

4. Francisco Gaspar-Andres

Who was Francisco Gaspar-Andres? Francisco Gaspar-Andres was born in Guatemala in 1977. Gaspar-Andrés and his wife Lucía Pedro Juan had separately crossed the U.S./ Mexico border 18 years ago and lived near Homestead, Florida, where they raised their family of five children and where they eventually ran a plant nursery as members of the Homestead community.

How did Francisco Gaspar-Andres end up in ICE detention? On Labor Day in 2025 Francisco and Lucía were detained by ICE while out shopping for groceries. After being detained, Lucía and Francisco stood across the room in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office. ICE agents separated them as they took their fingerprints, warning them not to talk or touch each other. Lucía ignored their orders—"I broke away like that, but with such courage that I had the strength to go to him," Lucia Pedro Juan said. "And I hugged him, I tickled him on his ribs, and I gave him a kiss on his cheek."

How did Francisco Gaspar-Andres die under ICE custody? On Nov. 16, Francisco Gaspar-Andres was admitted to The Hospitals of Providence due to low sodium levels, which was a diagnosis of hyponatremia. ICE claims that despite receiving antibiotics and intravenous fluids, his condition worsened, leading to a diagnosis of pansinusitis and to subsequent intubation on Nov. 21. He was placed on a liver transplant list, on dialysis, and then on palliative care. When he was transferred to the ICU his health further declined, resulting in renal failure and internal bleeding. He died on Dec. 3, as stated in a press release. Lucia was deported to Guatemala, while Francisco died in detention.

What happened after Francisco Gaspar-Andres' death? *El Paso Times* traced Lucía Pedro Juan to the town of Santa Eulalia in Guatemala's western highlands, where she told journalists visiting her that she and her husband had been taken separately to Fort Bliss after being arrested. "I never saw him again, I never spoke to him or heard his voice again. It's something terrible they did to us," she tearfully told the Texas outlet in an in-depth interview. Lucia Pedro Juan also said that she had eventually agreed to be deported to Guatemala because she feared she might die due to harsh conditions in the ICE camp. Francisco was detained at Camp East Montana in El Paso. He died on December 3, 2025, after being transported to a Far Eastside hospital in mid-November, per the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. Lucía was deported without a chance to see her dying husband. "I know they killed him," Lucía told the *El Paso Times*.

The ACLU released a letter sent to ICE and Fort Bliss officials calling for the camp to be shut down, alleging detained immigrants are subject to beatings and sexual abuse by officers, as well as subject to medical neglect, hunger and insufficient food, and denial of access to attorneys.

Sources:

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