

June U.S. Immigration Alert!

A Monthly Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network

June 2004 Issue, Volume 2.1

No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights!

<http://www.ActionLA.org/ISN/>

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August 27 2004 New York City Immigrant Workers Speak Out! Part of the Weeklong Counter RNC Mobilization in New York City!

Friday, August 27 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

New York City, New York

Web: <http://www.actionla.org/ISN/RNC/>

Information Hotline: (212)330-8172

Called by: National Immigrant Solidarity Network

Participated/Endorsed by: ActionLA, Center for Constitutional Rights, Million Workers March, Student Peace Action Network, Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Still We Rise Coalition and many other human rights, labor and immigrant organizations.

A day of immigrant workers and community activist gathering to speak out their minds and declare: **No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights! No To The Sweatshops Exploitation And The Racism On The Community!** during the counter RNC Mobilization (Aug 29 - Sep 4) at New York City, New York.

Updates on Civil Liberties Restoration Act (CLRA)

National Immigration Forum

50 F. Street, NW, Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20001

URL: <http://www.immigrationforum.org>

At the core of the American value system is the belief that every human being is afforded certain inalienable rights. From guaranteeing every person a fair trial to providing equal protection under the law to all, respect for individual rights is the foundation of American democracy, and as we endeavor to protect these principles, we can promote unity at home and build credibility abroad. In the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, our nation has

(CLRA continue next page)

About National Immigrant Solidarity Network

On November 2003 at SOA Protest Ft. Benning GA, dozen national grassroots & community groups are agreed to form a broad-based immigrant support coalition, aim to mobilize community forces to work with different national immigrants and civil rights organizations. Major endorsing and participating organizations includes: Latin American Solidarity Coalition, CISPES, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Nicaragua Network, United Students Against Sweatshops, Student Peace Action Networks, ActionLA and so on.

For more information about the ISN, and learn how you can participate, please visit our website:

<http://www.actionla.org/ISN/>

E-mail: ISN@ActionLA.org

Tel: (213)413-1778

1013 Mission St. #6 South Pasadena, CA 91030

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struggled to meet new security challenges while preserving fundamental values of liberty and fairness. The Civil Liberties Restoration Act of 2004 (CLRA) would safeguard basic rights and promote our nation's safety. It would move the United States forward at this important time by demonstrating to the world that this country takes seriously the rights of people it detains. The CLRA includes the following provisions:

- **End Secret Hearings.** The CLRA would end the government's ability to issue a blanket order closing all deportation hearings to the public and to family members of detainees, while permitting the closure of hearings or a portion of hearings on a case-by-case basis to preserve the confidentiality of asylum applications or when national security interests so require. (Sec. 101)

- **Ensure Due Process for Detained Individuals.** The CLRA would provide minimum due process safeguards to individuals who are jailed on suspicion of immigration violations by giving them timely notice of the charges against them and assure that immigration authorities and judges make fair, individualized bond determinations. (Sec. 201, 202 and 203)

- **Establish Independent Immigration Court.** The CLRA would establish an independent immigration court within the Department of Justice and promote fair hearings by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal. (Sec. 204)

- **End Special Registration.** The CLRA would terminate the troubled National Security Entry-Exit Registration System while encouraging fairness and a concentrated focus on those who pose a threat to the national security or safety of Americans. (Sec. 301 and 302)

- **Make Penalties Commensurate with Violations.** The CLRA would assign reasonable penalties, commensurate to the technical nature of the violations, for non-citizens' failure to register or provide timely notification of address changes. (Sec. 303)

- **Require Accurate Criminal Databases.** The CLRA would facilitate better law enforcement practices by requiring that the National Crime Information Center database relied upon daily by state and local law

enforcement complies with minimum accuracy requirements. (Sec. 304)

- **Ensure Access to Evidence.** The CLRA would ensure that people who are charged with a crime based upon national security surveillance under the Patriot Act would see the evidence against them in the same manner as people charged with a crime based upon other kinds of classified information. (Sec. 401)

- **Mandate Reports on Data-Mining.** The CLRA would require the government to submit a public report to Congress on data-mining activities in order to protect the privacy and due process rights of individuals and to ensure accurate information is collected and used. (Sec. 402)

- **Limit Secret Seizures of Records.** The House version of the CLRA would amend the USA PATRIOT Act to limit the secret seizure of private databases and individual records to cases where the government has shown there is a reasonable connection to a suspected terrorist or terrorist group. (Sec. 403 in House version)

PLEASE SIGN ON TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:

We hope your organization can join the movement to restore the due process rights and civil liberties that have been harmed by post-9/11 policies by signing on to this letter in support of the Civil Liberties Restoration Act of 2004.

Please respond by Monday, June 7 to let us know if your organization will sign on to this letter. To sign-on, please send an e-mail to CLRA@AILA.ORG. Please clarify if you are signing on as a national or local organization and if you are signing on as a local organization, please note your address.

Please also note that this letter is for organizations only, not individuals. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact Marshall Fitz, Associate Director of Advocacy at the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) at mfitz@aila.org or 202-216-2437.



Press Release

Anti-Immigration Group is Distorting EPI Research (and how it'll affect the immigrant workers community)

Nancy Coleman, Karen Conner or Stephaan Harris, all of the Economic Policy Institute, Tel: 1-202-775-8810.

WASHINGTON, June 3 (PRNewswire) Recent news releases from a group that calls itself FAIR (Federation for American Immigration Reform) have misstated the current trends in U.S. wages and misused the Economic Policy Institute's analysis to support its contention that immigration is chiefly what is depressing U.S. wages.

A recent FAIR news release states: "According to Lawrence Mishel, research director of the Economic Policy Institute, real weekly wages have fallen by over 10 percent during the years of high immigration and population growth since 1979."

FAIR's statement contains several important distortions of the facts. The group states that since 1979, real weekly wages have fallen 10%; but in fact, the net drop from 1979 through 2003 is 1.8%. FAIR could have arrived at its 10% figure only by stopping the clock in the mid-90s -- before the surge in employment and consequent wage gains that occurred in the second half of the '90s, a period which was also, notably for this debate, distinguished by high immigration. For FAIR's purposes, 10% is a more dramatic figure -- but it is not accurate today. (Another clue that they are not using current data is that they identify Lawrence Mishel as EPI's research director. Mishel is EPI's president and has not been research director for a number of years.)

If you are using FAIR as a source, please do not cite EPI in support of their position.

Immigration News

Chinese Parents Appeal Custody Decision

By Woody Briad The Associated Press
May 19, 2004

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - A Chinese couple who lost a lengthy custody fight for their young daughter filed a

notice of appeal Wednesday, possibly extending the court battle another two years.

A judge last week terminated Shaoqiang and Qin Luo He's parental rights, saying they abandoned 5-year-old Anna Mae He and are unfit to care for her. He ruled in favor of Jerry and Louise Baker, an American couple who offered to help the then-out-of-work parents by taking in Anna Mae when she was three weeks old.

The Hes asked for the child back about a year after the Bakers took her in, but they refused to give her up. The child remains with the Bakers, who are trying to adopt her.

"We don't think the record supports a finding of abandonment by clear and convincing evidence, or any evidence at all," said David Siegel, a lawyer for the Hes.

Larry Parrish, the Bakers' lawyer, said ending the two-year custody fight would be in Anna Mae's best interest.

"By filing this appeal, it just prolongs the cruelty," Parrish said.

An appeal likely will take two years to get through the Court of Appeals and then the state Supreme Court, he said. Both lawyers said they will ask that the case go directly to the high court, but such requests are rarely granted.

The Hes are in the United States illegally, but the federal courts have delayed deportation because of the custody fight. They say they put Anna Mae in what they thought was temporary foster care because they were out of work and had no money.

Shaoqiang He, who had been working on a Ph.D. in business at the University of Memphis, lost his scholarship because of a sexual assault accusation by another student. The charge was eventually dismissed at trial, but by then the Hes had already signed over custody of Anna Mae to the Bakers.

(More news next page...)

Updates on DREAM Act

June 4, 2004

From: harroyo@chirla.org

Republican Senator Susan Collins from Maine sponsored the DREAM Act (S.1545) adding more republican support for this important legislation.

The momentum continues for this campaign coast to coast in hopes to get this bill out of the Senate this year. Shout outs to the hard working people in Maine. The co-sponsorship total is as follows:

TOTAL: 48 (with author)

Democrats: 34

Republicans: 14

United We DREAM!

Support S. 1545 / H.R. 1684

CALL Senate Majority Leader Frist and your Congressional leaders and urge them to pass the DREAM ACT this year.

RELATIVES SUE OVER MIGRANT DEATHS

The US District Court in Tucson has given plaintiffs until July 9 to offer new evidence in a \$41 million lawsuit filed by relatives of 11 Mexican migrants who died in May 2001 while crossing the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge north of Yuma, Arizona.

The relatives say the Interior Department and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are responsible for the deaths because they refused a request made two months earlier by the Tucson-based humanitarian group Humane Borders, which sought to place a 60-gallon water station in the exact spot where the victims later died. Yuma lawyer A. James Clark, representing the plaintiffs, said the court gave them two months to present new evidence showing whether the government agencies had denied the permits without doing a required compatibility study, and whether such a study could have been completed in time to have prevented the deaths.

The government will then have until Aug. 6 to gather evidence for its motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

[Washington Times 5/17/04; Arizona Republic (Phoenix) 5/22/04]

Immigration Links of the Month

New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
<http://www.nynice.org>

Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
<http://www.drumnation.org/drum.html>

Monthly ISN Phone Conferences

National Immigrant Solidarity Network is holding a monthly phone conference to discuss how we can mobilize our grassroots and community resources to fight against President Bush's right wing anti-immigrant policies, as well as campaigns to against CLEAR, SEVIS and to support DREAM acts.

June's phone conference schedule:

Wednesday, June 9 3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

Wednesday, June 23 3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

Dial-in Number: 1-413-200-7060 (Plainfield, MA)

Participant Access Code: 91030

To learn how you can participate at the ISN projects, and endorse the ISN, please visit our webpage:

<http://www.actionla.org/ISN/>

Also please subscribe to our daily-news listserv, send e-mail to: isn-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

Please subscribe to the U.S.

Immigration Alert!

A Monthly Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network

Please subscribe to our new monthly newsletter focus on the latest U.S. immigrant events, alerts, news and useful information. This is a totally volunteer-based efforts and first of this kind in this country.

1 year subscription rate (12 issues) is **\$20.00**

It will help us pay for the printing costs, as well as funding for the ISN projects (additional donations to the ISN is tax deductible!)

Send your subscription request/check to:

Lee Siu Hin

National Immigrant Solidarity Network

1013 Mission St. #6

South Pasadena, CA 91030