



NAJIT

Empowering Interpreters
& Translators Worldwide™

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Rolando Olvera
United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
Brownsville Division

RE: Letter in support of NAJIT member Meenu Batra

We write on behalf of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) to express our deep concern and support for one of our distinguished members, Ms. Meenu Batra, a Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi interpreter, residing in Port Isabel, Texas, and who is currently being held at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement El Valle Detention Center in Raymondville, Texas. Ms. Batra has been detained since March 17, 2026, and her case awaits a hearing before the US District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Ms. Batra has served her community and our profession as a volunteer, mentoring fellow interpreters, contributing significantly to advancing professional standards, and strengthening the integrity of language access services in Texas and other parts of the country she has called *home* for decades. Her services to the courts throughout the United States as an interpreter in Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi, which are considered languages of lesser diffusion, are invaluable. Her expertise and qualifications have made it possible for judges and legal professionals to communicate with and protect the rights of linguistically vulnerable defendants and litigants who would otherwise remain on the margins of a fair administration of justice.

Ms. Batra is known in the interpreting community for having consistently upheld the highest ethical and professional principles. She provides an essential service to this country's system of justice for which there are very few qualified professionals in her language combinations. We urge the courts to review Meenu Batra's case with the utmost care and fairmindedness. The rule of law in our country for the Limited English Proficient depends on the work of committed court interpreters such as Ms. Batra. Her case now deserves a similar commitment to fairness and thoughtful consideration without delay.

Respectfully,
NAJIT Board of Directors
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