

May-June 2009 U.S. Immigration Alert!

A Monthly Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network

May-June, 2009 Issue, Volume 31

No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights!



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May Day 2009: Over Hundred Cities Across The U.S. with Hundreds of Thousands of People March for Justice!

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May Day 2009 National Immigrant Workers Mobilization

Over Hundred Cities Across The U.S. with Hundreds of Thousands of People March for Justice!

<http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/MayDay2009/>

WE ARE ALL HUMANS! NO ONE IS ILLEGAL! There's at least hundred cities and communities across the U.S. organized their May Day actions to support workers rights and immigrant rights. Globally, there's at least several hundred cities had organized tens of millions of people for march/protest/community events to celebrate the May Day 2009.

While the number of people participated in U.S. on May Day had been declined due to weather, economic reason, factional fights in some cities had created major confusion, and corporate America/government continue their campaign to against celebrating the May Day and exploiting H1N1 Influenza A virus (aka swine flu) "crisis" to scare people participating this year—none-the-less, the numbers of people participated at May Day actions across the global still stay very strong, and at some countries even grown bigger due to the working class angry about the current economic crisis.

Download the PDF formatted Report: <http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/MayDay2009Report/MayDay2009Report.pdf>

Photos & Essay Reports from around the World

<http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/MayDay2009Report/index.html>

4/10-12, 2009 Chicago, IL National Immigrant Solidarity Network 4th National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference

Successful Ending! Together We Build New Immigrant Workers Rights & Justice Movements of 2009!

On April 10-12, 2009 on Chicago, IL; over 110 organizers, activists and community members from African American, Native American, African immigrant, European Immigrant, Asian American, Latino/Latina, Arab-Muslim-North African, progressive labor, interfaith, LGBT, student, anti-war/peace and global justice groups from across the country. To meet face-to-face at to discuss how to build a new national, broad-based, immigrant rights/civil rights movement, and to set our 2009-2010 national grassroots immigrant campaign strategy.

We welcome our new steering committee member Alex Franco from Movement for Unconditional Amnesty, Philadelphia, PA. We acknowledges that different people from different organizations, backgrounds have different believes on how to achieve the justice and better future for the tens of millions of immigrants across the country, and how immigrant rights movements can link to the broader peace and justice movements.

We had agreements, we have difference and even heated debates; after three days conference, at Sunday April 12th based on the feedbacks and proposals submitted to the conference, we had draft our new points of unity and strategic immigrant campaign proposals.

National Immigrant Solidarity Network: Principle and Strategic Campaign proposals for 2009-2010
<http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/2009Conference/confreport.html>
(Drafted on 4/10-12, 2009 Chicago, IL: NISN National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference)

National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN) is a grassroots, broad-based, multiethnic 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! We also actively linking our issues with different 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.

We agree together we'll focus on building all multi-ethnic, multi-constituent, broad-based grassroots immigrant rights movements run by de-centralized volunteer-based community-rooted immigrant rights activists from youth, workers and community members who can play more active role on campaign formulation and decision making for local coalition building to organize popular education campaigns, such as: campaign to against immigrant detention, deportation & raids; immigrant labor rights movement; campaign against local anti-immigrant ordinance; comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) and linking the immigrant rights movement with other struggles, such as: anti-war and anti-globalization movements.

We'll also discuss the lessons from the 2008 election and what we should expect from the new President and the Congress affecting immigrant legislation for the next two years.

During the conference, we passed our new points of unity and strategic campaign areas for the NISN for 2009-2010.

The new NISN points of unity are:

- 1) **No to anti-immigrant legislation, and the criminalization of the immigrant communities.**
- 2) **No to militarization of the border.**
- 3) **No to the immigrant detention and deportation.**
- 4) **No to the guest worker program.**
- 5) **No to employer sanction and "no match" letters.**
- 6) **Yes to a path to legalization without condition for undocumented immigrants NOW.**
- 7) **Yes to speedy family reunification.**
- 8) **Yes to civil rights and humane immigration law.**
- 9) **Yes to labor rights and living wages for all workers.**
- 10) **Yes to the education and LGBTQ immigrant legislation.**

The NISN strategic campaign areas for the 2009-2010:

- **Support building grassroots networks and actions to demand unconditional legalization**
- **Linking Immigrant Rights Movements with Other Struggles**
- **Immigrant Raids, Detention & Deportation**
- **Immigrant Labor Campaigns and Day Labor Centers**
- **Housing, Education and Healthcare Rights for the Immigrants**
- **No to the Border Wall and Militization of the Border**
- **Strategic Resources for the Immigrant Activists**
- **Support Local Grassroots Immigrant Campaigns**
- **Building a Multi-ethnic, Multi-Constituents-Based Immigrant Rights Movement**
- **Congressional Immigrant Legislation**
- **International Immigrant Rights Campaigns**
- **Campaign to end exploitation of immigrants by the military establishment**
- **Use Chicago and San Francisco as base legislative proposal to promote comprehensive immigration reform that comes from the immigrant community in order to form 1 proposal to promote by September 1, 2009. We will also encourage other cities to form their own proposals and coordinate a united proposal.**

Immigration Policy Update

May 7, 2009 - National Immigration Forum

Legislative Updates

Senate begins consideration of comprehensive immigration reform: On Thursday, April 30, the Senate Immigration Subcommittee held its first hearing to consider how to fix the immigration system. The topic, "Comprehensive Immigration

Reform in 2009, Can We Do It and How?" Witnesses presented compelling testimony from a range of perspectives--faith, business, labor, law enforcement, and civil rights.

The first panel consisted of former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan; J. Thomas Manger, Police Chief for Montgomery County, Maryland (also speaking on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs); Dr. Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor of Northland Church in Longwood, Florida, and a member of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships; and Jeff Moseley, President and CEO of Greater Houston Partnership in Houston, Texas.

Greenspan noted that in this economic crisis, immigration has slowed, but that he hoped that Congress will reform the immigration system by the time this crisis fades. He talked about the role undocumented immigrants have played in the U.S. labor force, accounting for 1 in 6 new workers from 2000 to 2007. He also devoted much of his time speaking of the need for high-skilled immigrants to our economy.

Chief Manger told the Senators that one compelling reason for comprehensive immigration reform is that "[i]t is tremendously challenging to deliver police service to a community of people who are afraid to have any contact with the police." He went on to list a host of problems arising from our broken immigration system that police agencies must deal with.

Dr. Hunter gave one of the most eloquent testimonies I have heard concerning the hardship caused by the broken immigration system. He told the Senators that, "[t]he need for comprehensive immigration reform is to create a path that will help people do the right thing."

Mr. Mosely talked about the hardship imposed on business due to the broken immigration system. He noted that the legal channels for both low-skilled and high-skilled immigrant workers are insufficient for the needs of our economy, and the fact that there are 12 million undocumented persons here is testament to that fact. Even with unemployment up at the moment, the idea that removing the undocumented would make jobs available for American workers assumes "...that an unemployed worker in New York's financial sector would be willing to relocate to do agricultural work in California or construction work in Houston...."

A second panel consisted of Eliseo Medina, Executive Vice President of the Service Employees International Union, representing the labor view; Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights presenting the civil rights perspective; and Doris Meissner, formerly Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and now Senior Fellow with the Migration Policy Institute. The one witness testifying against sensible reform was Kris Kobach of the University of Missouri Law School and formerly with the Department of Justice under Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Administrative and Legal Updates

Alejandro Mayorkas nominated to be USCIS Director: On April 24th, President Obama nominated Alejandro Mayorkas to be head of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Mayorkas is currently a litigation partner in a law firm in Los Angeles, O'Melveny and Myers. Prior to that, he was the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. He was on President Obama's Justice and Law Enforcement transition team.

Unfortunately, there is not much to report here by way of his immigration background. Among immigration advocates in Washington, not much is known about this nominee. He apparently has little immigration experience.

This position requires Senate confirmation, and the nomination will be considered in the Judiciary Committee.

Senate Judiciary Committee holds DHS oversight hearing: On May 6th, the Senate Judiciary Committee held its first oversight hearing of the Department of Homeland Security. DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano was the only witness. The hearing covered a range of subjects falling under the jurisdiction of the Department. On immigration, the Secretary said that her priorities were smart and effective immigration enforcement; targeting employers who hire undocumented workers; improving the E-Verify system; and expanding efforts to deport criminal aliens. In concluding her prepared remarks, Secretary Napolitano said that she was looking forward to working with the Committee on comprehensive immigration reform.

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL), the new ranking member of the Committee after Senator Arlen Specter switched parties and became a Democrat, focused most of his questions on the immigration issue. He was critical of the release by DHS of several undocumented immigrants who had been swept up in a raid in Bellingham, Washington. He also urged Secretary Napolitano to carry on with Operation Streamline, the border-area initiative in which immigrants who cross illegally are being prosecuted for illegal entry, instead of merely sent back over the border. The initiative has overwhelmed the courts, a fact noted by the Secretary.

In an exchange with Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) about the DREAM Act, Secretary Napolitano noted that while it is

important to enforce our immigration laws, we have to have the ability to deal with the human issues that arise. The DREAM Act, she said, seemed to be "a good idea."

Secretary Napolitano gave few specifics as to what she believed should be included in immigration legislation, but she made it clear that the Department's priorities are changing, that enforcement will be more targeted and effective, and that she is looking forward to working with the President and with congress on comprehensive immigration reform.

White House to release budget request: The White House will be releasing its detailed budget on May 7th. A few details relating to immigration have dribbled out thus far. There will be new resources for border enforcement. Much of it will be focused on the interception of south-bound U.S. guns that now end up in the hands of Mexican drug cartels. In the interior, the deportation of violent criminals will get more attention and resources. There will be more money for E-Verify, including for the development of a monitoring and compliance office, for an increase in data integrity, and for outreach and training of employers.

There will be new money for immigrant integration, including \$206 million to reform immigration fees by ending the surcharges placed on application fees to pay for applications that are processed without charge (refugee and asylee applications, for example). The budget request includes \$10 million for an immigrant integration office within USCIS. This includes funding for grants to community organizations for naturalization and integration-related work. An additional \$70 million will be set aside for immigrant education out of an adult education budget of \$628 million.

DHS issues new guidelines for worksite enforcement: On April 30, DHS issued new guidelines to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding worksite enforcement. The new guidance directs ICE to focus its worksite enforcement resources on the criminal prosecution of employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers. At the same time, a fact sheet on the new guidance said that "ICE will continue to arrest and process for removal any illegal workers who are found in the course of these worksite enforcement actions in a manner consistent with immigration law and DHS priorities."

While the guidelines do signal a more targeted enforcement strategy, they are no substitute for immigration reform. Until Congress acts, the enforcement agency is stuck enforcing a bad law, and some immigrant workers will continue to suffer.

Supreme Court rejects tactic of prosecuting immigrants for identity theft: Undocumented workers who work in regular workplaces where they get a paycheck and have taxes withdrawn are usually using Social Security numbers that were not given to them by the Social Security Administration. They obtain numbers (often with the encouragement of the employer) that are either false numbers or are the numbers given to someone else. They do not necessarily know what a Social Security number is; they know only that they must have one to get a job.

In the last several months of the Bush administration, federal prosecutors were charging immigrant workers caught in workplace raids with "aggravated identity theft," a crime that carries a minimum two-year sentence with a conviction. The prospect of two years in jail was used to get immigrants to agree to deportation. The government charged more than 300 immigrant workers with identity theft after they were swept up in the raid in Postville, Iowa. (You can read an account of that raid, and the use of the identity theft charge here.)

On May 4th, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled against the government in a case where an immigrant worker was charged with aggravated identity theft. The government tried to argue that in order to convict on the identity theft charge, it did not have to prove that the worker knew the Social Security number he was using belonged to someone else. The justices disagreed. All of them.

Advocacy Updates

Postville raid anniversary events: May 12th is the one-year anniversary of the Postville, Iowa, immigration raid. The Interfaith Immigration Coalition will join the local Postville faith community in marking the anniversary with a series of events around the country. To find out how you might plug in to these events, go to the Web site of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

CIVIL LIBERTIES: Who's approving those wiretaps on your phone?

Chris Kromm - Facing South

With all the hot debate over government wiretapping in recent years, it was surprising to see that few in the media reported on big changes this week at the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court -- the group of federal judges that authorize electronic eavesdropping and physical searches of suspected terrorists, including U.S. citizens.

The Court was created in 1978 by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. The number of judges on the panel was increased from seven to 11 under the 2001 U.S. Patriot Act. In 2008, the FISA court approved over 2,000 surveillance "applications."

On May 18, Judge Kollar-Kotelly -- who has presided over the court since 2002 -- stepped down and was replaced by Judge John D. Bates, who had been appointed in April by Supreme Court Justice John Roberts.

Who is John D. Bates? A staunch Republican, he first came to fame as Deputy Independent Counsel to Whitewater investigator Ken Starr, where he -- in Sen. Patrick Leahy's words -- wanted open access to "the dresser drawers of the White House."

After being appointed to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, he was one of the judges who authorized the expansion of the Bush administration's domestic spying program.

Other notable rulings from Bates (h/t Think Progress):

- In December 2002, Bates protected the Bush administration by narrowly dismissing a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Comptroller General David M. Walker against Cheney. Walker "wanted Mr. Cheney to reveal the names of industry executives who helped the administration develop" its energy policy. Bates argued turning the records over to Walker "would hobble an administration's essential, legitimate ability to receive frank information and advice."

- As a federal district judge, in 2007 Bates "dismissed a lawsuit filed by former CIA officer Valerie Plame and her husband [Joe Wilson] against Vice President Cheney and other top officials over the Bush administration's" retaliatory leak of Plame's identity.

On the other side of the coin, this past April Bates ruled that 600 prisoners detained at the U.S. Bagram air base in Afghanistan could appeal to U.S. courts. In his ruling on lawsuits brought on behalf of four men who had been held at the CIA "black site" at Bagram for six years without trial, Bates wrote "[C]onfinement of the person, by secretly hurrying him to jail, where his sufferings are unknown or forgotten, is a less public, a less striking, and therefore a more dangerous engine of arbitrary government."

In a bizarre twist, the Obama Department of Justice swiftly moved to appeal Bates' ruling -- saying that allowing the Bagram prisoners to challenge their detainment in U.S. court "would divert the military's attention and resources at a critical time for operations in Afghanistan, potentially requiring accomodation and protection of counsel and onerous discovery."

(UPDATE: On May 21 Judge Bates also ruled against the Obama administration on who can be legally detained, saying that mere support for Al Qaeda is not sufficient basis for detention. But he also said that those who do fit the bill can be legally detained "indefinitely.")

The FISA court also gained two new members:

- Judge Susan Webber Wright, a U.S. District Court Judge for Eastern Arkansas appointed by the first President Bush. Wright famously dismissed Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton, although also ruled against Clinton in the Whitewater case, imprisoning Susan McDougal for refusing to answer questions.

- Judge Thomas F. Hogan, a Reagan-era appointee to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, who most recently was involved in delaying 114 habeas cases involving Guantanamo detainees.

The full list of FISA court judges can be found [here](#).

What does it mean for the future of government surveillance and civil liberties? All three have a decidedly conservative cast -- suggesting there will be little departure from the FISA court's direction over the last eight years.

Interestingly, a new report from Congress suggests that Washington may be shifting the focus of its surveillance programs from FISA to the FBI. The number of FISA surveillance applications approved by the court dropped slightly from 2,370 in 2007 to 2,083 in 2008.

Meanwhile, the FBI approved 24,744 number of "national security letter" requests targeting 7,225 U.S. persons in 2008. That was a dramatic increase from 2007, when the FBI made 16,804 requests targeting 4,327 U.S. persons.

CIVIL LIBERTIES: Anger at Obama Guantanamo ruling

15 May 2009 - Citizens For Legitimate Government

<http://www.legitgov.org/>

Anger at Obama Guantanamo ruling Civil liberties groups have reacted angrily to US President Barack Obama's decision to revive military trials for some Guantanamo Bay prisoners. Mr Obama has previously denounced the Bush-era judicial system, but in a statement said new safeguards would ensure suspects got a fairer hearing. New rules include rejecting statements obtained from harsh interrogations torture and limitations on using hearsay evidence.

Barack Obama U-turn over military terror trials President Obama has been accused of a major policy U-turn after he decided to restore the controversial military tribunals set up by George Bush to prosecute terror suspects. The surprise White House announcement reversed his campaign pledge to rely on the conventional court system. The move was last night criticised by human rights groups, who believed Mr Obama intended to dismantle the terror tribunals after calling them 'an enormous failure' during last year's presidential campaign. It was the president's second U-turn this week, after he changed his mind and pledged to try and block the court-ordered release of photographs showing U.S. soldiers abusing prisoners.

CIA Contractors Played Big Role In Interrogations (NPR) Congressional testimony this week showed that private CIA contractors mercenaries were a driving force behind harsh interrogations torture. Although there are lawsuits against military contractors involved in detainee prisoner abuse, there has been far less legal action against contractors who worked for the CIA. American Civil Liberties Union attorney Ben Wisner believes this is largely because of the secrecy that has surrounded the CIA's interrogation and detention program.

Cheney said Gitmo detainees revealed Iraq-al Qaida link Then-Vice President [sic] Dick Cheney, defending the invasion of Iraq, asserted in 2004 that prisoners interrogated at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp had revealed that Iraq had trained 'al Qaida' operatives in chemical and biological warfare, an assertion that wasn't true. Cheney's 2004 comments to the now-defunct Rocky Mountain News were largely overlooked at the time. However, they appear to substantiate recent reports that interrogators at Guantanamo and other prison camps were ordered to find evidence of alleged cooperation between al Qaida and the late Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein -- despite CIA reports that there were only sporadic, insignificant contacts between the militant group and the secular Iraqi government.

Cheney's Role Deepens By Robert Windrem Former NBC News investigative producer reports that the vice president's office suggested waterboarding an Iraqi prisoner who was suspected of knowing about a relationship between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. Robert Windrem, who covered terrorism for NBC, reports that: Two U.S. intelligence officers confirm that Vice President [sic] Cheney's office suggested waterboarding an Iraqi prisoner, a former intelligence official for Saddam Hussein, who was suspected to have knowledge of a Saddam-al Qaeda connection. The former chief of the Iraq Survey Group, Charles Duelfer, in charge of interrogations, tells The Daily Beast that he considered the request reprehensible. Much of the information in the report of the 9/11 Commission was provided through more than 30 sessions of torture of detainees.

CIA Director Rejects Pelosi's Charge That CIA Misled Her CIA Director [a liar in his own right] Leon Panetta today rejected House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's charge that the agency misled her in 2002 about its use of waterboarding and other coercive interrogation methods on suspected terrorists. Panetta, who took office as President Obama's CIA chief in February, reasserted the agency's claim that it told congressional leaders about the use of such methods during a closed-door briefing in September 2002. Pelosi (D-Calif.) has acknowledged attending the briefing but says she was told only that the CIA was considering the use of waterboarding, or simulated [death by] drowning.

'Obama, like Cheney, wants to hide the evidence.' **Obama Is Becoming an Accessory after the fact to War Crimes** (By Matthew Rothschild) Barack Obama is fast becoming an accessory after the fact to the war crimes that the Bush Administration has committed. By not prosecuting the torturers and those who ordered the torture, and now by not even going public with the photo tortures he'd already agreed to release, Obama is doing Dick Cheney's business for him. Cheney's been telling every news outlet that will have him on that a) we didn't torture or do anything wrong and that b) everything we did was necessary to keep us safe. The photos of our brutality that are in Obama's possession could disprove these points in a hurry. But now Obama, like Cheney, wants to hide the evidence.

US-MEXICO BORDER: Supplemental to allow new troop deployment to border

May 14, 2009 - Chris Strohm, Congress Daily The pending supplemental spending bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan includes funding to deploy National Guard troops to the U.S. border with Mexico if needed, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Wednesday (5/13/09)

Napolitano described the funding as a placeholder in case the Obama administration needs to surge troops to help stop violence created by warring Mexican drug cartels from spilling into the United States.

She did not say that a decision to deploy troops has been made.

Addressing a range of subjects during congressional hearings, Napolitano said the administration has decided to keep the Federal Emergency Management Agency within the Homeland Security Department, rather than make it an independent agency as it was before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The House version of the fiscal 2009 supplemental spending bill allocates \$350 million to the National Guard "for counternarcotics and other activities, including assistance to other federal agencies on the United States' border with Mexico."

But Homeland Security officials and lawmakers believe only \$250 million of those funds actually would cover the cost of a troop deployment to the border.

About 6,000 Guard troops were sent to the Southwest border under a program known as Operation Jump Start, which was intended to augment the Border Patrol, which was in the midst of hiring about 6,000 agents. But that program -- which Napolitano called "very helpful and very effective" -- ended in the summer.

She said the new funding, if used, would allow Guard troops to relieve demands being placed on border agents. "There at least is a designated sum that would be available to us for that," Napolitano said of the new funding. "It's a marker. It's to hold money so that we have the option to use it."

A Homeland Security spokeswoman would not explain what conditions would trigger National Guard deployments to the border. She said such information cannot be disclosed due to security reasons.

The Senate Appropriations Committee plans to mark up the spending bill Thursday at the same time the House plans to begin floor action on its version of the bill.

On Wednesday (5/13/09), House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee ranking member Harold Rogers, R-Ky., said the \$350 million figure, described in the committee report accompanying the supplemental as earmarked for the National Guard, is "entirely misleading."

"Upon further probing, it was revealed that \$100 million would go to unaccompanied alien children for housing needs and that \$250 million would go to [the Defense Department] to serve as contingency funding for the National Guard only if they have to be activated," Rogers said.

He complained that the supplemental does not include funding for federal agencies and local governments to "combat the violent Mexican drug war," nor does it give money directly to the Homeland Security Department for border security.

During her appearances on the Hill, Napolitano deflected criticism from lawmakers over the administration's plan to cut grant funding for fire departments in its proposed fiscal 2010 Homeland Security budget.

She said the new budget instead would increase funding for SAFER Act grants, which fire departments can use to hire personnel.

ACTIVISM: Minnesota - 30 arrested in civil disobedience at I.C.E. headquarters

May 6, 2009: Fight Back News Service

Bloomington, MN - Thirty community members were arrested here, May 6, while committing non-violent civil disobedience to shut down the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) headquarters and stop deportations for the day. The action was initiated by the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action coalition (MIRAc). The May 6 protest was the follow-through on an open letter calling on President Obama to sign an executive order declaring a moratorium on immigration raids and deportations within the first 100 days of his administration. This event was preceded by several public civil disobedience trainings, the last of which was held at the May 1 immigrant rights march in Minneapolis.

This action was an escalation in response to the silence of the administration demonstrated by the continuation of raids and deportations which have torn families and communities apart, resulting in numerous human rights abuses and over 90 deaths

in ICE detention centers since 2003. Over the past several years, the immigrant rights movement has organized marches, hunger strikes, petitions and lobbied for change, all with the goal of ending these human rights abuses - yet the raids and deportations have continued.

President Obama has said, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." Community members have decided to take matters into their own hands to realize this message. Phillip Lickteig, one of the dozens of community members who participated in the action, states, "President Obama, we take you at your word. We are non-violent because we wish, through contrast, to expose the system of violence and fear that pervades the communities, workplaces, schools and homes of the undocumented and their children. We are disobedient because the law is unjust."

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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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