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*We envision a world where the fundamental right to move is respected and appreciated by all.  
Our view is that all human beings are entitled to respect, documents, and a process through  
which to move, settle, and resettle in the world.*



October 2018

## ***Pangea Quarterly Newsletter***



Sonia is free! Here, with her daughter and supporters from Faith in the Valley. (July 2018)

**UPDATE: Community Pressure Works.**

## Sonia is Reunited with Her Family!

In our [July Newsletter](#), we highlighted the story of Pangea client Sonia Felix Castañón, who had been separated from her family and detained by ICE for over 11 months -- even though an immigration judge had already granted Sonia the right to stay in the United States permanently, with a pathway to citizenship.

Sonia had asked the immigration judge for a bond hearing, but ICE's pushback led to further delays in her release. Sonia, her family, and the community couldn't sit by any longer in the face of her unending detention. Pangea and community supporters -- including leaders from [Faith in the Valley--Merced](#) & [Bakersfield](#), [Valley Crisis Center](#), and [Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus](#) -- led a [Call ICE Campaign](#), demanding Sonia's release from detention, as well as critical outreach to Congressman Jim Costa.

At the end of July, one day before the community planned to hold [a vigil for Sonia outside of Congressman Costa's office](#), [Sonia was released from ICE detention](#) and reunited with her family.

As this administration considers new ways to separate families, we will counter with creative ways to keep them together!

### Become A Monthly Sustainer!

Every day, Pangea works with immigrants to empower communities, defend their legal cases, and keep families united. Monthly contributions will help sustain our work at this critical time in history. Together, we can amplify our support for immigrant justice, especially in these trying times!



Support Pangea through AmazonSmile! Search for Pangea Legal Services and select it as your designated organization. AmazonSmile will donate a small portion of your purchase price to us at no extra cost to you!

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## Advocacy: West County Detention Facility in Contra Costa County Closes

After [persistent community protests](#) and the [courageous voices of those detained](#) at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond, CA -- denouncing the separation of immigrant families and the inhumane conditions at the facility -- the [Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office announced that it was ending its contract with ICE](#) to hold immigrants in detention at the facility.

In the wake of the Sheriff's announcement, [community members and organizations advocated for a just closure](#), urging ICE to release community members back to their families. Pangea partnered with other organizations in the Bay Area to provide representation to detained individuals at the West County Detention Facility. Several people were successfully released on ICE bonds paid for by community bond funds.

Nonetheless, ICE transferred many of the detained individuals from the West County Detention Facility to detention centers hundreds of miles away in Washington and Colorado. The [transfers were horrifying](#); people were shackled on buses for days without the ability to use the bathroom. [Families and supporters were outraged](#).

[Several Pangea clients were also transferred](#). In response, Pangea filed a habeas petition in federal district court demanding that ICE return client Guadalupe Rojas Amezcua to the Bay Area, where she could be with her family and where Pangea could continue to represent her. [Powerful community support](#) led ICE to bring Guadalupe back to California before the federal court could rule on the habeas. One week later, an immigration judge granted bond and Guadalupe was released.



Guadalupe reunited with her daughter. (August 2018)

Pangea along with other advocates also filed a [joint habeas petition on behalf of 10 detained individuals](#) who had been unjustly transferred from the West County Detention Facility. Though the federal district court judge did not order ICE to bring back the transferred individuals due to a jurisdiction-related legal question, [the judge condemned ICE's actions and wrote in his decision](#): "[T]his order **should not be interpreted as judicial approval of ICE's decision to transfer Petitioners**. While the court's application of the law compels it to dismiss this case, **the law does not compel it to countenance an agency's action that is contrary to the norms of this country's justice system.**"

Since the closure of the West County Detention Facility, Pangea has continued to support the campaign for a just closure led by the [West County Liberation Front](#) and community organizations in Colorado.

## Pangea Client, Carlos Rueda, Sues ICE for \$750,000 After Agents Assault Him



## For Refusing To Out Other Undocumented People

One year ago, Pangea client Carlos Rueda reported to the Sacramento ICE field office only to find himself caught in a precarious position. For months, ICE agents were threatening to deport Carlos if he failed to name other undocumented immigrants. [Carlos refused to turn others in, and ICE retaliated](#). When Carlos requested to see an attorney, ICE agents slammed his head on the table, kneed him in the ribs and stomach repeatedly, and almost dislocated both his shoulders. Then, ICE agents took Carlos into custody and detained him. To this day, Carlos has persistent injuries and suffers from insomnia and trauma.

Pangea attorneys stopped Carlos' deportation and won his release from ICE custody. Carlos is now taking one small step to try to get ICE to stop its shameful tactics: he is [filing a federal complaint against ICE for \\$750,000](#). In late September, Pangea, community partners, and the [Sacramento Immigration Coalition](#) held a [press conference](#) to announce the filing of the federal complaint.

For an in-depth profile on Carlos and ICE's disgraceful actions against him, read *The Intercept*, "[Play to Stay: Undocumented Immigrant Faces a Choice: Become an Informant for ICE or Be Deported](#)."

## Immigrant Liberation Movement: Celebrating a growing community of promotoras on Nelson Mandela's 100th anniversary



Undocumented families in San Mateo get organized to end detentions and deportations.

(July 2018)

Last quarter marked the 100th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth. Mandela was a beacon for social justice. His activism paved the way for some of the world's earliest community *promotoras*, who emerged in the 1950s to assist black South Africans with navigating and resisting codes of apartheid.

This last quarter, the [Immigrant Liberation Movement \(ILM\)](#) launched its second cohort of *Promotora* trainings. Over five weeks, nearly two dozen immigrant families came together to learn how to liberate their loved ones from detention and deportation. They learned about the unjust immigration system and its laws, as well as concrete legal and community organizing strategies. By bringing together those most affected by these policies, we are creating space for immigrants to build and lead their own movements.

Nelson Mandela showed us what can happen when law is transformed from a weapon of the powerful to a tool that everyone can understand, use, and shape. It's no easy task, but if we work together, the movement to liberate immigrants in the United States will become possible.

## Pangea Welcomes Its Newest Attorney-Fellow, Pete Weiss!

Join us in welcoming the newest member of the Pangea team, [Pete Weiss](#)! Pete started in September, and he is Pangea's first Equal Justice Works Fellow.

Pete will be partnering with the [Santa Clara County Public Defender Office](#), [Silicon Valley DeBug in San Jose](#), and other community partners to represent immigrants with past criminal convictions in immigration court. [Read more about Pete's fellowship project!](#)

**Warmly,  
The Pangea Family**

**(Mariel, Edwin, Bianca, Nilou, Marie, Celine, Luis Angel, Etan,  
Esperanza, Jehan, Juan Camilo & Pete)**

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Do you believe in the #RightToMove? Monthly contributions will help sustain our work and support our community members!  
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**As always, thank you for your continued support and solidarity.  
We couldn't do it without you!**

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