

‘Chilling effect’ is seen with protest sentences

Experts concerned by use of domestic terrorism charges

By Sally Avila Edwards and Kevin Krause
STAFF WRITERS

On July 6 last year, Daniel Rolando Sanchez-Estrada got a call from his wife. She was in jail after attending a protest at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Alvarado and was worried that police might search their home in Garland.

An hour later, Sanchez-Estrada loaded his car with various boxes of anti-government and anti-Trump literature, according to court filings. FBI agents waiting outside his house followed him to a nondescript Denton apartment, where he left the boxes. Dallas police officers then arrested Sanchez-Estrada on orders from federal agents.

A year later, Sanchez-Estrada is now serving 30 years in prison for moving the documents 56 miles.

Sanchez-Estrada is one of 16 people sentenced to a collective 562 years in prison for their connection to the Prairieland Detention Center protest — unusually harsh punishments that First Amendment experts around the country are concerned will have a “chilling effect” on political protest around the country.

“It doesn’t take a law degree to think that that seems like a completely draconian and disproportionate punishment for the conduct here,” said Katie Fallow, deputy director of litigation at Columbia’s Knight First Amendment Institute.

Federal officials said protesters attempted to violently attack the facility. FBI Director Kash Patel repeatedly characterized protesters as an “antifa cell” after they shot fireworks and vandalized property, with one protester shooting and wounding a police officer.

The characterization opened the door for terrorism charges after President Donald Trump labeled antifa as a domestic terrorist group in an executive order in September. While protesters repeatedly denied any connection to antifa, this case is the first that uses Trump’s executive order to enhance sentencing — an “unprecedented” move, according to Fallow.

“The concern is that the Trump administration will now use this as a test case to then go after other left-wing protesters, and that should trouble everybody across the political spectrum,” she said.

Legal experts interviewed by the Dallas Morning News are

Protests continues on A2

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

DA’s office probes ICE fatal shooting



Raquel Natalicchio/Houston Chronicle

Harris County District Attorney Sean Teare, center, said Friday in Houston that his office is conducting its own investigation into the deadly shooting of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo — even though “they were not invited” by federal agencies.



Raquel Natalicchio/Houston Chronicle

Community members have visited to leave flowers and candles, pray and sing at a memorial near where Lorenzo Salgado Araujo was shot and killed in Houston.

Victim not intended target of operation, lawmaker says agency chief confirmed

By Julián Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, the man shot and killed Tuesday by a federal agent in east Houston, was not the initial target of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation, U.S. Rep.

Sylvia Garcia said Thursday evening.

“The acting director of ICE has confirmed that Salgado was not the target, and neither was his brother,” Garcia said. “But he provided no information as to why, if he was not a target, he

Shooting continues on A5

INSIDE

ICE agents lacked body cameras in Houston shooting. **A4**

Federal authorities have not asked Texas Rangers to investigate shooting. **A5**

Houston officials raise doubts on feds’ cooperation and transparency

By Tanya Babbar, Julián Aguilar and John Wayne Ferguson
STAFF WRITERS

Houston-area leaders launching their own investigation into the fatal shooting of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo by an ICE agent said during a Friday news conference that they are concerned about federal transparency and cooperation.

Outrage over the shooting of Salgado has deepened since Thursday, when U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia announced David Venturilla, acting director of ICE, confirmed Salgado was not the intended target of immigration agents. An ICE agent fatally shot Salgado in the abdomen early Tuesday after agents attempted to pull over his van in the 6800 block of Canal Street.

Salgado has long lived in Houston, and is a business owner and the father to U.S. citizens, according to Houston attorney Hugo Baldera-Ybarra.

The Harris County District Attorney’s Office vowed Friday

Probe continues on A4

Trump lets housing legislation become law without his approval

By Michelle L. Price and Josh Boak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will let a bipartisan housing bill approved by Congress become law without his signature, saying Friday that he was refusing to put his name on it because of the little progress made in passing a strict voter ID bill that he has been pushing.

“I will not sign the Housing

Bill, which has been fully approved by Congress and sent to the White House, in PROTEST over the fact that the United States Senate is not capable of passing THE SAVE AMERICA ACT,” Trump posted on social media.

Trump had 10 days until the Friday deadline to sign the bill, issue a veto or allow the measure to take effect without his signature. He has chosen to let the measure become law without his express approval, un-

dercutting his administration’s claims that he considers it a priority to combat inflation.

Trump’s rejection of the legislation exacerbates tensions with his own party in a mid-term election year and cuts short their efforts to address a key voter concern about rising costs. His post comes more than a week after he canceled plans to sign the legislation, announcing that he was using it as leverage in his push for a strict voter

Housing continues on A7



Alex Brandon/Associated Press

President Donald Trump says he won’t sign a bipartisan housing bill because of a lack of progress on voter ID legislation he wants.

