



Dear friends,

On Thursday morning, ICE agents entered a Columbia University building and took a student into custody. They presented themselves as NYPD officers searching for a missing child. They had no warrant. **They hid their identity and lied.** This is how federal law enforcement operates in 2026.

Thanks to Mayor Mamdani's direct intervention with the White House, Ellie Aghayeva has been freed.

This came after [Border Patrol agents abandoned a blind father to die on the streets of Buffalo](#). Nurul Amin Shah Alam was here legally, and based on a statement from an agency spokesperson, was found "not amenable to removal". For this, he was abandoned to die alone.

These actions by the federal government are beyond reprehensible and un-American. **Here in New York, we can fight back.**

Last summer, I introduced the [MELT Act](#) to bar law enforcement from hiding their identities and requiring clear identification. From local police officers and immigration advocates to constitutional law advocates and local community boards, the MELT Act is building the support it needs to become law this year.

I have also introduced the [RADAR Act](#) to require New York State to create a publicly available dashboard on immigration enforcement activity so all New Yorkers have the real-time facts about federal activity in our communities, enabling us to better protect our neighbors.

We must pass these bills as soon as possible to send a clear message to Washington. **New York is a free state and we will always fight back against authoritarianism.**

I am grateful to all my neighbors here on the west side who have stood up and organized. From know your rights trainings to standing vigilant outside our schools and community spaces, you have proven time and again that we are a community that cares for ALL of our neighbors. **If you would like to get involved in actions like this, please reach out to my office.**

Your friend,

Tony