

# March U.S. Immigration Alert!

**A Monthly Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network  
March 2006 Issue, Volume 14**

**No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights!**

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**Updates on Anti-Immigrant, Anti-Civil liberty  
PATRIOTIC Act, CLEAR Act &  
Sensenbrenner Bill: Community Actions Now!**

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According to the latest information, the US Senate is expected to begin debate on the Senate vision of the Sensenbrenner-King bill (HR 4437) on March 27. It'll be a tough fight but we should formulate our community campaigns to oppose the passing of worse anti-immigrant legislation in 50 years! During the entire March, many community groups from across the county will be organizing protests and marches to oppose the bill, and we are highly encouraging you to participate it.

**- National Immigrant Solidarity Network**

## **Draft Senate Immigration Bill Released February 24 - National Immigration Forum**

Early this morning, advocates in Washington obtained a copy of the revised "Chairman's Mark"—the comprehensive reform legislation that will serve as the starting point for the Senate Judiciary Committee's consideration of comprehensive immigration reform.

The revised draft is a huge disappointment: it incorporates many of the enforcement provisions from the House bill (the Sensenbrenner bill). For the undocumented, there would be indefinite conditional temporary status, with no extra provision made to provide a path to permanent residence outside of a revised family and employment visa preference system. In effect, millions of the undocumented would be consigned to a permanent second-class status.

This is the Beginning, Not the End: Contact Your Senators! We had hoped that by the time of the markup, the bill would lean more towards the Kennedy/McCain formulation of comprehensive reform. In fact, this latest version is more onerous than the version we have previously written about. Still, the game is just beginning—it's just that we are starting on our own two yard line.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will begin to "mark up" the bill beginning March 2 (Thursday). All Senators should be hearing from advocates about the need for comprehensive reform. This is especially the case for Senators who serve on the Judiciary Committee. For Committee members, check here: <http://judiciary.senate.gov/members.cfm>

## **Senate debate and the CLEAR Act February 28 - National Immigration Forum**

The Senate is poised to take up an immigration reform bill. The starting proposal is a conglomeration of ideas from various immigration bills already introduced, and was drafted by Senate Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter (R-PA).

The bill as drafted includes many of the outrageous provisions that passed the House as part of the Sensenbrenner-King bill (HR 4437). Fortunately, the CLEAR Act provisions that passed as part of HR 4437 were not included in the Senate draft.

However, it is apparent that proponents of legislation like the CLEAR Act will be looking for ways to attach it to the bill that is moving. Also, provisions in the Specter draft do make "unlawful presence" a crime and "entry without inspection" an ongoing criminal offense, opening up the back door to local enforcement of immigration laws, if not the front door.

We need your help to strip these and other egregious "enforcement" proposals from the bill, and to stop the more expansive provisions in the CLEAR Act from becoming added!

Please contact your senators now and let them know how you feel. Also, now is the time to gather letters, petitions, resolutions, quotes, et cetera from law enforcement, state and local government, and crime prevention allies. Just as in the last Congress, these letters and calls will be key to stopping this legislation from advancing.

As one member of Congress said before, it's hard to imagine a "pro-enforcement" bill that is opposed by law enforcement! Problem is, this legislation would actually undermine public safety and community policing, by making immigrants less likely to report crimes or information. For more information, please visit: <http://www.immigrationforum.org>

### **March 2006 Lists of Pro-Immigrant Events Across the Country**

**March 7 Washington DC:** Rally and Interfaith Service, beginning at 4 PM. West Front Lawn of the US Capitol Building. For more information contact Juan Carlos Ruiz Tel: (414) 758-0600 e-mail [juancarlos@core.com](mailto:juancarlos@core.com)

**March 7 Chicago, IL:** Immigration Community Forum. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Little Village Lawndale High School Campus, 3120 S. Kostner. For more information contact Johnathon Pierce at [jpierce@latinosunited.org](mailto:jpierce@latinosunited.org)

**March 10 Chicago, IL:** March for Immigrant Rights! -- March Against Anti-Immigrant Legislation!  
Departure: 12 PM Union Park @ Ashland & Lake; Rally Point: 2 PM - 5 PM Federal Plaza, 230 S. Dearborn St.

**March 20, Trenton, NJ:** 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. NJ State House 125 W. State Street.  
For More Information: [carlosavila21@yahoo.com](mailto:carlosavila21@yahoo.com) [unidosporinmigrantes@yahoo.com](mailto:unidosporinmigrantes@yahoo.com) Tel: 609-516-4119

**March 25-26 Los Angeles, CA:** Weekend of Actions. 3/25 - March and rally. Info: Jesse Diaz: (951)756-5712; 3/26 - Religious Mass, 3:30 PM Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, 555 West Temple St. Info: (213)637-7690

**March 26-28 Washington DC:** Conference & lobbying day organized by Rights Working Group.  
URL: <http://www.rightsworkinggroup.org>

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### **Minutemen Watch**

**URL: <http://www.MinutemenWatch.net>**

### **2/3 Los Angeles City Council to Minutemen: Go Home!**

LOS ANGELES, February [LA IMC] The Los Angeles City Council this morning issued an official and harsh rebuke to inland and border anti-migrant vigilantes. The Council moved Item No. 7 to second position on the agenda, effectively declaring it a consent item. The Council resolved to "include in the City's 2005-06 State and Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT of State or Federal Legislation denouncing and prohibiting the vigilante actions of individuals against immigrants along the border and within urban communities and enact immigration reform leading towards a path of permanent status for immigrants here now and wider legal channels for those coming in the future.

### **2/20: TX Sheriff says Minutemen not needed Louie Gilot - El Paso Times**

It was an awkward relationship from the get-go -- a group of untrained volunteers who wanted to patrol the border and a sheriff who wanted to draw national attention to the border.

Now it appears the marriage of convenience between El Paso County Sheriff Leo Samaniego and the Minutemen is over.

"They served their purpose by attracting attention," Samaniego said last week. "They made their point. Now that we have (Operation) Linebacker, I don't think we need them."

Operation Linebacker is the campaign by the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition to add deputies along the border to act as a second line of defense behind Border Patrol on the front lines. The sheriffs have already obtained state funding for the extra patrols and hope to get \$100 million in federal money this year.

A group of El Pasoans who joined the Minutemen were upset at Samaniego's comments. Ken Muise joined the Texas

Minutemen last fall and now patrols the area around Fabens once a week with 12 to 16 other El Pasoans who recently formed the splinter group, Texas Border Regulators.

"As far as I'm concerned, we have not seen a real difference (since the kickoff of Operation Linebacker). (Operation) Linebacker is a great idea, but until we get more border closure, we are not going to cease," he said. "He (Samaniego) told us in the past how much he appreciates our help."

Before volunteer patrolers started a monthlong borderwide operation in October, Samaniego had praised their efforts, albeit as a "last resort." Minutemen volunteers credited the sheriff's welcoming attitude as the main reason they chose to come to El Paso.

"I can never say anything bad about him," said Shannon McGauley, president of the Dallas-area Texas Minutemen.

### **Costa Mesa, CA: Mayor Allan Mansoor: "What have you done to Costa Mesa?"**

(February 26 LA IMC) Costa Mesa's Minuteman Mayor, Allan Mansoor, says that having police officers determine the immigration status of suspected "criminal aliens" won't result in racial profiling or "sweeps." His only intention is to protect all residents from crime, he says, adding that only people who commit "serious" crime will be targeted.

But can the Mayor and Costa Mesa police be trusted?

When speaking at a recent meeting of the California Coalition for Immigration Reform (a Neo-Fascist/Nativist hate group), where he happily accepted his honorary membership to the Minuteman Project (also a Neo-Fascist/Nativist hate group), the Mayor indicated that he had accepted a less "comprehensive" version of his own original proposal to ensure its passage, but he agreed that police officers should be allowed to stop any person and ask for proof of legal residency, a practice that would lead to the racial profiling and mass sweeps that he now says are not intended.

And in the city of Orange, police arrested eight day laborers on February 25 at a Home Depot. The eight were immediately taken to a detention center to be deported later, not for committing a serious crime, but for looking for work—like thousands of other Mexican and Central-American immigrants do everyday in Orange county. Costa Mesa's plan would make it even easier to target immigrants. If Orange police deport immigrants for seeking work, why shouldn't Costa Mesa's immigrant population fear its own police?

Whatever the Mayor's intentions, it's unlikely that anyone outside of a small group of ambitious local candidates for election or reelection, including the Mayor (Janet Nguyen of Garden Grove, Mike McGill of Cypress, Diane Hartke of Corona Del Mar and Sheriff Juan Corona are four others) are going to benefit from the crackdown on immigrants currently going on in Costa Mesa.

Immigrants who landed in Costa Mesa, most from Mexico and Central America, and who make up over 30 percent of the city's population of more than 108,000, have already suffered from attacks on their right to play soccer as well as closure of the Human Relations Committee, which promoted tolerance and diversity, and the Day Labor Center, which provided jobs. Not to mention the appointment of a writer of Neo-Nazi hate literature to a citizens board that advises the city council on economic and social issues. And next (the city's plan will take several months to finalize), they will have to worry about police who might report them to La Migra for deportation.

Much of this was done at the hands of Mayor Mansoor and his two city council compadres, Eric Bever and Gary Monahan. Together they make up the majority body of the five member city council. Immigrants' rights aside, which is where they are put in Costa Mesa these days, will the Minuteman junta's ongoing attempt to weed out brown colored immigrants from the city make it a better place to live, or is it a ticking time bomb that has already started to explode in the city's face?

Read more at: [http://www.ocorganizer.com/html/city\\_council.html](http://www.ocorganizer.com/html/city_council.html)

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# Immigration News Briefs from Across the Country

*Immigration News Briefs is a weekly supplement to Weekly News Update on the Americas, e-mail: [wnu@igc.org](mailto:wnu@igc.org).*

## 1. MISSOURI CONSTRUCTION SITE RAIDED

On Feb. 22, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested 56 unauthorized immigrant workers at a Schreiber Foods construction site in Carthage, Missouri, after executing a criminal search warrant at the site against a subcontractor, Reich Installation Services Inc. of Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Reich employed 28 of the arrested workers; the other eight were employed by Top Flight, another subcontractor at the site. Those arrested all said they were from Mexico; they were being held in the Christian County jail and were expected to be processed for deportation over the next few days. Carthage Police Department and Jasper County Sheriff's Department assisted ICE with executing the warrant, which authorized the seizure of Reich's computers and business, financial and personnel records.

One of the contractors raided in Carthage has been busted three times in the past four months, said ICE spokesperson Carl Rusnok. Reich worksites in Pennsylvania and Nebraska were raided by ICE agents last November and December. According to an affidavit filed in the case, undocumented immigrants picked up in Nebraska led ICE investigators to the Carthage worksite. According to the affidavit, two insiders told investigators that over the past three years, Reich has "consistently undercut industry competitors by as much as 30%." [*ICE News Release 2/22/06; News- Leader (Springfield, MO) 2/24/06*]

"Reich Installation Services has been associated with at least two other US sites where illegal aliens have been arrested within the last year," said Elissa Brown, ICE special agent-in-charge of the Chicago office. Brown oversees the ICE Office of Investigations for Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky and Wisconsin. Reich Installation Services Inc. designs and installs custom warehouse distribution systems in large factories and warehouses. [*ICE 2/22/06*] Schreiber announced last August that the \$27 million distribution center would be its largest distribution site in the US. [*Joplin Globe (Joplin, MO) 2/23/06*]

## 2. NY COURT UPHOLDS COMPENSATION

In a 5-2 decision on Feb. 21, the New York Court of Appeals—the state's highest court—ruled that out-of-status immigrants are eligible to recover lost wages that result from workplace injuries. "Limiting a lost wages claim by an injured undocumented alien would lessen an employer's incentive to comply with the Labor Law and supply all of its workers the safe workplace that the Legislature demands," Judge Victoria Graffeo wrote for the court. The court's ruling came in two lawsuits, one brought by Mexican laborer Gorgonio Balbuena and the other brought by Polish laborer Stanislaw Majlinger. Balbuena had sustained a serious head injury while working on a construction site; he sued the site's owners, IDR Realty

LLC and Dora Wechler, who in turn sued his employer, Taman Management Corp.

Taman argued that under federal immigration laws Balbuena was not eligible for future lost wages because of his status as an undocumented immigrant. Reversing an earlier ruling which allowed Balbuena to be compensated only with what he would have earned in Mexico, the Court of Appeals said Balbuena could be compensated for lost future US wages. State labor law "applies to all workers in qualifying employment situations—regardless of immigration status--and nothing in the relevant statutes or our decisions negates the universal applicability of this principle," wrote Graffeo.

The Court of Appeals reinstated a state Supreme Court ruling saying nothing in US immigration law prevented Balbuena from receiving lost wages since there was no proof he used fraudulent documents to get his job. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 "does not make it a crime to work without documentation," Graffeo wrote. Taman Management attorney Reed Podell said his client is considering an appeal to the US Supreme Court.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer had joined as an intervener on behalf of both plaintiffs, arguing that barring lost wage claims would make it more financially attractive for employers to hire illegal aliens and would diminish the incentive for companies to comply with state labor laws. [*New York Sun 2/22/06; AP 2/21/06*]

## 3. TPS EXTENDED FOR CENTRAL AMERICANS

On Feb. 23, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it was extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for an additional 12 months for nationals of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a division of DHS, "will provide additional information about the re-registration process and answers to frequently asked questions upon publication of Notices in the Federal Register soon," according to a press release. The extension covers approximately 225,000 Salvadorans, 75,000 Hondurans, and 4,000 Nicaraguans who have already been granted and remain eligible for TPS. The extension will expire on Sept. 9, 2007 for Salvadorans and on July 5, 2007 for Hondurans and Nicaraguans. [*USCIS Press Release 2/23/06*]

## 4. CCA GETS ARIZONA JAIL CONTRACT

On Feb. 24 the Nashville, Tennessee-based Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) announced it had reached an agreement with the city of Eloy, Arizona to exclusively house ICE detainees at the 1,500-bed Eloy Detention Center. As of Feb. 23, the Eloy facility held about 920 detainees, including some 50 for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). The BOP prisoners will be moved out by the end of February. [*CCA Press Release 2/24/06 via Business Wire*]

## **ICE Awards Halliburton Contracts to Build Immigrant Detention Center!**

[*MarketWatch* 1/26] KBR, the engineering and construction subsidiary of Halliburton Co., said 1/24 it has been awarded a contingency contract from the Department of Homeland Security to support its Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities in the event of an emergency.

The maximum total value of the contract is \$385 million and consists of a 1-year base period with four 1-year options. KBR held the previous ICE contract from 2000 through 2005.

The contract, which is effective immediately, provides for establishing temporary detention and processing capabilities to expand existing ICE Detention and Removal Operations Program facilities in the event of an emergency influx of immigrants into the U.S., or to support the rapid development of new programs, KBR said.

The contract may also provide migrant detention support to other government organizations in the event of an immigration emergency, as well as the development of a plan to react to a national emergency, such as a natural disaster, the company said.

## **2/14 New York City, NY: Protests Brew Over Attempt to Deport a Woman By Nina Bernstein - New York Times**

The treatment of a pregnant Chinese woman who miscarried twins last week after federal immigration officers in Philadelphia forcibly tried to deport her from New York has become a flash point for planned protest in the Chinese-American communities of both cities, lawyers and immigrant advocates said yesterday.

Richard Bortnick, a lawyer with the Philadelphia law firm of Cozen O'Connor, which is handling the woman's case without fee, said that protest rallies would be held today. He said he had appealed to senators in Pennsylvania and New York to help investigate the treatment of the woman, Zhenxing Jiang, 32, who has said that the officers manhandled her and ridiculed her pleas for medical help until it was too late.

While her husband and sons, 4 and 7, waited in the lobby of an immigration office, unaware of what was happening, Mr. Bortnick said, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers pushed Ms. Jiang into a minivan, bruised her and bumped her abdomen against the backseat and drove her to Kennedy Airport.

He said the officers stopped to eat lunch themselves but gave the pregnant woman nothing to eat during her eight-hour ordeal and cursed her when she cried and told them she was in pain. By the time they reached the airport, Ms. Jiang was suffering severe abdominal cramps and begging for help in a public waiting area, said John C. Liu, a New York city council member, who called the woman's treatment un-American. Someone called an ambulance, Mr. Liu said, and she was taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, where Mr. Liu visited her after doctors found that the two fetuses she was carrying had died.

No one disputes that under immigration law, Ms. Jiang could have been deported at any time after 2002, when she exhausted her appeals on the denial of her application for political asylum on the ground of China's one-child policy.

But her husband's political asylum case is still pending on appeal, Mr. Bortnick said, and the couple, whose sons were born in the United States and are citizens, have worked legally and paid taxes as Chinese restaurant operators in Philadelphia for a decade.

Ms. Jiang had been allowed to report routinely for years to an immigration office in Philadelphia until last Tuesday, he added.

Ms. Jiang and many of the family's Chinese supporters say the authorities decided to deport her when they learned she was pregnant, to prevent her from giving birth to another United States citizen.

In a statement issued last week in response to a news release from Mr. Liu, immigration officials said Ms. Jiang's "arranged departure to China from J.F.K. International Airport was delayed for medical reasons that were addressed immediately by New York Fire Department emergency medical technicians." It added: "Following her treatment at a New York hospital, Jiang was released from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody so she could further address her medical needs. Once she is cleared medically, efforts to effectuate her repatriation will resume."

Mr. Bortnick, who is filing a petition to delay her removal, said that when Ms. Jiang's husband, Tien Xiao Zhang, finally learned what had happened and went to the hospital, immigration officers instructed him that his wife should report to immigration headquarters yesterday. Instead, "she has gone missing," Mr. Bortnick said.

## **March-April: Major Immigrant Events Across The Country**

**3/1 - 3/30 Freehold, NJ Photo Exhibit: "Eye Am" by Paul Guba  
Western Monmouth Branch Campus, Brookdale Community College Gallery-Room 101  
3680 Rte 9, South Freehold, NJ. 10 am-8 pm MON-THU, 10 am-5 pm FRI**

This exhibit shows the dignity and strength of these workers who have risked their lives to come to this country to work and support their families. For more information, contact Rita Dentino at Casa Freehold, 732-492-1852, web: <http://www.gubavision.com/exhibit>

**3/24 Jersey City, NJ: Anti-Trafficking Conference  
International Institute of New Jersey, 1 Journal Square Plaza, Jersey City, NJ**

A full-day conference to continue raising awareness and promoting cooperation in New Jersey on the problem of Human Trafficking. Highlights: Law Enforcement and Service Provider cooperation; Global Perspectives on Human Trafficking; Roles and Responsibilities of media in the Anti-Trafficking Movement. For more information please call the Anti-Trafficking Initiative at: 201-653-3888 extensions 105 or 138

**3/27- 3/30 El Paso, TX; Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; Las Cruces, New Mexico Cross-Border Conference  
URL: [www.research.utep.edu/lineaeterrarum](http://www.research.utep.edu/lineaeterrarum)**

The conference will address issues such as immigration, trade, border health, environment and security in different border regions throughout the world. For registration contact Lourdes: (915)747-8565 e-mail: [lchee@utep.edu](mailto:lchee@utep.edu)

**4/15: Asian American Conference  
Columbia University, New York, NY**

## **March – May: Day Laborers Race for Justice, Peace and Dignity from Tijuana and New York City**

The race, which is organized by the National Day Laborer Organizing Network and the Latin-American Workers' Project, Inc. will last approximately three months, commencing on March 4th along the Pacific Coast of California and finalizing in May along the Atlantic Coast of New York City. OBJECTIVES:

1. Demand a legalization program that will give permanent residency to all undocumented workers and their families in the country and eventually lead to citizenship and political equality.
2. Condemn the prejudice and malignant spirit behind the unrealistic immigration reform initiatives such as 2534 and HR4437, as well as the opportunistic political agendas behind its advocates. At the same time, expose the true colors of the anti-immigrant movements and paramilitaries groups at their peak operating against day laborers.
3. Defend the day-labor hiring sites that are under constant attack by anti-immigrant groups and promote the day-labor worker centers as the most humane, dignified, safe and just alternative for day laborers and employers.
4. Send a message of love and reconciliation to the groups who oppose the existence of the day-laborer and his means of generating a livelihood. To the Minutemen, FAIR and other anti-immigrant affiliated organizations we offer peace and harmony. To the entire community we offer human dignity that will allow them to understand and unite with day-laborers at the local, national and international level.
5. Share information with day-laborers, community-based organizations, local governments and other sectors about the findings of the National Day Labor Study. Furthermore, distribute educational material to enable day-laborers and help they prevent labor abuses and the trampling of their human and civil rights. Along the course of the race workshops will be offered on peaceful and unified ways to defend ourselves and protect our rights against harassment by anti-immigrant groups.
6. Revive the spirit and legacy of the nonviolence doctrines of Martin Luther King Jr., César Chávez, Mahatma Gandhi, Moseñor Oscar Romero and all the countless people who have struggled for a more just, humane and peaceful world.
7. Connect all day-labor hiring and worker centers, community-based and faith-based organizations as well as Indigenous communities in an attempt to strengthen the day-labor movement in the context of the fight for immigrant rights.

## **Labor and the Immigrant Policy: AFL-CIO rejects US guest worker proposals**

**By: Peter Szekely - Reuters**

[SAN DIEGO, CA] AFL-CIO leaders on Tuesday said **they would** reject guest worker proposals now in Congress, saying that **all foreign workers who come to the United States to fill labor shortages should come as permanent residents.**

In a comprehensive policy on an immigration issue that has divided labor as well as Republican lawmakers, leaders of the 54-union federation ditched the idea that a temporary guest worker program could be made acceptable.

"To embrace the expansion of temporary guest worker programs is to embrace the creation of an undemocratic, two-tiered society," AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson told a news conference.

The AFL-CIO's immigration policy, which has evolved from a restrictive view a generation ago, is expected to be formally adopted on Wednesday by its executive council during its winter meeting, after winning the endorsement of a council subcommittee, an AFL-CIO spokeswoman said.

The AFL-CIO, the larger of two U.S. labor federations, continues to support the legalization of more than 11 million illegal foreign workers in the country as it has since taking that landmark position in 2000.

Its new policy, however, would oppose existing U.S. guest worker programs, such as H1B visas for foreign professional workers or H2B visas for seasonal unskilled workers, as well as Senate proposals to expand those programs.

By rejecting the guest worker concept, the AFL-CIO rejected the notion of separate but equal working conditions for workers who are not accorded permanent residency status, or "green cards," and given the option of becoming citizens.

"Our answer is that the future labor shortages need to be filled by workers with full rights," said Ana Avendano, director of the AFL-CIO's immigrant workers' program.

Avendano said the number of foreigners who come to work in the United States with residency status in the future should be determined by a formula using economic indicators that measure the job market for individual industries.

### **LABOR SPLIT ON IMMIGRATION**

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU), one of five unions to break away from the AFL-CIO last year and start the rival Change to Win labor federation, supports a version of a guest worker program in a bill sponsored by Sens. Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, and John McCain, an Arizona Republican.

But that bill was overshadowed on Friday by a comprehensive draft offered by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter that will become the vehicle for Senate debate on immigration matters. The committee is scheduled to discuss his bill on Thursday.

Besides allowing illegal workers who entered the United States before January 4, 2004, to remain indefinitely, Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, would allow an unlimited number of new guest workers to enter the country without a right to eventually become permanent residents or citizens.

Republicans are split over the immigration issue, which has exposed the gulf between conservative activists who oppose guest worker and amnesty programs for current illegal workers and Republican business interests that rely on immigrant labor.

**President George W. Bush** favors a guest worker program that offers illegal immigrants in the United States the chance to register and work -- mostly at low-skilled jobs that Americans don't want -- for up to six years.

A bill that passed the House of Representatives would expand an employer verification system designed to weed illegal immigrants out of the workforce.

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## **Updates from the National Immigrant Solidarity Network and 2006 Projects**

**Lee Siu Hin – Coordinator**

February has been very busy for us. Between February 17-19 we were speaking and tabling at the East Coast Asian American Student Conference at Washington D.C.; and attended 3 more conferences across the country. We made many successful contacts and meetings during the conference as well as my meetings with different immigrant/community organizations at D.C./New Jersey/New York areas. Here's some of our works for the 2006 (...go to page 8)

- 1) We will part of the leading organizing groups for the upcoming April 29 Spring Mobilization in New York City, called by UFPJ--we are planning to outreach to the immigrant and youth community to join, and hope to pull out a immigrant contingent for the April 29 march. and calling for a national **Respect Us!** campaign (URL: <http://www.RespectUs.net>)
- 2) We will be actively participate at the Nov 3-5 National Asian American Student Conference (NAASCon) at Northwestern University, (near Chicago, IL). And try to invite and recruit students to join our propose Asian American student labor justice organization, and **Respect Us!** campaign.
- 3) We will be working with Casa Freehold day labor center (NJ) and several other NJ-based immigrant/peace groups to organize a national immigrant labor conference at late July-early August on Freehold, NJ.
- 4) We are planning for the **national immigrant solidarity strategy conference** in Washington D.C. at early 2007.
- 5) We are organizing a **Los Angeles March 15 Community Anti-War Town Hall Meeting** to support Fernando Suarez del Solar and Pablo Paredes' Latino March For Peace, and linking the costs of war with immigrant communities. For more information, please visit: <http://actionla.org/features/view.php?id=413>
- 6) We are planning to hire several student interns to working at our New York and Washington D.C. field offices, our L.A. office as well as with our partnerships in San Francisco, Texas and Florida for different projects for the 2006-2007. Such as: immigrant labor campaign, Asian-American labor organizing, US-Mexico border justice as well as counter-Minutemen projects

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**About National Immigrant Solidarity Network**

ISN 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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