



ACLU
Puerto Rico

Our actions in July 2026

The ACLU of Puerto Rico is the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a nonprofit organization founded in the United States in 1920. Our mission is to fight violations of the civil liberties guaranteed by the legal systems of the United States and Puerto Rico, wherever and whenever necessary.

We work to ensure that the constitutional guarantees and statutes that protect human rights and civil liberties are upheld and enforced in the Puerto Rican archipelago. We confront oppression, authoritarianism, and injustices against people.

ACTIONS IN JULY 2026

Inocencia remains free!

Inocencia Rodríguez will remain at liberty while her immigration proceedings continue, after Immigration Judge Elvin Talavera Peraza imposed a \$5,000 bail. We hailed as a victory that Inocencia remains with her family and community after the federal government attempted to keep her detained and transfer her outside of Puerto Rico. However, we denounce that this bail is unfair and irrational, because Inocencia should never have been detained. The decision comes after an order from Federal District Judge María Antongiorgi Jordán, after Talavera Peraza refused to allow in-court verification of Rodríguez’s approved I-130 family-based petition and I-601A provisional waiver during a custody redetermination hearing.



We are defending academic freedom!

The ACLU of Puerto Rico joined more than a dozen legal organizations that urged the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit to uphold the district court order that blocked the Trump administration’s attempt to seize ideological control of Harvard University. In presenting the arguments with the rest of the organizations, the ACLU of Puerto Rico also called on universities of the archipelago not to give in to Trump’s unconstitutional pressures, but rather to defend their freedom of speech and protections for faculty, students, and the university community at large.



Vieques and Puerto Rico deserve access to information!

The fight for the departure of the Navy in Vieques did not end 23 years ago, when the bombings stopped. Since then, the people of Vieques have awaited the completion of a fair cleanup and decontamination process for their land, as well as clear answers about the impact that decades of bombing have had on their health, well-being, and dignity. What is happening inside the land that remains under the administrative control of the U.S. Navy? We visited the site in search of answers, transparency, and clarity regarding a process that, more than two decades later, remains unfinished. Together with the people of Vieques, we brought this complaint before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. You can find the details of the case at this link.

We want ICE off the streets of Puerto Rico!

Throughout July, we reiterated our demand that federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents be removed from our streets and communities. We denounce the pattern of interventions in which immigrants’ rights are violated, and the safety of all people is put at risk. We have observed and documented physical assaults, violent vehicle stops, and harassment in specific neighborhoods.



ACTIONS IN JULY 2026

Puerto Rico at the Day of Action!

A group of high school students from Puerto Rico participated in the ACLU's Day of Action in Washington, D.C., at the end of July. The students were accompanied and guided by our Public Policy Attorney, Lolimar Escudero Rodríguez. During the Day of Action, the group participated in collective advocacy to push for civil liberties issues before legislators and their staff. This collective action covered topics such as immigration, systemic equality and anti-racism, ending censorship in education, regulating facial recognition technology, the protection of trans rights, and much more. This experience was part of the 2026 ACLU National Advocacy Institute.



Puerto Rico at the Biennial Leadership Conference!

The American Civil Liberties Union held its most recent Biennial Leadership Conference in late July 2026 in Washington, D.C., convening affiliate board members, executive directors, and high-profile civil rights advocates to strategize on defending democracy. Annette Martínez Orabona, Executive Director of the ACLU of Puerto Rico, represented the Puerto Rican archipelago at this important meeting for the defense of civil rights at a crucial time. In the photo, Annette (right) is pictured with Tata Traoré, Deputy Director of Affiliate Support and Nationwide Initiatives (ASNI).



ACLU of Puerto Rico in New Orleans!

The ACLU, along with its Puerto Rico Chapter and the ACLU of Louisiana, presented the session “Reporting Without Fear: Press Freedom, Latino Communities, and Political Power” during the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) national conference in New Orleans. This session offered a focused discussion on how the First Amendment protects journalists against intimidation, exclusion, surveillance, and retaliation. It also provided practical tools to identify violations, stay safer while reporting, and defend Latino communities’ right to be informed.

In the photo, from left to right: David Cordero Mercado, Communications Director at the ACLU of Puerto Rico; Andrés Fuentes, New Orleans native and multimedia journalist; Sarah Whittington, Advocacy Director at the ACLU of Louisiana; and Brian Hauss, Deputy Director of the ACLU Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

JOIN THE FIGHT

Defending rights does not happen on its own, but through a united and active community. We invite you to stay informed, share our analysis, support our cases, and defend the civil and constitutional rights of all people in the streets, in the Legislature, and in the courts.

- Visit our bilingual website and subscribe to our updates: www.aclu-pr.org
- Follow us on social media [in](#) [f](#) [g](#) [y](#)
- Write to us at acluofpr@aclu.org

DEFEND AND PROTECT OUR COAST!

Your voice is essential to protecting the immigrant community in Puerto Rico! Puerto Rico needs more protection for its coasts, not less. **House Bill 25** weakens maritime land protection and favors private interests over the public good. This bill facilitates private claims on coastal land and jeopardizes public access to natural resources that belong to the people.



Scan the QR code and urge your legislator to vote against House Bill 25.