



DELIVERED VIA EMAIL AND MAIL

April 17, 2024

Amy Meek
Civil Rights Bureau Chief
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
115 S. LaSalle St.
Chicago, IL 60603
ameek@atg.state.il.us

Re: Immigration

Dear Chief Meek:

Lawyers for Civil Rights (“LCR”) represents the nearly 50 migrants transported to Martha’s Vineyard by Florida Governor DeSantis and his co-conspirators in a class-action lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. We are reaching out to call your attention to a significant development in the case: an order permitting us to proceed immediately against one of the key parties involved, the private plane company—Vertol Systems Company, Inc. This outcome represents the first victory of its kind in a matter concerning the transportation of migrants across state lines. To be sure, courts are increasingly expressing disapproval of rogue actors engaging in shadow immigration enforcement:

Vertol and the other Defendants here were not legitimately enforcing any immigration laws.... Unlike ICE agents legitimately enforcing the country’s immigration laws, the Court sees no legitimate purpose for rounding up highly vulnerable individuals on false pretenses and publicly injecting them into a divisive national debate. Treating vulnerable individuals like Plaintiffs in this way... is nothing short of extreme, outrageous, uncivilized, intolerable, and stunning.

Alianza Americas et al. v. DeSantis et al., No. 22-CV-11550, 2024 WL 1381926, at *28 (D. Mass. Mar. 29, 2024) (ECF Docket No. 112 at 58); *see also United States v. Texas*, No. 24-50149, 2024 WL 1297164, at *3, *6 (5th Cir. Mar. 26, 2024).

In light of these recent developments, we urge you to reassess the legal options that are available to stop the reckless transportation of migrants into your jurisdiction, particularly under circumstances that endanger health and safety. We are available to discuss the implications of *Alianza Americas* case. Please do not hesitate to contact Mirian Albert at malbert@lawyersforcivilrights.org or Jacob Love at jlove@lawyersforcivilrights.org.

Sincerely,

Jacob Love, Esq.
Mirian Albert, Esq.