



# International Institute Rhode Island

## Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **International Institute of Rhode Island Requests an Investigation into Needless Death of Immigrant**

*Providence, RI - On Tuesday August 7th, 2007, Edimar Alves Araujo, a 34 year-old immigrant was taken into custody after a traffic stop by the Woonsocket Police in Rhode Island. After less than an hour, he was transferred to the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for an outstanding order of removal. Within hours, Edimar Alves Araujo was rushed to the Rhode Island Hospital where he died at 4:18 pm. Family members stated that they tried to get medication to Edimar while he was in custody to no avail. The following is a statement by Bill Shuey, Executive Director of the International Institute of Rhode Island:*

“We mourn the death of Edimar Alves Araujo. His death would seem to have been completely unnecessary and it is -- at best -- difficult to see why it happened. The International Institute of Rhode Island is calling for a full and open investigation into the death of Edimar Alves Araujo. We are also calling on Congressman Kennedy – who represents Woonsoocket – and other elected officials to advocate for a full and open investigation into what happened while Mr. Araujo was in police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody.

“All members of the Rhode Island community need to know why and how this sad event occurred. We also need to think long and hard about the connection

between what has been happening politically around the issue of immigration and immigrants – whether such immigrants are legally or illegally present in our community – and this unfortunate and apparently unnecessary incident.

“In other words, comprehensive immigration reform and police practices when dealing with immigrants are both matters that need to move to the very top of the agenda both nationally and locally. If anything positive is to ultimately result from this sad death of an undocumented person while in ICE custody, it would be that there be a truly just resolution of *both* of these major matters of public policy.”