



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Detainee Death Report: Brendy Yohana BAMACA-Zacarias

[General Demographic/Background Information](#)

- **Date of Birth:** July 9, 2000
- **Date of Death:** September 7, 2024
- **Age:** 24
- **Gender:** Female
- **Country of Citizenship:** Guatemala
- **Marital Status:** N/A
- **Children:** N/A

[Immigration History](#)

On August 31, 2024, U.S. Border Patrol agents (USBP) arrested Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias in Rio Grande City, TX, upon her illegal entry into the United States.

On September 3, 2024, USBP transferred Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias to ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) custody, and ERO detained Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias at El Valle Detention Facility (EDF), in Raymondville, Texas (TX).

[Synopsis of Events](#)

On September 3, 2024, a registered nurse (RN) completed Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' health intake screening and initial physical exam, and documented a normal exam and vital signs, a few healed abrasions on her hands and arms, and Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' denial of any past medical or mental health history. Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias reported back and bilateral lower extremity pain and was provided with a lower bunk pass for five days and cleared for general population.

On September 4, 2024, an RN evaluated Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias for complaints of upper and lower extremity pain rated 3 out of 10 and documented a normal assessment and vital signs. Using the facility protocol for musculoskeletal pain, the RN provided Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias ibuprofen for three days and educated her on stretching exercises.

On September 5, 2024, an RN evaluated Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias using the facility's nursing protocol for musculoskeletal pain. The RN noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias reported walking 15 hours during her travel from her home country to the United States and documented lower extremity scratches with redness, no open wounds, normal vital signs. Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' refused to walk due to pain rated 4 out of 10. The RN noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias showed no difficulty moving her lower extremities while seated, and denied any injuries, dizziness, vertigo, visual changes, nausea, or vomiting. The RN provided Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias acetaminophen for three days, per protocol, musculoskeletal stretching education, and instructed her to notify custody staff should her condition not improve.



On September 6, 2024, at 10:09 a.m., an RN evaluated Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias for complaints of weakness/dizziness, and upper and lower bilateral extremity pain rated at 10 out of 10, worsened by movement, difficulty standing and walking. The RN documented mild lower extremity swelling and normal vital signs. The RN consulted with an on-call advanced practice provider, who gave a telephone order to obtain labs, admit Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias into the medical housing unit for observation, and schedule a one-week provider follow-up appointment.

- **At 6:40 p.m.**, an RN documented Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias called for help in her room in the medical housing unit, noting she could not move. The RN documented normal vital signs and assisted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias by sitting her up in bed. Later, the RN helped her return to the laying position. The RN noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias did not display any difficulty breathing.

On September 7, 2024, at 3:04 a.m., during nursing rounds, Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias complained of difficulty moving and standing due to pain rated at 6 out of 10. An RN evaluated Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias and noted her inability to sit up in bed, assisted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias from a lying to a sitting position, and checked her vitals, which were normal, except a mildly elevated blood pressure. The RN noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias struggled to remain in a seated position and laid back down. The RN instructed Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias to stand up using a walker; but, after standing up with the walker for approximately two minutes, Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias sat back down, noting extreme upper and lower extremity pain. The RN documented healing superficial scratches on Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' lower extremities without any redness, pus, or drainage.

- **At 6:35 a.m.**, an RN documented normal vital signs, and noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias complained of minimal pain, but displayed no signs of distress.
- **At 7:20 a.m.**, during nursing rounds, Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias complained of severe lower extremity pain affecting her ability to walk and move. An RN documented providing Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias a walker, but Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias remained lying on her bed, stating she could not lift herself. The RN noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias showed no signs of distress and had no new skin lesions. The RN left the walker next to Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' bed and encouraged her to use it when she needed to get out of bed.
- **Between 1:27 and 1:28 p.m.**, during a nursing round, Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias complained of nausea and appeared pale after eating lunch. Custody and health staff placed her in a wheelchair with her head and shoulders supported in an upright position. A health staff member requested additional assistance and EMS via hand-held radio. Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias had trouble breathing, had pale and clammy skin, and became unresponsive. Responding health staff transferred Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias from the wheelchair onto the floor and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Health staff noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' blood oxygen saturation level on room air was 73 percent, and she appeared to be gasping for air. Health staff applied an automated external defibrillator (AED) on Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' chest, followed the AED prompts, and continued CPR.
- **At approximately 1:29 p.m.**, custody staff requested EMS via 911.



- **At 1:41 p.m.**, EMS personnel assumed Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' care, noted no heartbeat/pulse, continued CPR delivery via a mechanical chest compression device, intubated Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias, and administered several cardiac life support medications.
- **At 1:49 p.m.**, EMS personnel noted Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias remained in cardiac arrest and transported her to Valley Baptist Medical Center (VBMC) emergency room for further intervention. EMS personnel continued to deliver CPR and oxygenation, via bag valve mask, in transit.
- **At 2:09 p.m.**, VBMC emergency room staff assumed Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias' care and noted she remained unresponsive with dilated and fixed pupils.
- **On the same date, at an unknown time**, a VBMC physician declared Ms. BAMACA-Zacarias deceased.