

NewsRoom

8/18/26 WashingtonPost.com (No Page)
2026 WLNR 23372960

WashingtonPost.com
Copyright (c) 2026 The Washington Post

August 18, 2026

Section: /immigration

Minnesota sues Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, demanding ICE agent's extradition

Silvia Foster-Frau

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, alleging the governor is refusing to extradite a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent charged with shooting an immigrant during Operation Metro Surge.

Christian Castro, 52, is facing four counts of assault and one count of falsely reporting a crime related to a Jan. 14 incident in which prosecutors allege he fired through the front door of a Minneapolis home he knew was occupied.

Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty and Ellison have sent letters to Abbott urging him to sign off on the officer's extradition after Castro was charged in May. Last week, Ellison warned Abbott he would sue if he did not authorize Castro's extradition by the end of the day Monday.

"This is not some accidental thing," Ellison said in a Tuesday news conference announcing the lawsuit. "This is a choice."

At a news conference Tuesday, Abbott said he would not respond to Minnesota prosecutors until they "acknowledge their fault in the fraud that took place" and repay the government for it. He was referring to the Trump administration's accusations of fraud in Minnesota.

"I don't trust [Minnesota Gov.] Tim Waltz on anything, let alone something like this," Abbott said.

In addition to the extradition demand, Ellison's lawsuit also requests a temporary restraining order to bar the Cameron County Sheriff's Office, where Castro is in jail, from releasing him. According to the lawsuit, which was filed in the Southern District Court of Texas, Castro could be released under Texas law as soon as Aug. 26 if he is not extradited.

The shooting was one of three January incidents during the Department of Homeland Security's surge in Minneapolis in which federal officers fired at people. The other two resulted in the deaths of Renée Good and Alex Pretti, both U.S. citizens, sparking widespread outrage and public protests over the agency's aggressive tactics.

Minnesota sues Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, demanding ICE agent's extradition, 2026 WLNR 23372960

In the shooting that led to Minnesota's extradition request, authorities initially said in court filings that Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis and another man rushed from their home to assault an ICE officer with a broom and a snow shovel while he was attempting to detain a third person — Alfredo Alejandro Aljorna — after a traffic stop.

According to that initial arrest affidavit, the officer, who was not named in the filings, fired his gun and hit Sosa-Celis in the leg during the struggle. Sosa-Celis and Aljorna, the affidavit stated, then ran into a nearby home, where they were later detained.

Soon after the shooting, then-Homeland Security Secretary Kristi L. Noem described the incident as "an attempted murder of federal law enforcement."

But Sosa-Celis's family disputed key elements of DHS's version of events. Two immigration officers were later suspended, and a criminal investigation began into whether they lied under oath about the shooting of the Venezuelan man. A joint review by ICE and the Department of Justice of video evidence found officers had likely made "untruthful statements," DHS said in a statement.

Castro, who has been placed on administrative leave from ICE, is one of two federal immigration officers Minnesota prosecutors have charged with state crimes in the aftermath of the Minneapolis crackdown. The other ICE agent, Gregory Donnell Morgan Jr., was charged with two counts of second-degree assault after he allegedly pointed a gun at a vehicle on Feb. 5 while driving on a local highway.

The process of extradition, enshrined in the constitution and codified in U.S. law, was set up so a person who commits a crime in one state cannot evade the criminal justice system by fleeing to another. The other state is required to return the alleged criminal back to the place they committed the crime.

"It's part of the glue that holds the nation together and it is a mandatory obligation," said Seth Chandler, law professor at the University of Houston Law Center.

---- Index References ----

Company: UNITED STATES, GOVERNMENT OF; SOUTHERN DISTRICT COURT REPORTING, INC

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Fraud (1FR30); Government Litigation (1GO18); Immigration & Naturalization (1IM88); Legal (1LE33); Police (1PO98); Social Issues (1SO05))

Region: (Americas (1AM92); Minnesota (1MI53); North America (1NO39); Texas (1TE14); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); U.S. Southwest Region (1SO89); USA (1US73))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Cameron County Sheriff's Office; Department of Homeland Security; Department of Justice; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Southern District Court of Texas) (Greg Abbott)

Word Count: 653