

PAIFUP

News from the fight for freedom, safety and dignity for all immigrants detained in Pennsylvania.

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1 NEW CLIENT

8 HEARINGS

2 CLIENTS RELEASED

February Recap

This short month brought many wins to our team, including:

We were able to bring a client back home to Philadelphia after being transferred to and detained in a Texas facility for months.

Also, we helped a client get released, and he is now home in West Virginia helping care for his ill spouse.

Client Success: Paul

Paul has been living in Philadelphia for nearly 13 years. He is a hard-working man who sends money to his mother in his native country to support her, enjoys dancing, and teaches English lessons in his free time. Paul is an essential worker, but the restaurant where he worked was shut down due to COVID-19 in March 2020. Paul's employer, Isaac, knew what kind of worker and person Paul is and employed him elsewhere until the restaurant could re-open. In November 2020 Paul was arrested by ICE while walking down the street and was detained at York County Prison.



Upon arriving, the prison was in the midst of a severe COVID-19 outbreak. Paul was placed into quarantine and was not permitted to appear for his bond hearing. He was connected to PAIFUP in December 2020 and his attorney immediately began trying to secure his release. The prison continually rescheduled Paul's hearings - first, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, and then, because Paul tested positive for COVID-19.

Finally, after two months in detention, Paul was given a bond hearing and ordered released. Paul's lawyer worked with Isaac to pay the bond in Philadelphia but ran into hurdles. The bond office was closed unexpectedly, and then ICE told Isaac that they didn't have Paul's paperwork and the system was down. Growing frustrated, Isaac decided he would drive two hours to York to pay Paul's bond and wait for him to be released from custody. Paul was released and is now helping to re-open the restaurant with Isaac. He is pursuing his case in Philadelphia with his PAIFUP lawyer and continues contributing positively to his community in the city that he loves and calls home.

Names have been changed to protect anonymity.

Art: [Layqa Nuna Yawar, brown don't drown, 2016, BK NY](#)

Stronger Together: Meet Our Affiliates



Founded in 1979, CATA is a non-profit organization focused on organizing and empowering the immigrant community as they fight for justice for themselves, their families, and their communities. CATA's work is focused around three issues: Workers' Rights, Immigration, and Food Justice. [Learn more about their work here.](#)

In Other News



An immigrant mother is desperate to support her family...

"I came here to support my family. It breaks my heart, because I'm not doing it."

[Read more](#)
www.inquirer.com



Immigrant victims of crime hope Congress eases visa hurdles

HARRISBURG, Pa. -- In a bid to become a legal permanent resident of the United States, she says she lives in fear, afraid both of being deported and of retribution after she testified against men who were convicted of killing her boyfriend.

[Read more](#)
abcnews.go.com



A Cage is Still a Cage

"When immigration authorities lock up children and families, they are acting with full knowledge of the long-term trauma they are inflicting."

[Read more](#)
time.com

[Catch up on the previous issue here](#)

Questions? Comments? News worth sharing? Send Karina, our PAIFUP coordinator, an email at ksuarez@pirclaw.org.

[The Pennsylvania Immigrant Family Unity Project \(PAIFUP\)](#) is a collaborative of

nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania formed in order to achieve universal representation for detained immigrants in removal proceedings in PA.