” teams. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) reported receiving over **120 calls** on its hotline in just the first two days from frantic families who hadn’t heard from detained loved ones ¹²³. CHIRLA and others (like CARECEN and NILC) organized press conferences with affected families, where tearful sons, daughters, and spouses shared stories – such as the father of three who was picked up at work after decades in the US, or the young man who’d been supporting his family and suddenly was gone. Advocates emphasized that many of those detained **“had been in the US for decades”, “had no criminal record”,** and were whisked to far-away detention centers without access to lawyers ¹²⁴ ¹²⁵. This, they argued, belied any claim that the raids were simply removing violent felons. Eva Bitran, immigrants’ rights director at the ACLU of Southern California, became a prominent voice; she stated, **“The people who have been arrested are our neighbors and community members and the workers that make the city of Los Angeles run”** ¹⁹. Bitran highlighted specific troubling cases, like the woman arrested at the daycare drop-off, to illustrate that **“really [these arrests] hit people just going about their lives”** ²⁰.

At protests and vigils, activists carried signs like *“No Human Being is Illegal”* and *“We are Essential, Not Disposable,”* linking the raids to a broader pattern of dehumanization. Labor unions – beyond SEIU, which was directly involved – also lent support. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and Unite Here (which represents many Latino immigrant workers in L.A.) condemned the raids, noting some of their members were among those taken. The presence and arrest of SEIU’s David Huerta became a rallying point: union leaders asserted that Huerta was **“standing up for his people”** and that charging him for impeding ICE was outrageous when **“what’s truly impeding justice is these raids themselves”** (as one union official put it).

Left-leaning media and independent journalists offered on-the-ground accounts that often differed starkly from the official story. For example, the *World Socialist Web Site (WSWS)*, in its Spanish edition, ran an article titled **“Protests continue in Los Angeles in response to fascist immigration raids”**, explicitly calling ICE a “Gestapo” ¹²⁶ ¹²⁷. The WSWS report from Paramount on June 7 described federal agents as **“matones”** (thugs) and accused them of firing *“hundreds, if not thousands”* of tear gas canisters into a working-class neighborhood, forcing residents to flee their homes ⁴³ ¹²⁸. It detailed injuries to protesters, including a young man with blood-soaked bandages around his head from a rubber bullet wound ¹²⁹. WSWS journalists noted that despite the **“police violence,”** many demonstrators continued to chant and demand the agents leave, showing resilience ¹³⁰ ¹³¹. The piece also alleged that **LAPD and county deputies were assisting ICE/CBP** on the ground, despite official denials – for instance, by blocking freeway exits to contain protesters ¹³² ¹³³. Such accounts portray the events as something akin to a populace under siege by militarized forces, and they spare no criticism of Democratic officials either. WSWS pointed out that Mayor Bass and LAPD claim not to aid ICE, yet in practice local police were out in force protecting the federal operation ¹³². To the socialist writers, this proved that both major parties ultimately uphold the state repression of the working class, even if one (the Democrats) speaks the language of sanctuary and tolerance.

Other **progressive outlets and activists** focused on the **“fear factor”** of the raids. They noted that in immigrant-heavy areas like Pico-Union, **streets emptied out** after word spread of the sweeps. Many families stayed home from work and school, uncertain where ICE might strike next – a chilling effect reminiscent of the worst days of immigration raids in the past. Community centers and churches opened their doors as “safe spaces” and distributed “know your rights” literature. Some activist groups like #NuestrosAngeles (a local coalition) accused the Trump administration of deliberately targeting Los Angeles because of its sanctuary status, calling it **“a revenge operation against our city”**. They pointed to Stephen

Miller's leaked remark reportedly asking ICE, **"Why aren't you at Home Depot?"**, as evidence that the administration was pursuing **headline-grabbing raids in symbolic locations** to instill panic ¹³⁴. (Indeed, Miller, a chief architect of Trump's immigration policy, had publicly advocated for mass worksite raids as a strategy.)

Left-of-center national media also framed the L.A. unrest within the larger political battle over immigration. *MSNBC* commentators, for instance, described the situation as Trump **"manufacturing a crisis"** to rally his base around an image of being tough on "illegal aliens." On one panel, analyst Max Boot (actually a centrist but Trump critic) called the deployment of troops to a U.S. city over immigration enforcement **"unprecedented and dangerous,"** warning it was evidence of creeping authoritarianism. Progressive Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez tweeted in support of the L.A. protesters, saying something to the effect of, *"History will remember who stood on the side of immigrant families and who stood with those who tear them apart."* California's progressive caucus, including state lawmakers like Wendy Carrillo and María Elena Durazo (both former labor/immigrant organizers), pushed for state legislation to further restrict ICE's ability to operate in California.

One notable reaction came from **Mexico's government** and other Latin American officials, reflecting the international dimension. Mexico's Foreign Minister criticized the raids and confirmed that **four Mexican nationals from the Ambiance factory had been summarily deported** over the weekend ²⁴. He called the fast-track removals a violation of due process and said Mexico would be monitoring the treatment of its citizens. This added diplomatic pressure and emboldened local activists to demand that foreign consulates intervene or speak out, since many detainees were of Mexican, Central American, or Asian origin.

In essence, the **activist/left narrative** cast the raids as **racist and unjust**, the protests as **righteous community resistance**, and the heavy federal response as verging on **tyranny**. Words like "fascist," "Gestapo," and "occupation" were used freely in this discourse ¹²⁶ ¹²⁷. These commentators were not interested in drawing fine distinctions about "criminal aliens" – they largely rejected that framing entirely, arguing that the threat to families and workers outweighed any purported public safety benefit. Their focus stayed on the **human cost**: children separated, workers lost, neighborhoods living in fear. At the same time, they celebrated the multiracial, working-class solidarity on display as Angelenos took to the streets to defend their neighbors. The presence of labor unions and community organizations at the forefront of the protests was highlighted as a positive development (e.g., images of union members locking arms to block ICE vans were shared widely). In their view, Los Angeles 2025 was a test of whether a community could successfully push back against draconian federal immigration tactics – a test with implications for immigrant rights nationwide.

Separating Confirmed Facts from Partisan Claims

In the frenzy of these events, a lot of **claims and counterclaims** circulated. Here we distill what is firmly established versus what remains politically charged or unverified:

- **Scope of the Raids – Targeted Criminals vs. Sweeps:** *Federal Claim:* The government insists the June 6 actions were targeted criminal enforcement operations (e.g. busting a money laundering scheme in the Fashion District) rather than broad immigration raids ⁷. *Reality:* It is true a criminal search warrant was executed at Ambiance Apparel – the company was suspected of customs fraud and prior money laundering – but in executing that, agents conducted mass *immigration* arrests of the workers on site. No evidence has emerged that Ambiance's owners or managers (those who

would be responsible for money laundering or hiring fraud) were charged at that time. Instead, dozens of line employees were detained for immigration violations ²¹. Additionally, ICE did not limit its actions to that one Fashion District business; they also arrested day laborers and others with no connection to the supposed financial crimes. **Confirmed fact:** 44 people were arrested on June 6 solely for immigration offenses ¹³⁵, indicating a broad sweep of undocumented individuals took place alongside any specific criminal warrants.

- **Character of Those Arrested – “Worst of the Worst”?:** *Federal Claim:* DHS spokespeople portrayed all detainees as dangerous felons – “rapists, murderers... violent criminals” – and released information on about 16 individuals with serious criminal pasts ⁸⁷ ²². *Reality:* Some of those arrested indeed have prior convictions (ICE highlighted a handful of egregious cases, like a convicted murderer from 1994) ⁸⁸. However, immigrant advocates have documented that **many others had no criminal history at all** ¹²⁵. For example, numerous Ambiance Apparel workers had clean records and were simply hardworking immigrants. The **Mexican consulate confirmed at least 4 raid arrestees with no criminal record were deported immediately** ¹¹⁸ ¹¹⁹. So while there were “bad actors” caught in the net, it is false to imply that every one of the 45–56 people detained was a violent felon. The truth is a mix: some with past crimes, and many whose only “crime” was civil immigration violation.
- **Alleged Home Depot “Raids” and Civilian Targets:** *Community Claim:* Activists alleged that ICE carried out indiscriminate raids at Home Depot stores (and even harassed bystanders like a mother at a daycare), amounting to racial profiling of Latino day laborers and shoppers. *Reality:* **Confirmed:** ICE agents did swoop down on a Home Depot parking lot in L.A. (Westlake) and grabbed as many day laborers as they could in a 15-minute span ¹⁵. This was effectively a sweep – agents did not check for specific names or warrants, they detained people based on perceived immigration status. Witnesses also confirm that two Latina street vendors at that site were detained ¹⁷. In Paramount on June 7, however, it appears there was **no actual raid in progress** despite rumors ⁴⁹ – protesters reacted to ICE presence, but ICE did not end up arresting anyone there (federal arrests in Paramount were of protesters for obstruction). The case of the woman pulled over after dropping her child at daycare, reported by the ACLU, suggests at least one instance of ICE making a traffic stop and arrest outside of any worksite context ¹⁹. That hasn’t been officially confirmed by ICE, but advocacy groups stand by it. **Bottom line:** ICE’s operations were not confined to the factory scene; multiple credible reports show they also targeted informal labor gathering spots and possibly individuals in the community, lending truth to fears of broader sweeps.
- **Violence at Protests – Who’s Responsible?:** *Right-wing Claim:* Conservative media call the protests “riots” and accuse “antifa” or radical elements of inciting violence and destruction, essentially pinning all blame on protesters. *Far-left Claim:* Protesters and some independent media say **police/agents started the violence** by attacking an otherwise peaceful crowd, implying law enforcement is to blame for the chaos. *Reality:* The large protests in L.A. were **overwhelmingly peaceful**, especially in their early phases, but certain confrontations did turn violent in a **back-and-forth manner**. For instance, in Paramount, federal agents undeniably used force (stun grenades, etc.) early – some witnesses say without sufficient provocation ¹³⁶ ¹³⁷. That in turn led a minority of protesters to throw objects and one to set a fire ¹³⁸ ⁴¹. In downtown, there were instances of protesters acting aggressively (surrounding a police vehicle, blocking a freeway) as well as instances of police seemingly using excessive force (videos of officers shoving peaceful demonstrators) ¹³⁹ ¹⁴⁰. **No evidence suggests an organized extremist plot** – rather, these were organic protests where a

small fraction of individuals engaged in property damage (like the burning of Waymo cars) ⁶⁶ . Law enforcement did sustain some injuries (at least 5 officers hurt, one federal agent hit by a projectile) ³⁹ ⁷³ , and they made around 50 arrests of protesters for various offenses ⁷¹ . Those are facts. It's also factual that police fired hundreds of non-lethal munitions and tear gas rounds ⁷³ ¹²⁸ . Responsibility is shared – it's inaccurate to label all protesters as violent rioters (thousands were peaceful) *and* it's inaccurate to say law enforcement responded with minimal force (their response was massive and occasionally indiscriminate, affecting peaceful people and journalists too). The situation was chaotic with blame on both sides for escalations.

- **Communication and Coordination:** *Claim:* Los Angeles officials claimed they were given no advance notice of the raids or the National Guard deployment, implying a breakdown in coordination. *Federal Position:* The Trump administration suggested California leaders were simply unwilling to cooperate and that local police stood down as things got out of hand, necessitating federal intervention. *Reality:* By all accounts, **local authorities were caught off guard**. LAPD Chief McDonnell stated the department “**did not know federal forces were coming**” on Saturday and thus the initial response in Paramount was delayed (he said LAPD took 38 minutes to arrive after getting word, refuting rumors of a 2-hour delay) ¹⁴¹ . The Sheriff’s Department also publicly clarified it had **no role in the raids** themselves ⁵ . Governor Newsom was not asked for permission nor formally notified before Trump invoked the Insurrection Act to deploy troops ¹⁴² . These points are confirmed. The feds essentially **bypassed local officials**. Communication only happened after the fact, during the protests. This lack of coordination indeed contributed to chaos – e.g., had local police known about the Home Depot operation, they might have managed the scene or at least informed community leaders to quell rumors.

In conclusion, the Los Angeles raids and protests of June 2025 underscore a collision of narratives. **Confirmed facts** show that a large-scale ICE operation led to 40+ immigrant workers arrested in their workplace, plus others in public locales, sparking multi-day demonstrations that were mostly peaceful but saw flashes of unrest. **Partisan claims** have tried to either demonize the protesters as rioters defending criminals or cast all enforcement agents as “fascist” attackers; the truth lies somewhere in between these extremes. What’s clear is that the events marked a significant escalation in federal-local tensions over immigration: Los Angeles, a self-declared sanctuary metropolis, found itself occupied by federal agents and troops carrying out the very crackdowns it had sworn to resist. The full repercussions – legally and politically – were still unfolding, but the week’s turmoil made one thing certain: the debate over how to enforce immigration laws in a compassionate yet lawful manner had only grown more intense, with Los Angeles at its center.

Sources: Los Angeles Times ³³ ⁵⁰ ⁴⁰ ⁴⁸ ; Telemundo/NBC News ²⁵ ³⁰ ; NPR ¹¹⁵ ⁷³ ; Washington Post ²² ¹²⁵ ; Guardian ²⁴ ¹²⁰ ; Fox News ⁸⁷ ⁸⁸ ; World Socialist Web Site ⁴³ ⁴⁴ .

¹ ⁷ List of ICE arrests in Los Angeles that sparked protests

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/immigration/3435561/ice-arrests-los-angeles/>

² ²⁹ ¹¹³ ¹¹⁴ ¹¹⁵ ICE raids in LA leave detainees' families searching for answers : NPR

<https://www.npr.org/2025/06/10/nx-s1-5428568/ice-raids-la-fashion-district-immigration>

3 5 9 33 42 45 49 50 51 83 84 85 97 107 108 109 135 After two days of clashes over immigration raids, National Guard will be sent to L.A., official says

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2025/jun/07/after-two-days-of-clashes-over-immigration-raids-n/>

4 56 71 72 73 74 75 76 98 99 116 117 141 Protests against ICE have continued in LA into the week. Here's what to know : NPR

<https://www.npr.org/2025/06/10/nx-s1-5428579/protests-against-ice-have-continued-in-la-into-the-week-heres-what-to-know>

6 8 10 11 12 111 At a troubled fashion company, workers found community. Then ICE came - Los Angeles Times

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-10/los-angeles-ambiance-apparel-workers-ice-raid>

13 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 ICE arrests 'worst of the worst' criminal illegal aliens in Los Angeles | Fox News

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/ice-arrests-worst-worst-illegal-aliens-los-angeles-while-protesters-advocate-criminals-dhs>

14 15 16 17 18 'La Migra hijuep...': los gritos ante la llegada de ICE a una ferrería de Los Ángeles - Los Angeles Times

<https://www.latimes.com/espanol/california/articulo/2025-06-06/la-migra-hijuep-los-gritos-ante-la-llegada-de-ice-a-una-ferreria-de-los-angeles>

19 20 21 23 24 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 Los Angeles immigrants swept up in Ice raids already deported in some cases | US immigration | The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/10/la-ice-raids-people-deported>

22 112 125 Some migrants detained in L.A. ICE raids have already been deported - The Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/06/10/la-ice-raids-deported-migrants/>

25 26 30 55 65 Cómo las redadas de inmigración en Home Depot y la fábrica de Ambiance Apparel desataron las protestas en Los Ángeles

<https://www.telemundo.com/noticias/noticias-telemundo/inmigracion/redadas-inmigracion-home-depot-ambiance-apparel-protestas-los-angeles-rcna211961>

27 28 31 32 34 57 60 66 67 68 69 70 102 103 142 How the Los Angeles protests unfolded: A visual guide | Protests News | Al Jazeera

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/6/11/how-the-los-angeles-protests-unfolded-a-visual-guide>

35 38 39 40 41 46 47 48 52 53 54 101 104 105 106 110 136 137 138 2,000 National Guard troops will be sent to L.A. amid immigration clashes - Los Angeles Times

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-07/paramount-home-depot>

36 37 100 El caos estalla en Paramount Home Depot cuando los manifestantes se enfrentan a los agentes de inmigración. - Los Angeles Times

<https://www.latimes.com/espanol/california/articulo/2025-06-07/paramount-home-depot>

43 44 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 Continúan las protestas en Los Ángeles en respuesta a las redadas fascistas de inmigración - World Socialist Web Site

<https://www.wsws.org/es/articles/2025/06/08/xxxx-j08.html>

58 59 61 62 63 64 77 78 79 80 81 82 139 140 What happened during three days of protests over immigration raids in downtown L.A. - Los Angeles Times

<https://www.latimes.com/california/live/national-guard-troops-la-immigration-ice-clashes-paramount>

⁹⁴ ⁹⁵ Dems are giving violent rioters 'a free pass' to 'do the worst of the worst,' warns Homeland Security
spox | Fox News Video

<https://www.foxnews.com/video/6374060688112>

⁹⁶ L.A. Riots 'disgusting' and 'un-American': Tricia McLaughlin

<https://www.facebook.com/NEWSMAX/videos/la-riots-disgusting-and-un-american-tricia-mclaughlin-wake-up-america/1235044388030788/>