

Detained for speaking Spanish

● Two US women sue border agency

● The American Civil Liberties Union filed the suit against US Customs and Border Protection

● Suda and Hernandez say that they were detained for 40 minutes

Los Angeles, United States

Two US women detained by a border patrol agent in the state of Montana after he heard them speaking Spanish in a grocery store have sued the country's border protection agency.

Video of the incident -- which took place last May in the small town of Havre -- showed Agent Paul O'Neal tell Ana Suda and Martha Hernandez that he had asked to see their identification as it was unusual to hear Spanish speakers in the state, which borders Canada.

"It has to do with you guys speaking Spanish in the store in a state where it's predominately English speaking," he said.

"It's not illegal, it's just very unheard of up here," he told the women.

The American Civil Liberties



Martha Hernandez (L) and Ana Suda standing before the store in Havre, Montana where they were detained by a US Border Patrol agent for speaking Spanish

Union on Thursday filed suit against US Customs and Border Protection on behalf of the women, who live in Havre.

Suda and Hernandez say in the lawsuit that O'Neal detained them for 40 minutes.

California native Hernandez and Suda, who was born in Texas, said they were standing in line to buy milk and eggs when the agent -- who was standing behind them -- commented on Hernandez's accent, and asked

the women where they were born.

"I asked, 'Are you serious?'" Suda said, according to the lawsuit. "Agent O'Neal responded that he was 'dead serious'."

The two women say they were then asked to show identification and questioned outside the store, before eventually being released.

"The incident itself is part of a broader pattern that we've seen of abusive tactics by border

patrol which has gotten worse since the Trump administration, which has left border patrol officers feeling emboldened to take actions like this," Cody Wofsy, an attorney with the ACLU, said.

'Ostracized and humiliated'

"This has been devastating for (Suda and Hernandez)," he added.

"Havre is a small town, they felt ostracized and humiliated

and made to feel unwelcome in their own town and in their own country."

He noted the United States has no official language, with Spanish by far the most common language spoken after English.

Mother-of-two Suda, who has been living in Havre for five years, said in a statement that she and Hernandez have faced harassment since the encounter gained media attention.

She said she has been called "an illegal" in restaurants and bars and her eight-year-old daughter is now scared to speak Spanish.

"In some ways, it would have just been easier to stay quiet about the incident... but then I think about my kids," she said.

"I want them to not only be proud of being bilingual, but also to know that they live in a country where people can't just be stopped and interrogated based on how they look and sound."

A Customs and Border Protection spokesman declined to comment on the case.

"As a matter of policy, US Customs and Border Protection does not comment on pending litigation," he said in a statement.

"However, lack of comment should not be construed as agreement or stipulation with any of the allegations."

Erdogan won't go back on S-400 deal with Russia

Ankara, Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would not "turn back" on a deal with Moscow to buy Russian S-400 missile defence systems in comments published yesterday.

Turkey's push to buy the systems has raised questions among NATO allies over their compatibility with alliance equipment as well as concerns over the burgeoning relationship between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed a deal with Russia on the S-400, so for us to turn back from the deal is out of the question. This is a done deal," Erdogan said, quoted by CNN Turk broadcaster.

The United States in December approved the sale of \$3.5 billion in missiles to Turkey, which followed Washington anger over Turkey's intention to buy Russian systems.

Turkey was "open" to buying US Patriot missiles, Erdogan told Turkish journalists on board his plane from the southern Russian city of Sochi after a three-way summit on Syria with his Russian and Iranian counterparts.

El Salvador court frees woman jailed for delivering stillborn

San Salvador, El Salvador

Salvadoran court freed Evelyn Hernandez, who was sentenced to 30 years in prison after she gave birth to a stillborn baby at home. After serving 33 months for aggravated homicide, 20-year-old Hernandez smiled as she was reunited with her parents in capital San Salvador.

The court in Cojutepeque, east of the capital, ruled that she will be retried but while living at home. A hearing has been set for April 4, with a new judge, her lawyer Angel-

ica Rivas said. El Salvador has an extremely strict abortion ban. Hernandez gave birth in the makeshift bathroom of her home in the central Cuscatlan region. She was 18 years old and eight months pregnant.

She said her son was stillborn but was convicted of murdering him, abortion rights group ACDATEE said.

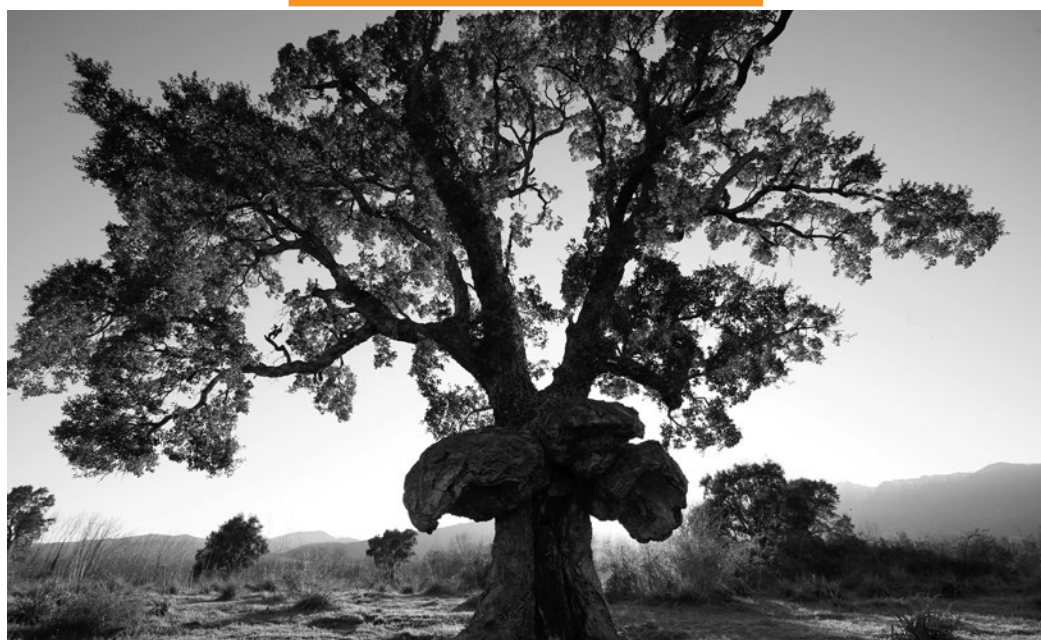
ACDATEE cited a pathologist's report which it said indicated the baby had choked to death while still in the womb.

The group said Hernandez had not known she was pregnant and gave birth on

the toilet after feeling abdominal pains. She got pregnant as the result of a rape, which she did not report out of fear because her family had been threatened. Even women who abort due to birth defects or health complications risk jail sentences of up to 40 years in El Salvador. Campaigners say some have been jailed after suffering miscarriages.

The country's abortion law made international headlines in 2013 when a sick woman was forbidden from aborting a fetus which developed without a brain.

French Tree of the Year



A cork oak with its stem resembling a large bird, chosen as the French Tree of the Year in 2018, is pictured in Ghisonaccia on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica. This cork oak has been elected as France's Tree of the Year 2018 and will represent France in the 'European Tree of the Year 2019' contest on February 28, 2019. It is estimated to be between 15 and 18 meters high and measures 4.8 meters in circumference. The particular form of its trunk resembling a large bird is believed to have been caused by weather, hence its name 'Arburacellu', meaning tree-bird in the Corsican language.



Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company B.S.C.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company B.S.C. in their recent meeting held on 14th February 2019 propose the following distribution of dividends for the year ending 31st December 2018 to the Ordinary Equity Shareholders who are registered on the date of the AGM to be held on 25th March 2019. This is subject to the AGM and the Regulatory Authorities approval on this recommendation.

- Cash Dividend of BD 2,143,847, equivalent to BD 0.015 per share or 15% of the paid-up capital amounting to BD 14.3mn.

Thank you.

Mr. Murad Ali Murad
Chairman