

The following is a testimony of my arrest and detention by ICE Agents at Delaney Hall on May 26-27, 2026.

BACKGROUND

My name is Adam Marshall, and I am a New Jerseyan, an Army veteran, and a volunteer with Eyes On ICE.

I have been present for mutual aid, family advocacy, and first amendment activities at Delaney Hall since March of 2025. I am a member of Eyes on Ice, a citizen's group that advocates nonviolence, empathy, and the preservation of life and safety in the dangerous industrial zone of Doremus Avenue, Newark, which is known as "Chemical Corridor." We have focused exclusively on forging a legitimate path to ending the human rights abuses of this facility and the entire migrant detention infrastructure through legislative efforts, awareness campaigns, and other peaceful means. The majority of protests have been peaceful, and Eyes on Ice has advocated de-escalation in situations where tension increases as a means of protecting visiting families. We do this because escalation summons armed officers with arrest authority, who are a threat to the visiting families.

Martin Soto, a detainee, initiated a hunger strike Friday, May 22, 2026 with the support of over 300 detainees, and they made demands to end inhumane treatment and illegal detention. His wife, Gabi, led a protest outside of the facility in support of their demands. Citizens and Migrant families from all over the NJ and NY area gathered for peaceful chants, candle light vigils, and speeches. The EOJ leadership supported these families with continued mutual aid, and provided de-escalation where necessary. Other groups from the NY and NJ area This all changed on Sunday, May 24 when GEO and ICE attempted to transfer Martin Soto illegally. Citizens gathered to physically prevent the deportation van from exiting the facility. Three members of the protest were struck by GEO vehicles, which caused a massive escalation. Later that evening, ICE convoyed over 10 vehicles with armed officers and beat protesters back with batons and pepper spray, setting the scene for even more violence.

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I arrived on site at approximately 3pm and helped establish an aid station approximately 50 meters from the protest area with the goal of treating all and any injured persons on site. Thereafter, I began rotating between the aid station and protest areas, identifying individuals requiring treatment, ferrying supplies and equipment.

At approximately 4pm, several people on the protest line warned me that officers on the line were referring to me as "the target," claiming that ICE said that I had knives and bear mace on me. When approaching the protest areas, I was maintaining approximately 10 to 15 feet from the crowd of protesters to have a wider view. The only times that I was closer than that was when ICE pushed protesters toward my direction, or when I was extracting individuals who were injured or incapacitated for treatment.

Throughout the evening, I rendered aid to approximately a dozen people, with injuries ranging from pepper spray in the eyes and skin, cuts, and dehydration.

About an hour before being arrested, I observed an aerial drone flying above Energy Transfer's petroleum facility across the street.

In the moments directly before the arrest, I observed a group of 4-5 ICE / ERO officers wearing gas masks leaving the west gate and walking toward the protest line. As I stood on the concrete block, on the south sidewalk of Doremus Avenue, approximately 20-30 feet from the line of officers, I donned my own gas mask under the assumption that they would soon be deploying chemical irritants.

I then observed a large contingent of officers moving toward me as I was behind a vehicle on the south sidewalk. The officers swarmed me and tackled me to the ground and removed my protective mask, during which time I received a cut and bruise to my right brow.

They then carried me pall-bearer style with my arms behind my back. This caused pain as they carried me for a minute with my arms behind my back bearing the weight of my body. As they moved to the gated courtyard behind Delaney Hall, they began to remove the contents of my medical pouches, pro-mask bag, pockets, and my jacket. During this process, they were all asking "where is the bear mace?" They asked "who did you hand the bear mace to?" I have NEVER owned or used bear mace. I told them I was a veteran, and I asserted my 5th amendment rights.

I was pushed onto the roof of a blue SUV and my pockets were re-checked, and then my shoes and also my socks for some reason were removed. Another officer scanned my face with a smart phone, which I presume (but am not certain) was running the Mobile Fortify app. I observed another detainee in the passenger seat of the SUV, whose name I would later find out was "Bubba". None of the other detained persons had their shoes removed, so I presume this was some kind of humiliation tactic.

I was made to sit down on the asphalt courtyard with my back to the engine of the blue SUV with my jacket and shoes removed. They looked through my US passport and saw that I had documents in there regarding my dual UK citizenship, and harrassed me about it. They told me I should run off to England because I won't get arrested there.

Then a group of ICE agents who were also veterans approached and challenged my military service, with one man who was a shirtless white male (20-30 years old, about 5'7" with wavy dirty blond hair) threatened to beat me because he did not like that we were both army veterans and stood for different things. The other agents restrained him from carrying this out. A former marine ICE agent (40-50 years old, white male, 6ft with a salt and pepper beard) approached me while smoking a cigarette and claimed that he was supporting and defending the constitution. He asked me about my military service and expressed anger at me. I thanked him for his service and invoked my 5th amendment rights, and he stopped talking to me.

Then a former air force master sergeant took charge of watching over me, and showed me a picture on his phone of him in uniform. I thanked him for his service. He gloated saying "I bet you thought ICE couldn't arrest American Citizens." I said nothing. Another veteran (white male with reddish blond hair) who was eating a wheat snack bread from an MRE then asked me if I was an 11 Bravo (Infantryman), to which I answered 11 Alpha (Infantry Officer). He then proceeded to say "Hegseth is going to love you. You are cooked."

After a half hour to 45 minutes, two officers (white male in his late 40s early 50s with a blue shirt; and a white woman, age 40, also wearing a blue shirt) approached me and introduced himself as Homeland Security Investigations. He asked me if I would like to speak with him. I asked him if it would be okay to put my shoes back on, and they permitted me to do so. After this, I invoked my 5th amendment rights, and they both left.

Afterward, another officer (black male wearing a bandana over his hair, aged ~40) took charge of watching over me. Both he and another officer who I did not see stood me up, and took me out of the handcuffs that were behind my back, and replaced them with a chain tied around my waist with hands cuffed to the front, claiming that would be "more comfortable." The waist chains were cutting off my circulation and made breathing somewhat difficult. Another detainee was placed next to me, whose name was Johnny.

After a period of time, both Johnny and I were moved into the back of an ICE SUV, which I think was white or blue, but cannot remember. I offered to pray with Johnny, and recited the Lord's Prayer. The Driver and one other ICE officer were in the front of the vehicle. I was sat in the middle seat with Johnny to my right. To my left was a cooler and a bag of gear.

The vehicles exited the west gate of Delaney Hall as ICE agents formed a line and shoved, pepper sprayed, and baton-struck the protesters gathered there. As we approached the corner of Doremus Avenue and Wilson, a white SUV with New York tags took the lead in the convoy. We were driven to a dark underpass beneath the New Jersey Turnpike on the corner of Delancey Street and Rutherford Street. The vehicles arrayed on the south side of the road and parked. The officers instructed us to get out of the vehicles and removed the waist chains and handcuffs. We were instructed to put our hands on our heads and line up with our faces against a metal wall on the north side of the road. They had us wait there for about 2 minutes, and they threw our personal effects at our feet in evidence bags. They claimed they were letting us off with a warning, and to never come back. Bubba, Johnny, and I held hands as the agents stared at us and photographed us from their vehicles as they drove away. All of us gathered our items and phoned friends to be picked up.

I then proceeded to the East Orange VA Hospital emergency room and sought to be treated for the injuries I received while in custody. I had a cut and bruise on my right brow, bruising on my left and right biceps, bruising on my wrists, a bruise on my left breast, and low back pain. I have also experienced emotional distress as a result of this, which has further added to my post traumatic stress.