

Romanian immigrant reunited with family in Phoenix

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PHOENIX (AP) — A Romanian immigrant has been reunited with his wife and five children in Phoenix after being held more than six months by federal authorities.

The [Arizona Republic](http://bit.ly/S5Bbin) (<http://bit.ly/S5Bbin>) reports [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) officials announced Wednesday they will no longer pursue the deportation of [Valentin Balaj](#).

ICE spokeswoman [Amber Cargile](#) says the agency has decided to show "prosecutorial discretion." She says ICE will work with Balaj's attorney to close his case, allowing Balaj to begin the process of applying for an immigrant visa.

Balaj was released Tuesday from a detention center in Florence.

The 36-year-old was arrested in April for violating an immigration judge's deportation order for years. He has sought religious asylum in the U.S. since 1996.

Balaj's wife and kids are all U.S. citizens.

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Romanian-immigrant-reunited-with-family-in-Phoenix-3961847.php#ixzz2A2rbGEai>