



## **national network for immigrant and refugee rights**

310 Eighth Street, Suite 303 | Oakland, California 94607 | 510.465.1984 | 510.465.1885 fax | [nnirr@nnirr.org](mailto:nnirr@nnirr.org) | [www.nnirr.org](http://www.nnirr.org)

### **100 STORIES PROJECT**

HURRICANE: Human Rights Immigrant Community Action Network  
An initiative of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

**August 6, 2008—Rhode Island**

#### **Vietnamese detainee dies in ICE custody after denied urgently needed medical care**

Hiu Lui Ng, a Vietnamese man, died of cancer while in ICE custody after repeatedly being denied medical care by jail and ICE officials at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, RI, the Franklin County Jail in St. Albans, VT and the Jail & House of Corrections in Greenfield, MA. Mr. Ng began complaining of excruciating back pain in April 2008 and by mid-July could no longer stand or walk. Despite his worsening condition, ICE officials accused him of faking his condition, denied him a wheelchair and refused his pleas for an independent medical evaluation.

Mr. Ng, father of two U.S. citizen children, was arrested and detained at a green card interview with CIS on July 19, 2007, for a deportation order he never knew about.

Just one month before his death, jail officials at the Wyatt Detention Facility forced Mr. Ng to relocate several times within the facility, which meant having to carry all his belongings as well as his mattress, which he had to lift above his head to put on the upper bunk that he was assigned. There was no ladder and Mr. Ng endured much difficulty and suffered excruciating pain every time he climbed up and down the bunk bed, at least three times a day for head counts. This only worsened his condition to the point of not being able to get up to get his medication, food, or go to the bathroom on his own. Due to ICE's negligence and denying him the use of a wheelchair, Mr. Ng missed two opportunities to receive medical care outside of the detention facility.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, just days before he died, ICE agents dragged Mr. Ng out of bed, shackled and carried him to a car, bruising his arms and legs and causing more excruciating pain. He was taken to another facility in Hartford, Connecticut where he was pressured to withdraw all pending appeals of his case and accept deportation.

Mr. Ng entered the US on a tourist visa from Hong Kong when he was seventeen years old, applied for political asylum and was denied.

In 2001, a notice to appear in immigration court was mistakenly sent to a nonexistent address. Although Mr. Ng never received the notice, he was served with an order of deportation for not showing up for his court date. Meanwhile, his U.S. citizen wife had submitted a petition for him with CIS and when they showed up for his green card

interview on July 19, 2007, ICE arrested him on the 2001 deportation order.

Mr. Ng is survived by his wife and two US-born children.

*For similar stories of abuses and rights violations during ICE raids, see NNIRR 2008 Chronology of Abuses at [www.nnirr.org](http://www.nnirr.org).*

#### Sources

1. *The New York Times*, “Ill and in Pain, Detainee Dies in U.S. Hands,” by Nina Bernstein, August 13, 2008.
2. *Associated Press*, “RI prosecutors: No charges over detainee death,” by Eric Tucker, January 26, 2009.
3. Request for Investigation to DHS Office of Inspector General, US Attorney’s Office in Providence, RI, Hartford, CT, Boston, MA; Attorney General, State of Connecticut, State of Rhode Island, State of Massachusetts, State of Vermont, Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation from Law offices of Joshua Bardavid and Theodore N. Cox, Esq., New York City, August 11, 2008.  
[http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/investigation\\_request.pdf](http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/investigation_request.pdf).