



ACLU
Puerto Rico

Our actions in August 2026

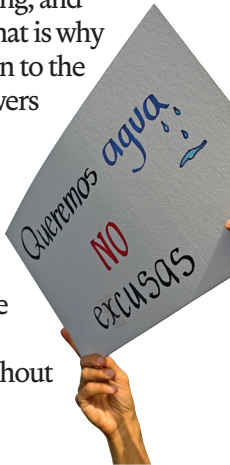
The ACLU of Puerto Rico is the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a nonprofit organization founded in the United States in 1920. Our mission is to fight violations of the civil liberties guaranteed by the legal systems of the United States and Puerto Rico, wherever and whenever 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
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The drought is not the root cause of Puerto Rico’s drinking water crisis

Access to water is not a privilege granted by the government. It is a human right and an essential public service. In Puerto Rico, drought is not the cause of the crisis in water service. The root of the problem lies in years of mismanagement, lack of planning, and government neglect. That is why communities have taken to the streets to demand answers and solutions. We have stood with them in this fight and will continue to support it, because no government should be allowed to normalize a reality in which thousands of people live without reliable access to water.



We will not stop fighting for Juan Francisco or for the rights of immigrants

Immigrants deserve impartial immigration judges. We denounced immigration judge Elvin Talavera Peraza’s decision to deny bond to Juan Francisco Areche Minaya based on an alleged flight risk that does not exist. This decision adds to a pattern of abusive rulings in immigration proceedings in Puerto Rico that raises serious questions about the impartiality with which cases involving immigrants’ freedom are being adjudicated. This is our eleventh immigrants’ rights case this year, and we will not stop fighting.



“My dad has been present throughout my entire life. His family, his children, his mother, and the life he has built are all here. Keeping him detained on the claim that he is going to flee, when everything he has built over so many years is in Puerto Rico, is completely incomprehensible and simply untrue. All we want is for him to come home to us and be able to defend himself while free.”

Darjeerling Areche
Juan Francisco’s eldest daughter.

Ten years since PROMESA and nine since Hurricane María

As Puerto Rico marks ten years since the enactment of PROMESA and nine years since Hurricane María, the ACLU of Puerto Rico held two panel discussions in academic settings and in collaboration with law journals on the island. “A Board Designed to Stay: Power, Permanence, and the Conditions for Exit,” held at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico Faculty of Law in collaboration with the *Revista de Estudios Críticos del Derecho* (*Revista CLAVE*), examined the scope of the Financial Oversight and Management Board’s

power and the conditions required to bring its mandate to an end. “Rebuilding Under Fiscal Control: PROMESA, María, and a Recovery Still Unfinished,” held at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law in collaboration with the *Revista Jurídica de la Universidad de Puerto Rico*, examined how PROMESA constrained Puerto Rico’s ability to respond to María, rebuild, and determine its own future, with a focus on housing, energy, health, austerity, inequality, and a recovery that remains unfinished.



¡Esencia no va!

We oppose Esencia because it threatens to deepen inequality by concentrating essential resources, driving up housing costs, displacing communities, and privileging a luxury development model over the needs of the people who already live in Cabo Rojo. It also puts natural resources and public assets at risk. We maintain that public participation must be mean-

ingful and that decisions about land and development must serve the public interest, not purchasing power. On August 23, we stood alongside thousands of people who mobilized in Cabo Rojo to reject this project and defend water, the coast, the environment, and communities' right to decide their own future.



We demand public hearings on H.B. 897!

The House of Representatives approved House Bill 897 after the Public Safety Commission issued a favorable report on the measure, without holding public hearings or conducting a thorough analysis.

Public safety is a shared goal. However, legislation like this, which contemplates the use of technologies such as automated license plate reader systems (ALPRs), requires a broad public discussion that acknowledges and examines the threats and potential constitutional rights violations associated with this type of technology. We are demanding public hearings on H.B. 897 in the Senate and insisting that the public's right to know about and respond to measures that threaten the protection of their rights to life, intimacy, privacy, and security be respected.



Victory at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston!

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit struck down Puerto Rico's 2020 law targeting so-called "fake news," concluding that it imposed an unconstitutional restriction on freedom of speech. Two journalists represented by the ACLU and the ACLU of Puerto Rico challenged the law because, under the pretext of penalizing false information, it could be used against reporting, criticism, whistleblowing, or dissenting expression that contradicted the government's official account or harmed its image during an emergency. In practice, the very ability to challenge those in power was at risk.

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](#) [v](#)
- Write to us at acluofpr@aclu.org

GET THE FLOCK OUT!

People have the right to move freely without being surveilled, to associate where and with whom they choose, and to be protected from unreasonable searches. That is why we must act now and demand an end to widespread government surveillance through automated license plate reader (ALPR) camera systems in our communities. From every corner of the Puerto Rican archipelago, your community can be part of this fight too.



Scan the QR
code and join
the fight in
Puerto Rico!