

50. Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

Who was Lorenzo Salgado Araujo? Lorenzo Salgado Araujo was a 52-year-old Mexican immigrant living in Houston, Texas. He lived in the U.S. for 35 years with his wife who he met when they were teenagers in Mexico. They had three children together, all born in the United States. Lorenzo owned a small construction business. One of his sons, Ronaldo, who is a teacher, said that his father had "dedicated his life to giving his family the "American dream."

In the words of his son Ronaldo, "Our father was a humble, hard-working family man. He didn't need anybody to know his name. He worked hard to protect and provide for our family. To put me and my siblings through college. He taught us that good things come to those that work hard."

How did Lorenzo Salgado Araujo come in contact with ICE? On Tuesday, July 7, 2026, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo left his family's home at about 5:50 in the morning in his white van to pick up his co-workers and drive them to a construction site. According to his son Ronaldo, "His last day started like so many days during his 35 years in this country, a country that he loved. He and my mom woke up before the sun. She cooked him a big meal to carry him through the day. He said goodbye to her and to our dog, said a prayer inside his van and was out the driveway before 6 a.m. to pick up his construction crew."

How did Lorenzo Salgado Araujo die under ICE responsibility? ICE agents driving unmarked SUVs followed Lorenzo's van intending to perform a "traffic stop." One SUV followed Lorenzo's van when it turned onto Canal Street, while the other SUV continued down Wayside Drive before circling back and driving in the oncoming lane, to where Lorenzo's van was. An ICE agent left his SUV and went to the passenger side of Lorenzo's van and shot Lorenzo in the abdomen through the passenger side window.

What happened after Lorenzo's death? The three co-workers of Salgado Araujo, who were in the van at the time, were arrested by ICE and taken to a detention center. One of them was Victor Salgado, Lorenzo's brother. Firefighters were dispatched to take Lorenzo to Ben Taub Hospital where he subsequently died from the gunshot wound. The medical examiner for Harris County categorized Salgado Araujo's death as a homicide.

The Department of Homeland Security stated that the ICE agents were looking for a white van driven by two Guatemalan nationals. The agents approached Salgado Araujo because they "observed a white van with an individual who resembled the target". The ICE agents claimed that Lorenzo had used his van as a weapon and threatened the safety of the ICE agents— an allegation all the eye witnesses dismissed as a lie. None of the agents were wearing body cameras.

After the shooting, an FBI search warrant said that a "crystal-like substance" was found in the van. According to Salgado Araujo's family's attorney, the "crystal-like substance" was *salt*.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Lorenzo_Salgado_Araujo

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/what-to-know-about-the-fatal-shooting-of-lorenzo-salgado-araujo-by-ice>