



# Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

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## Press Release: All Media

Date: April 17, 2025

To: All Media

From: The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ

Re: Statement against the apprehension and treatment of Moshen Mahdawi

The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ raises our prophetic voice to speak out against the apprehension of Moshen Mahdawi in Colchester, Vermont, on April 14 by federal government authorities. Not only was he lured to federal immigration facilities under false pretenses, but also he was denied due process under the law of the United States.

These actions by our very government are unjust and immoral. As followers of Christ, we in the Conference condemn his detention and intimidation as violations of our sacred traditions to uphold the dignity and humanity of all God's children. In solidarity with other people of faith, we call upon our elected officials, immigration authorities, and all those in positions of power to act swiftly to:

- Ensure Moshen Mahdawi's safety
- Provide him due process under the law
- Commit to full transparency and accountability of government agencies

We hold Mr. Mahdawi, his loved ones, friends, and community of faith in prayer during this time and stand ready to support them in faith.

Acting On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister Vermont Conference UCC  
Rev. Paul Sangree, Associate Conference Minister Vermont Conference, UCC  
Rev. Debbie Ingram, Justice & Ministries Chair, Vermont Conference, UCC  
Rev. Jacquelyn Lingelbach, Ministries Coordinator, Vermont Conference, UCC