

Movimiento Cosecha Michigan #FREEBYRON campaign actions

(Gema Lowe)

Byron Martinez has now been unjustly detained for more than three months — over 14 weeks. Today marks his 100th day imprisoned inside the GEO Group's private North Lake detention center in Baldwin, Michigan.

Since Byron's detention, community members, faith leaders, organizers, and allies have come together to demand his freedom and dignity through the #FreeByron campaign.

1. February 23, 2026 – Press Conference Launch

Movimiento Cosecha Michigan, GR Rapid Response to ICE and the Southwest Michigan Coalition held a press conference announcing the official launch of the #FreeByron campaign and our commitment to fighting for Byron's release and due process.

2. Email Campaign to Officials and ICE

Following the launch, we organized a large-scale email campaign directed at elected officials and the ICE officer overseeing Byron's case, demanding his release. To date, 3,413 emails have been sent by supporters calling for justice and freedom for Byron.

3. February 28–29, 2026 – Phone Zap for Medical Care

After Byron developed a serious facial infection that was left untreated inside North Lake, community members organized a phone zap targeting the detention center. Hundreds of calls were made over two days demanding that Byron receive proper medical attention. Following this public pressure, Byron was finally provided the medication necessary to treat his infection.

4. Legal Representation and Court Victory

Byron is represented by immigration attorney Richard Kessler, who successfully won Byron's Habeas Corpus case in federal court. His legal team continues working diligently on his asylum application and ongoing immigration proceedings.

5. March 20, 2026 – Vigil for #FreeByron

Movimiento Cosecha Grand Rapids and GR Rapid Response to ICE organized a community vigil at St. Dominic's Catholic Church in solidarity with Byron and all detained immigrants. During the vigil, two community members stepped forward and committed to becoming sponsors for Byron's asylum case.

6. Community Letters of Support

Community members attending the vigil also wrote dozens of letters of support addressed to the immigration judge overseeing Byron's case. These letters spoke to Byron's character and called for his immediate release.

7. Ongoing Visits and Community Support

Throughout Byron's detention, members of Movimiento Cosecha, volunteers with GR Rapid Response to ICE, and members of the Southwest Michigan Coalition have made regular visits to North Lake to provide Byron with emotional support and help contribute to his commissary funds. These visits have been essential in helping Byron maintain hope and connection with the community that continues to stand beside him.