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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

***Legal Aid Files Petition Seeking Immediate Release of Oscar Belgal from
Metropolitan Detention Center***

***Mr. Belgal Remains Detained at Beleaguered Facility with Bullet Lodged in His
Neck, in Urgent Need of Medical Care***

(BROOKLYN, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** filed a [petition](#) for a writ of habeas corpus in federal court seeking the immediate release of Oscar Belgal, a 28-year-old father of two who was shot by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers on October 8, 2026, while his five-year-old son sat in the back seat of his vehicle.

Mr. Belgal remains detained at the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) in Brooklyn with a bullet lodged in his neck, loss of sensation on the left side of his face, and impaired hearing in his left ear. Despite his serious injuries, he has yet to receive surgery to remove the bullet.

“Mr. Belgal’s detention was unlawful from its inception. ICE officers shot him in the neck in front of his five-year-old son, failed to provide him with immediate medical assistance, and now continue to hold him in a facility notorious for medical neglect,” said **Perry McAninch and Elyssa Williams, counsel for Mr. Belgal and attorneys with The Legal Aid Society**. “With a bullet still lodged in his neck and his serious medical needs unmet, every additional day in custody puts him at further risk. The Court must intervene and order his immediate release.”

Masked ICE officers in civilian clothing approached Mr. Belgal’s vehicle with firearms drawn, without identifying themselves or presenting a warrant. Terrified for his and his son’s lives, Mr. Belgal watched as an officer shattered his driver-side window before opening fire into the vehicle. ICE officers fired at least seven shots, striking Mr. Belgal in the neck as his five-year-old son cowered in the back seat. Video footage shows Mr. Belgal pulling his vehicle forward, not backward toward officers, as he attempted to escape the gunfire. After being shot, Mr. Belgal exited the vehicle pleading for medical assistance, fearing he was dying, while his son screamed that the masked men had killed his father. Mr. Belgal did not learn the men were ICE officers until he awoke in the hospital.

Rather than render immediate medical assistance, ICE officers threw Mr. Belgal to the ground, handcuffed him, and left him bleeding and fading in and out of consciousness. New York City Police Department officers ultimately intervened to secure medical assistance. Doctors subsequently advised that Mr. Belgal required surgery to remove the bullet and instructed him to return for treatment during the week of October 12. Instead, ICE transferred him into detention. Mr. Belgal remains in a segregated unit at MDC, where staff have provided only

ibuprofen for his pain, with no indication of when he will receive surgery. He has also been unable to contact his family while detained at MDC. His five-year-old son, meanwhile, did not speak for several days following the shooting and continues to suffer nightly nightmares.

Mr. Belgal's arrest and continued detention violate federal law and his constitutional rights. These violations were compounded by ICE officers' unlawful use of deadly force and failure to provide adequate medical care for the severe injuries they caused. His continued detention places him at significant risk of imminent harm and warrants his immediate release.

The Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn has a longstanding history of dangerous conditions and medical neglect, which federal judges have described as ["barbaric" and "inhumane."](#) Reports have documented filthy conditions, prolonged lockdowns, and inadequate medical care. In 2025, a federal judge [reduced the sentence](#) of Terrence Wise after staff delayed treating his lung cancer for months. Wise later died, and his family [filed a wrongful death lawsuit](#) alleging medical negligence. More recently, [The Remedy Project](#) reported that a person with a broken neck and three fractured vertebrae waited 43 days for hospital treatment, raising further concerns about access to urgent medical care at the facility.

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