

The Lone Star Report

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Right to Work group scores one against unions

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The employee rights group National Right to Work Foundation (NRWF) won a legal battle June 27 over whether a union could suspend without pay a security guard in El Paso because he didn't want to pay union dues.

After being suspended last year by the union Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America (SPFPA), on June 27 Juan Vielma was offered full reinstatement to his job as well as full back-pay and benefits. AKAL Security and union officials had claimed that Vielma and his coworkers work on an "exclusive federal enclave," making them exempt from protections under Texas' Right to Work law prohibiting forced payment of union dues.

A federal administrative law judge ruled earlier this month that the Texas Right to Work law applies to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility where Vielma was working.

NRWF now is asking Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott to go after union bosses for what they describe as "widespread violations of the Right to Work law."

Said NRWF president Mark Mix: "Although we are pleased that Mr. Vielma will finally be allowed to return to work, there is much more work to be done. Not only should the Attorney General prosecute existing violations and obtain monetary penalties available under the law, but he should also take aggressive action that puts all Texas union bosses on notice that violations of the Texas Right to Work law will no longer be tolerated."