

Pre-Raid Community Safety Plan Building Capacity for the Safety of the Immigrant Community



1. Develop a Plan that will accomplish the following goals:

- a. Form a coalition or group of organizations working on immigration issues in your community
- b. Build relationships with key stakeholders around immigration issues
- c. Educate the community about how to prepare for future raids, enforcement actions, and safety for the immigrant community
- d. Make Immigration (ICE) exercise prosecutorial discretion at the earliest stage possible to benefit community members. Encourage ICE to develop discretionary local enforcement *policies* that will benefit community members.

2. Suggested Implementation Plan

- a. Development of Quick Response Team
 - i. Organizations with expertise in deportation defense, immigration issues, and civil rights
 - ii. Organizations that do community organizing
 - iii. Organizations that provide direct services to immigrant communities
 - iv. Organizations or individuals who have expertise working with media
 - v. Faith groups
- b. Develop Relationships with Key Stakeholders (must develop goals and measures)
 - i. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 1. ICE Field Office Director (Detention and Removal)
 2. ICE Special Agent-in-Charge (Investigations)
 - ii. Police
 1. Chief of Police
 2. Community Policing Officers

- iii. Elected Officials
- iv. Consulate and Embassy Officials
- v. Local Immigration Detention Services Organizations (e.g. Legal Aid attorneys in NY)
- vi. Immigration Attorneys: American Immigration Lawyers Association Chapter Chairs and National Immigration Project Attorneys
- vii. "Ethnic" and "Mainstream" media point people.

3. Educate the Community

- a. Trainings – commit to providing regular "Know Your Rights" Trainings
- b. Materials – Gather materials developed by other groups, adapt them to local needs, create plan for regular distribution (See below for where to get materials)
- c. Ask to tour a local detention facility
- d. Make basic "rules of thumb" rights (e.g. don't say anything/lie, right to talk to attorney) part of community "culture" (T-shirts, articles in ethnic press, etc.).

4. Gather Resources to use for Raids/Detention purposes:

- a. Create a list of attorneys specializing in deportation defense
- b. Have attorneys on stand by that can communicate with ICE officials during emergencies.
- c. Keep a copy of the ICE Detention Standards. Detention standards are guidelines that govern treatment of Immigration detainees. It includes information on how detainees should be treated, access to attorneys, legal materials, etc.
<http://www.ice.gov/partners/dro/opsmanual/index.htm>
- d. Gather Know Your Rights Materials:
 - i. "I am in Detention, What are My Rights," www.detentionwatchnetwork.org or www.nationalimmigrationproject.org
 - ii. National Immigration Law Center, www.nilc.org
LOTS of Know Your Rights materials!
 - iii. Immigrant Legal Resource Center, www.ilrc.org

- iv. National Employment Law Project, www.nelp.org
- v. Families for Freedom, www.familiesforfreedom.org
(NY specific, but great information)
- vi. National Lawyers Guild, www.nlg.org
- vii. American Civil Liberties Union, www.aclu.org
- e. Gather self –help legal materials:
 - i. Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project has an excellent set of self-help materials on deportation defense. <http://www.firrp.org/pubs.asp>
 - ii. Detention Watch Network website has a library of legal materials: www.detentionwatchnetwork.org
 - iii. Families For Freedom: Deportation 101
www.familiesforfreedom.org

5. Suggested Community Responses to a Raid

- a. Hold regular Press Conferences with community partners about the raid
 - i. Denounce the raid
 - ii. Provide information about the raid to the community
 - iii. Let community know ICE is *not* just doing their job. Encourage them publicly to **exercise discretion** (that is, not deport people)
 - iv. Push for a response from people with power (Elected officials, Consulates, Religious leaders, etc)
- b. Begin documenting community support immediately
 - i. Individual/groups letters of support (Start with people the detained person knows and then move up)
- c. ARM campaign for individuals (see Families for Freedom materials on building a community case for prosecutorial discretion starting from letters to creating a bill in Congress for a specific individual, www.familiesforfreedom.org)