

UC Berkeley student senator released after arrest at immigration rally

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Body

A **UC Berkeley student senator** and six other illegal immigrant **students arrested** at a San Bernardino **rally** Tuesday were **released** from custody early Wednesday without triggering a hold from **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement.

Friends were concerned the **arrest** of Cal political science **student** Ju Hong, 21, a graduate of Alameda High School, would trigger his deportation. Hong has lived in the East Bay since his family brought him here on a tourist visa from South Korea when he was 11.

Through the federal Secure Communities program, which has been implemented in all of California's counties, anyone **arrested** and booked in a county jail gets fingerprints sent to a federal database monitored by ICE agents.

ICE agents interviewed the **students**, but did not file detainers against them, ICE spokeswoman Virginia Kice said in an emailed statement.

"ICE is focused on sensible, effective **immigration** enforcement that focuses first on criminal aliens and others who pose a threat to public safety," Kice said.

Hong had traveled to San Bernardino Valley College on Tuesday for a "coming out" **rally** for undocumented **students** from across the state to share their stories.

College officials said the **rally** went smoothly until the protesters left the campus grounds and interrupted traffic on Mt. Vernon Avenue, a multilane thoroughfare adjacent to the campus.

"Ju's been very vocal about his **immigration** status. He just really wanted to share his story," friend Yong Eo said Tuesday.

The seven **students** were charged with unlawful assembly and failure to disperse for blocking an "extremely busy street" and refusing to leave, said San Bernardino police Lt. Gwendolyn Brooks. The other **arrested students** attended Pasadena City College, Los Angeles Harbor College, Cal State San Bernardino and East Los Angeles College, said protester Javier Hernandez.

"They stood tall when they were **arrested**," he said. "They knew the risks."

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