

Fall 2010 U.S. Immigration Alert!

A Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network

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No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights!



<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>

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From Ground Zero to U.S. – Mexico Border – Anti-Immigrant Racism Still Clear Exists!

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Statement from National Immigrant Solidarity Network Regarding the Islamophobia, Obama's Failed Promises on Immigrant Rights and It's Rapid Militarization of U.S.-Mexico Border

The recent ultra-racist right wing's hateful and Islamophobic rhetoric over the proposed Park51 Community Center in Lower Manhattan (the so-called "Ground Zero Mosque") and the Muslim faith in general; the Republican racist anti-immigrant campaigns to call to end the 14th Amendment birthright citizenships—mainly against the Latino undocumented immigrants and their children; and the Democratic-party led U.S. Congress passing multi-million dollars funding on militarizing the U.S.-Mexico border, once again clearly shows the deep-loot of racism in our society—regardless if Republican or Democrats in the Congress, in the issue of racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia and anti-immigrants--they're the same.

With U.S. war and occupation in Afghanistan--as well as fake "withdraw" from Iraq--getting deeper and desperate; with rich (mainly white) getting more richer, poor getting more poor; the decline and fall of the U.S. economy is unavoidable—Internationally, U.S. will desperately invade, occupy and steal other countries wealth; while domestically will deeper exploit the poorest poor (mainly immigrants and people of colors) on the same time blaming them all the problem to justify the exploitation.

We need NOW the ever rise up to fight against the racism and injustice, we should all actively linking our issues with different other struggles: wars in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine & Korea with sweatshops exploitation in Asia as well as in Los Angeles, New York; international arm sales and WTO, FTAA, NAFTA & CAFTA with AIDS, hunger, child labors and child soldier; as well as multinational corporations and economic exploitation with racism and poverty at home—in order we can win the struggle together in this critical moment of time!

Lee Siu Hin
National Coordinator
National Immigrant Solidarity Network

ADC Denounces Islamophobia - Calls for National Unity

Washington, DC August 23, 2010

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) denounces the hateful and Islamophobic rhetoric over the course of the past few weeks which is aimed in particular at the proposed Park51 Community Center in Lower Manhattan and the Muslim faith in general. The Community Center will feature recreational programs and services for all community members regardless of religious affiliation or faith – in fact, an interfaith Center. The Center does have a prayer room, yet this alone does not define the true character of the building. Islamophobic elements opposing the Center have wrongly branded it as a "mosque at ground zero," and used their hateful rhetoric to preempt the construction of the much-needed facility. The facts are that the Center is NOT at "ground zero;" and, in any event, even if it were, we must not forget that many Muslims were also victims (as passengers on the planes, workers at the World Trade Center, and first responders) of 9/11. Muslims in the

United States have been further victimized by simply being of the Islamic faith, an un-American and shameful tactic that fans the flames of hatred, ignorance, and bigotry.

As the New York City Mayor, the Honorable Michael Bloomberg, said, "We would betray our values and play into our enemies' hands if we were to treat Muslims differently than anyone else." As Americans, we should not allow misinformation and hatred to deprive private citizens of the right to build a house of worship or a community center on private property. ADC adds that in the face of the ongoing misinformation and hateful campaigns, silence is not an option.

ADC, a non-sectarian and non-partisan civil rights and civil liberties organization, is comprised of members that practice all faiths -- including Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The Constitution has enumerated rights for all citizens of this great Nation, and religious neutrality has inspired the free exercise of every religion. The basic fundamental rights granted by the First Amendment apply to all Americans, regardless of race, religion or national origin. Denying an individual his or her right to practice religion is not only unconstitutional, but also un-American. Denying the development of the Park51 Community Center is the type of activity the founding fathers of this Nation hoped would not occur after the ratification of the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment, as such rights extend to developers and owners of the Park51 Community Center in lower Manhattan.

The use of hate tactics is not limited to the Park51 development plan. Over the course of the past year there has been a substantial increase in the number of political candidates using Islamophobic tactics in an effort to leverage votes, and use such tactics as a platform to enhance their political visibility. Such hate-filled strategies once identified African Americans, Jewish Americans, and other communities as scapegoats to further political aims. Such political demagoguery, plain and simple, is nothing short of racist, xenophobic, and unacceptable; and it is counterproductive to American values and Constitutional rights.

The sad reality is that currently the only form of permissible racism and prejudice is that targeting Arabs and Muslims. Many campaigns are vilifying Muslim and Arab Americans. ADC asks that all national and local community organizations speak up against such hateful and ardent discrimination, and not partake in actions that are aimed at dividing us internally as a Nation.

We as Americans are at a moment in history where unity and tolerance is needed now more than ever. The economic status has left millions in this nation living below poverty guidelines, and many of them homeless. Cities in the Midwest, such as Detroit, have experienced the closing down of factories, schools and learning institutions. Some cities have unemployment rates exceeding 20% while other cities cannot afford to offer basic governmental services, such as collecting trash, providing transportation, and maintaining public property. Economic crisis compels our Nation to galvanize and work collaboratively toward a common goal, instead of turning against one another.

It is those economic issues that affect millions of Americans and have a direct impact on their lives. The politicization of issues such as the Park51 Community Center, and the vilification of Muslim and Arab Americans, are not in the best interest of our Country; on the contrary, they are inimical to our Nation's domestic and international standings. We believe that as a Nation we should and must domestically invest our energy on the "war on drugs," and on a sustained effort to create jobs and improve our economy.

Racism and prejudice, in whatever form, cannot be tolerated. The United States is built upon its people's rich diversity and multiculturalism, and Islam has long been a part of that American social mosaic. Therefore, Islamophobia must be wholly rejected and opposed. Americans, of all faiths and backgrounds, should be free to practice their faith without fear and prejudice, as safeguarded by the First Amendment, and devoid of political demagoguery.

Why the GOP really wants to alter the 14th Amendment

**By Harold Meyerson
Wednesday, August 11, 2010**

As Lindsey Graham and his fellow Republicans explain it, their sudden turn against conferring citizenship on anyone born in the United States was prompted by the mortal threat of "anchor babies" -- the children of foreigners who scurry to the States just in time to give birth to U.S. citizens.

The Republican war on the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause is indeed directed at a mortal threat -- but not to the American nation.

It is the threat that Latino voting poses to the Republican Party.

By proposing to revoke the citizenship of the estimated 4 million U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants -- and, presumably, the children's children and so on down the line -- Republicans are calling for more than the creation of a permanent noncitizen caste.

They are endeavoring to solve what is probably their most crippling long-term political dilemma: the racial diversification of the electorate.

Not to put too fine a point on it, they are trying to preserve their political prospects as a white folks' party in an increasingly multicolored land.

Absent a constitutional change -- to a lesser degree, even with it -- those prospects look mighty bleak.

The demographic base of the Republican Party, as Ruy Teixeira demonstrates in a paper released by the Center for American Progress this summer, is shrinking as a share of the nation and the electorate.

As the nation grows more racially and religiously diverse, Teixeira shows, its percentage of white Christians will decline to just 35 percent of the population by 2040. The group that's growing fastest, of course, is Latinos.

"Their numbers will triple to 133 million by 2050 from 47 million today," Teixeira writes, "while the number of non-Hispanic whites will remain essentially flat."

Moreover, Latinos increasingly trend Democratic -- in a Gallup poll this year, 53 percent self-identified as Democrats; just 21 percent called themselves Republican.

To be sure, the wretched state of the economy could drive some otherwise Democratic-inclined Latino voters to the GOP this November.

But Republicans are doing their damndest to keep this from happening.

Their embrace of Arizona's Suspicious-Looking-Latinos law and their enthusiasm for stripping Latino children of their citizenship will only hasten Latinos' flight.

Sentient Republican strategists such as Karl Rove have long understood that unless their party could win more Latino votes, it would eventually go the way of the Whigs.

That's the main reason George W. Bush tried to persuade congressional Republicans to support immigration reform.

But most lawmakers, reflecting the nativism of the Republican base, would have none of it. By pushing for repeal of the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause, the GOP appears to have concluded: If you can't win them over -- indeed, if you're doing everything in your power to make their lives miserable -- revoke their citizenship.

On this page last week, my colleague E.J. Dionne Jr. rightly noted that by attacking the amendment, Republicans seek to undo one of their party's greatest and most inclusionary achievements. Civil War- and Reconstruction-era Republicans took pains to ensure the citizenship not only of freed slaves and their children.

They -- in particular, Abraham Lincoln -- also decided not to permanently keep millions of Confederate soldiers and sympathizers from regaining their citizenship.

The Confederates had renounced all allegiance to the United States. They made war on the United States -- the Constitution's definition of treason -- and, in an effort to keep 4 million Americans enslaved, killed more of our soldiers than any foreign army ever did.

Yet Lincoln was determined to make it easy for Confederates to regain their citizenship. By taking an oath to support the United States and its Constitution, Confederates were made Americans again.

Suppose, though, that Lincoln had been filled with the spirit of today's Republicans.

The crimes that Republicans ascribe to today's illegal immigrants pale next to those of Confederate leaders and supporters (chiefly, treason).

A Lindsey Graham-like Lincoln would never have let the Confederates regain citizenship.

Moreover, he would have denied citizenship to their children and their children's children.

A large share of the nation, certainly of the white South, would have drifted endlessly in a legal limbo.

The current Republican Party, anchored as it is in the white South, would scarcely exist.

So, the question for Lindsey Graham is: Are you serious about revoking the citizenship of 4 million children, their children and their children's children?

How about a package deal: Stripping their citizenship in return for stripping the citizenship of Confederate descendants.

A sort of Missouri Compromise for our times. Bipartisanship in action. Senator, let me know what you think.

Sign-On Letter: Tell President Obama to End Merger of Criminal Justice & Immigration Systems!

Ways you can support Alto Arizona!

- Text ARIZONA to 50555 to donate \$5
- Donate Online: <http://bit.ly/donate2altoAZ>
- Send a Message to Obama Online
- Tell A Friend about Alto Arizona!

Arizona's SB 1070 brought the nation to a critical moment in its enduring, developing story as a nation of immigrants. We remain confident 1070 will eventually be struck down in its entirety by federal courts, and we are hopeful a new generation of local leaders will emerge to set things right in the Arizona state capitol. However, the simple truth is this: the attack on immigrants in Arizona didn't start with 1070, and it won't end in federal district court. We must turn the tide together on immigrant scapegoating, and we must overcome the current political environment where criminalization of Latinos and communities of color is deemed tolerable by most and desirable by some. It is our obligation to defend the victories for equality by those who came before us.

The time is now to turn the corner, both because the country is unifying against Arizona's policy and because there is tremendous urgency. While the Justice Department took the necessary step of filing a lawsuit in federal court, that action was by no means sufficient to undo the damage caused by the Obama administration's policies. Just yesterday, the New York Times published an editorial warning of the breathtaking scale in which Arizona-like policies are advancing throughout the country.

Please join us in taking immediate action with our brothers and sisters in the civil rights and criminal justice reform community.

We are inviting organizations and community groups to join us in endorsing an open letter drafted by a coalition of organizations that calls on the Obama administration to address the dangerous merger of the federal immigration enforcement system with state criminal justice systems (please, no individual sign-ons at this time). Your group/organization's endorsement is needed by Friday, September 3rd.

CLICK HERE TO JOIN US IN ENDORSING THE OPEN LETTER.

As a nation, we are finally starting to acknowledge how racial disparities in the criminal justice system are creating and perpetuating racial hierarchy in the United States. However, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) increasing reliance upon programs such as 287(g), Secure Communities and the Criminal Alien Program (CAP) to enforce federal immigration laws threatens to undo that progress.

WE ARE ASKING ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT.

Direct Link to Sign-on page: <http://bit.ly/SignOnLetter>

National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

Latest News on Militarizing U.S.-Mexico Border

Entire US-Mexico Border to Be Guarded by Predator Drones

Tuesday 31 August 2010

Taylor Barnes - The Christian Science Monitor

The entire 2,000-mile US-Mexico border will be monitored by drones starting Wednesday when a new Predator drone begins flying from Corpus Christi, Texas, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said. There are already three drones operating along portions of the border. Aside from the new drone launched today, money for two more was included in \$600 million legislation President Barack Obama signed earlier this month, which ramps up border security ahead of midterm elections on Nov. 2 and as Mexico's heated drug war gains more attention. Meanwhile, Napolitano calls the border safer than ever. "With the deployment of the Predator in Texas, we will now be able to cover the southwest border from the El Centro sector in California all the way to the Gulf of Mexico in Texas, providing critical aerial surveillance assistance to personnel on the ground," Napolitano said during a conference call, according to Reuters. "This is yet another critical step we have taken in ensuring the safety of the border and is an important tool in our security toolbox," she said.

Previously, the drones had covered only California to the west Texas portion of the border, according to the Associated Press. By the beginning of next year, six should be operating along the border, covering California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas. The Predator B drones that are being deployed have night-vision cameras and can stay in flight for 30 hours, detecting drug and human smuggling, Reuters added.

Bloomberg reported that Napolitano addressed the administration's focus on deporting those with criminal records. On the call, Napolitano said the administration has focused the country's border strategy on criminals who have entered the US illegally. Currently, half of deported illegal immigrants were convicted of a crime, she said. That compares [read pdf report from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement] with 34 percent of those deported in June 2009. The August legislation signed by Obama also sends 1,200 National Guardsmen to the border, the first of which begin arriving in Arizona this week. Texas is to receive 250 national guardsmen, which Gov. Rick Perry (R), who is up for re-election, has said is not enough. He has asked for 1,000 guardsmen to be sent to Texas alone, the San Antonio Express-News reports. Texas Republican congressmen sent a letter to Obama this week in support of Perry's guardsmen request and called the president's current plan "woefully inadequate," the Express-News reported. But the legislation and the addition of drones come at a time when Napolitano also calls the border region safer than ever; "numbers don't lie," she said, according to The New York Times. But the near-daily news of fresh violence in Mexico, such as the finding of a massacre site in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas last week, has increased fears about violence south of the border. Seventy-two migrants from Central and South America – including a pregnant woman – who were trying to enter the US were found killed, presumably by a drug gang that tried to force them to become recruits. It was the largest massacre in Mexico since President Felipe Calderón took office in late 2006 and deployed the army to fight organized crime. About 28,000 have been killed in the years since The massacre confirmed what analysts have begun to suspect, The Christian Science Monitor reports: gangs are diversifying their criminal activities and targeting groups other than just rival drug traffickers.

Congress Spends Another \$600 Million for Border Militarization

Friday, August 13, 2010

ColorLines

Now we know: Congress can pass an immigration bill in two days if it really wants to. The Senate just passed another \$600 million for border security after Senators Chuck Schumer and Claire McCaskill proposed it last week. The House returned this week from summer recess to approve the funding, as well as the \$26 billion for states aid. The money will pay for 1,500 more border agents, unmanned aerial surveillance equipment and communications technology.

With anti-immigrant sentiment burning across the country and mid-term elections just around the corner, Democrats are angling to appear tough on immigrants and immigration enforcement. And Republicans are working overtime to be as outrageous as they can on immigration. (See: Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer; Florida attorney general Bill McCollum; the latest iteration of John McCain.) But we already spend billions every year on interior immigration enforcement and border security. Under President Obama's watch, the country now employs a record number of Customs and Border Protection officers, and before this recent spate of funding increases, immigration enforcement spending already stood at \$11 billion for 2010. It was \$8 billion in 2008. This summer, President Obama deployed 1,200 National Guard to patrol the border, and requested another \$500 million for ramped up militarization. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano praised Schumer and McCaskill's proposal after it passed last week. "These assets are critical to bringing additional capabilities to

crack down on transnational criminal organizations and reduce the illicit trafficking of people, drugs, currency and weapons," Napolitano said. And as long as the Obama administration continues to conflate drug traffickers with all migrants, increased border enforcement is what we'll continue to get.

Guard troops to deploy to Arizona border on Monday

AMANDA LEE MYERS - Associated Press
Friday, August 27, 2010

The first of 532 National Guard troops are set to begin their mission in the southern Arizona desert on Monday under President Barack Obama's plan to beef up U.S.-Mexico border security, although they won't have any law enforcement authority.

About 30 troops will start their jobs on the border Monday, and waves of more troops will be deploying every Monday until all 532 are expected to be on the Arizona border by the end of September. In May, Obama ordered 1,200 National Guard troops to boost security along the border.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has said the first of 224 National Guard troops allocated for his state have finished their training and are expected to be deployed to the state's border on Wednesday.

Troops in New Mexico were in different stages of training and don't yet know when they'll be deployed on the border. A Texas National Guard spokesman did not immediately return a call for comment.

The troops will be "extra eyes and ears" for U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, and though they will have guns for self-defense, they will not have the authority to arrest anyone, said Arizona National Guard spokesman Lt. Valentine Castillo.

He said if troops spot illegal immigrants, they must report them to the Border Patrol, whose agents would make the arrest.

The troops will be stationed in the desert at "strategic locations" along the border, he said, but did not provide specifics.

Mario Escalante, a spokesman for the Border Patrol's Tucson sector, said the troops will use binoculars, night-vision equipment, remote cameras and computers to conduct surveillance on the border, and will have radios to communicate with Border Patrol agents.

They'll be set up at high points in various locations in the desert, he said.

"Having those resources and deploying them adequately makes us more effective," he said.

Obama was all but compelled to act on illegal immigration after the passage of a tough new Arizona law thrust the border problem into the public spotlight.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer cited government inaction when she signed the law, which reignited that national illegal immigration debate, caused the governor's popularity to soar in the state and turned her into a national figure.

The law went into effect July 29 after a judge ruled to block its most controversial sections, including a part that required officers to check a person's immigration status while enforcing other laws. Brewer is appealing the decision and says she'll take it all the way to the Supreme Court.

Brewer has been a sharp critic of the National Guard deployment, saying the troops aren't enough and that Obama should have sent 6,000 along the border, half of them to Arizona.

But in March 2009, Brewer wrote Defense Secretary Robert Gates asking for 250 National Guard troops, less than half the amount now being sent.

Brewer spokesman Paul Senseman did not immediately return a call for comment Friday afternoon.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff Tony Estrada, whose territory is along the Mexico border and includes Nogales, said any additional manpower on the border is welcome and will help.

"It's definitely a start," he said. "Any more boots on the ground, they'll make things safer and it'll make the border more

secure, especially for the Border Patrol — they have a humongous task out there, not only with illegal immigration but drugs."

But he said there'd have to be "thousands and thousands" of troops on the border to come close to having any major impact on illegal immigration.

"The border will never be sealed," he said. "They'll find ways to go under it (through tunnels), go through ports of entry with false documents or false claims; they find ways of going over, and they find ways to go around it."

Former President George W. Bush sent 6,000 National Guard troops to the border in June 2006, and they also had no arrest power. Those troops were pulled out in July 2008.

Call to Action! One Nation Working Together -- March on Washington DC!

October 2, 2010 Washington DC <http://www.onenationworkingtogether.org>

On October 2, U.S. local and national peace organizations will be a vital part of the coalition of progressive organizations marching in D.C. as One Nation Working Together!

The last 18 months have been tough for the anti-war/peace movement. Progressive activism has been muffled and the hundreds of thousands we were able to turn out in the past have stayed home. All of that is about to change!

The rise of the Tea Party movement and profound disappointment with the slow pace of real change has slapped many people in the face. They are waking up from a post election daze to the realization that it takes a movement to make change happen. In this context, a new initiative called One Nation Working Together has emerged.

National Immigrant Solidarity Network had decided to endorse the call and encourage immigrant rights, peace, youth, labor and community activists from different faith and ethnic groups to come to Washington DC at October 2nd!

Other major endorsing organizations includes: The NAACP, 1199 SEIU, the National Council of La Raza, Green for All, Center for Community Change and the United States Student Association initiated this campaign, and more than 150 other national and local groups have already signed on. The growing list of participating organizations includes United for Peace and Justice, Veterans For Peace, Peace Action, US Labor Against the War, Code Pink, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Progressive Democrats of America, United National Antiwar Committee, National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance and other peace groups. Labor participation includes the AFL-CIO, AFT, SEIU, CWA, Transport Workers Union, Unite/HERE, UFCW and others. Some of the other national organizations that are part of this effort are: USAction, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Campaign for America's Future, National Action Network, Center for American Progress, Jewish Funds for Justice, and more!

Now is the time to commit to making this mobilization and emerging local and national coalitions a success! See you in Washington DC at October 2nd!

Fall Calendar of Action

Compiled by: United for Peace & Justice URL: <http://www.UnitedForPeace.org>

Sept. (date tba): next Minuteman III ICBM test launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA

Sept 14: Drones on Trial, Las Vegas Nevada

Sept 21: United Nations International Day of peace

Sept 20 – 22: High-Level "Millennium Summit" (Millennium Development Goals to eradicate global poverty), United Nations, NY

Sept 25-27: Appalachia Rising Summit and action, Call for a moratorium on mountain top removal Washington DC

Oct. 2 – 9: Keep Space for Peace Week

Oct. 2: One Nation March in Washington DC - ALL out for a major Peace and Justice contingent

Oct. 3: Move the Money national summit, Washington DC

Oct. 5: Anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan. Global call for local actions from Oct 7-10.

Oct. 7th – Day of Action for Education Not US Occupation

Oct. 10: Global actions from the 350.org network calling for zero-carbon!

Oct 11: Day of Action to Confront US Militarism in the Americas
Oct. 12: Global Day of Action in Defense of Mother Earth
Oct. 24 – 30: United Nations Disarmament Week

Nov. 19-20: School of Americas Watch, Georgia
Nov. 30- Dec 10: UN Climate Negotiations in Cancun, Mexico

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Virginia state-wide immigrant organizing E-mail list

send- e-mail to: va-immigrantrights-subscribe@lists.riseup.net
or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/va-immigrantrights>

May Day 2008 national organizing e-mail list

send e-mail to: mayday2008-subscribe@lists.riseup.net
or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/MayDay2008>

About National Immigrant Solidarity Network

NISN is a coalition of community, immigrant, labor, human rights and student activist groups, founded in 2002 in response to the urgent needs for the national coalition to fight immigrant bashing, support immigrant rights, no to the sweatshops exploitation and end to the racism on the community. Please visit our website:
<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>

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(773)942-2268 (Chicago)

Please donate to NISN! (All donations are tax deductible!)
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