

ICE DETENTION OF CHESHIRE STUDENT SPARKS OUTRAGE AMONG CONNECTICUT OFFICIALS

by Juliana Assis
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
kmm24006@uconn.edu

A Cheshire High School student known as “Rihan” was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on April 6, prompting widespread concern and various levels of outrage from Connecticut officials.

The student and his family are being identified only by their first names currently for safety reasons.

Nineteen-year-old Rihan is the son of “Zia,” an Afghan interpreter who worked along-

side the United States Armed Forces. After assisting U.S. operations abroad, Zia and his family relocated to the United States in 2024 under a humanitarian visa, according to CT Mirror

In July 2025, Zia was picked up by ICE on his way to a scheduled immigration appointment in East Hartford, Conn. and was held at a detention center in Plymouth, Mass., for months. He was not able to return home until October 2025.

Less than a year later, ICE agents detained Rihan as he was leaving his home with his

uncle. Rihan is now being held in the same Plymouth facility where his father was detained, according to Gov. Ned Lamont’s statement at a press conference held on April 10.

Lamont described Rihan as a high-achieving and ambitious student, the opposite of who ICE should be targeting.

“He is an ‘A’ student. He loves science, wants to be a cardiologist,” Lamont said. “I think that means you’re whip-smart and you have a big heart.”

State officials questioned the rationale behind the detention, particularly given Rihan’s lack

of a criminal record. State Attorney General William Tong challenged the broader impact of such enforcement actions.

“How does this make us more safe as a state, as a people, as a country?” Tong asked during the press conference. “It doesn’t.”

Tong went further, criticizing what he described as systemic issues within immigration enforcement practices.

“This is not about criminals, this is about quotas,” Tong said. “This is about ICE agents trying to fill their numbers, and destroying a family in the process.”

Sen. Richard Blumenthal was amongst those present at the press conference. He joined the other officials in condemning the detention and calling for accountability.

The case has intensified debate over federal immigration enforcement priorities, particularly when applied to individuals with humanitarian protections and no criminal history.

Advocates and public officials continue to call for Rihan’s release, arguing that his situation reflects broader concerns about fairness, policy implementation and the cost of immigration enforcement.



Cheshire High School in Cheshire, Conn. A student who attends the school was recently arrested by ICE agents. PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOMES.COM



The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at Daily Campus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

Want to advertise in print or online?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Copy Editors: Jordan Candelario & Pierce Colfer
News Designer: Lia Wollerman
Life Designer: Uzoma Chukwurah
Sports Designer: Asa Lallis
Opinion Designer: Isabella Kulawik
Photo Producer: Connor Lafferty

Karla Perez, Editor-in-Chief
Connor Lafferty, Managing Editor
Hayden Cromer, Business Manager
Ky’Lynn Monts, Digital Editor
Colbi Loranger, Associate Managing Editor
Isabella Kulawik, Associate Managing Editor
Sarah Vial, Associate Digital Editor

Jenna Outcalt News Editor Pierce Colfer Associate News Editor Bridget Bronsdon Sports Editor Avery Becker Associate Sports Editor Connor Sharp Photo Editor Emma Meidinger Associate Photo Editor Samantha Brody Life Editor Maleena Muzio Associate Life Editor	Tomas Hinckley Opinion Editor Patrick Minnerly Associate Opinion Editor Samantha Hass Artist Editor Lillian LaFemina Associate Artist Editor Kayden Lynch SMOC Karla Guerrero Circulation Manager Valley Publishing Company Derby, Conn.
---	--

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.

Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write, photograph or draw for The Daily Campus ?

The Daily Campus welcomes writers, photographers and artists of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it’s as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com
News (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
news@dailycampus.com
Life (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
life@dailycampus.com
Sports (Meetings at 7 p.m.)
sports@dailycampus.com
Photo (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com
Artists (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
artists@dailycampus.com