

Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights

[INRC](#) assists non-citizens - either through individual legal representation or as groups and organizations - as they assert their rights to live in the United States without fear, exploitation and subordination, or to be free from U.S. custody. Clinic interns represent legal permanent residents with criminal convictions, domestic violence survivors and asylum-seekers in deportation proceedings as well as prisoners currently or formerly held at American military detention sites, such as Guantánamo Bay.

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Helping Immigrants and Non-Citizens with their Immigration Status: Recent INRC victories:

Status: Recent INRC victories:

- A Chilean political and indigenous rights activist was granted permission to stay in the United States after a seven year battle against deportation in immigration and BIA court.
- INRC worked with a young unaccompanied minor who fled gang violence in El Salvador to gain special immigration juvenile status through proceedings in Family and Immigration Court. He has now successfully settled into life in the United States under the care of a loving guardian.
- INRC also prevented a client who had resided in the United States for the last 30 years, with two U.S. Citizen children, from being deported by representing him through a two-day immigration trial. During the trial they argued that the client was deserving of discretionary relief due to his strong ties in the United States.

Representing Detainees: With the help of ICRN, a detainee at Guantanamo Bay was released and is now resettled in Uruguay.

Educating Communities: Through its CLEAR project, INRC provides rights awareness education and counseling to individuals and charitable organizations that travel and work in the Middle East. The project supports and represents individuals re-entering the U.S. who expect close scrutiny because of where they have traveled, or what demographic they fit.

Advocating for immigrants: INRC is working with the Department of Education to investigate allegations that some New York City schools are attempting to block registration of the recent surge in Latin American unaccompanied minors by asking for inappropriate documentation.

Upcoming Trials: INRC is bringing two lawsuits against the federal government involving police surveillance of Muslims in New York City and FBI retaliation against politically active American Muslims who refuse to act as informants and who are subsequently put on the no fly list.

SPOTLIGHT

Diala Shamas, CLEAR Senior Staff Attorney:

Diala Shamas is a senior staff attorney with the CLEAR project. Diala works with individuals, organizations, and communities that are facing pressures exerted by counter terrorism and national security policies. Along with CLEAR clinic interns and her colleagues, she has represented scores of individuals who have been approached for questioning by the FBI or the NYPD. Diala is also counsel in [Raza v. City of New York](#), a federal lawsuit challenging the NYPD's program of suspicionless surveillance of Muslims, and [Tanvir v. Holder](#), a lawsuit brought on behalf of CLEAR clients who have been unlawfully placed on the Federal Government's "No Fly List" in retaliation for their refusal to become FBI informants.

Professor Ramzi Kassem and INRC clinic interns 2015



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

The CLEAR (Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility) project aims to address the unmet legal needs of Muslim, Arab, South Asian, and other communities in the New York City area that are particularly affected by national security and counter-terrorism policies and practices. Clinic interns work on a wide variety of issues from representing individuals who are contacted for questioning by law enforcement, to facilitating Know-Your-Rights at different community sites, to supporting organizing by affected communities in New York City. Click [here](#) for more information.

Community Lawyering Project: This project takes a holistic approach to working with immigrant survivors of gender violence. Clinic interns facilitate educational and consciousness raising workshops at community organizations as the women prepare their legal petitions for status.

Partners: ACLU, New York Civil Liberties Union, Queens Legal Services, CUNY Citizenship Now

INRC IN THE NEWS

Ramzi Kassem discusses continued detainment of cleared prisoners at Guantanamo in [VICE](#).

Nermeen Arastu and Senior Staff Attorney Diala Shama, discuss government surveillance of politically active American Muslims and its effects in [The Washington Post](#).