

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2026

Patricia Hyde
ICR ERO Boston Acting Field Director
Boston Field Office
1000 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803

Acting Director Hyde,

On June 20, 2026, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers commenced an enforcement operation in West Hartford, CT and detained Sead Cecunjanin, a West Hartford resident, small business owner with recently approved employment authorization who is awaiting his Adjustment of Status application.

Mr. Cecunjanin is a law abiding and highly regarded member of the West Hartford community. He has resided in the United States since 1997 and raised a family here after fleeing his native Yugoslavia as it was being torn apart by Slobodan Milošević's campaign of ethnic cleansing. Mr. Cecunjanin is a fixture in the regional restaurant community having worked in the industry for years in addition to working in the construction industry. Ten years ago, Mr. Cecunjanin opened up a dry-cleaning business, the Laundry Room on the Ave, and two years ago opened his own restaurant, Portobello's. Between his two businesses, he employs 15 members of the community. He is a beloved member of the Park Road Business Association and is a pillar of the community. Mr. Cecunjanin is the embodiment of the American Dream.

Mr. Cecunjanin was arrested by ICE outside of a Dunkin Donuts in West Hartford while with two of his three sons. Armed agents surrounded him and his adult children (all unarmed) with five unmarked cars. Mr. Cecunjanin is raising his children alone; his third son is a minor in high school in West Hartford and is now without a parent and legal guardian with his father's detainment.

Mr. Cecunjanin's had an I-130 approved in 2019. He also filed an I-485 "adjustment of status" to work towards becoming a lawful permanent resident in September 2023. He was last interviewed in October 2025, just 9 months ago. Mr. Cecunjanin received a valid employment authorization document (EAD), two months ago, and he has an I-512 Advance Parole, which has allowed him to travel outside the U.S. to visit his dying father and return while his adjustment of status remains pending. By all accounts Mr. Cecunjanin is doing everything that our complicated immigration system is asking of him and raising three upstanding young men on his own while running small businesses and employing members of the community.

As the duly elected Congressional Delegation of Connecticut, we request that ICE release Mr. Cecunjanin while his immigration case is pending and that ICE respond to our offices with detailed information on the status of Mr. Cecunjanin.

We also ask that you confirm that Mr. Cecunjanin is being detained under humane and sanitary conditions at the Wyatt detention facility in Central Falls, RI, by July 6, 2026.

With these actions, ICE has frightened our communities, American-born and immigrant alike, and creating transparency is the first step to regaining their trust. We respectfully urge you to release Mr. Cecunjanin from your custody back to West Hartford, so that he can be with his family, tend to his businesses and continue to pursue his permanent residency process.

Thank you for your full and timely response to our inquiry.


Sincerely,



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
Member of Congress