

**Winter 2017 U.S. Immigration Alert!**  
A Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network  
Winter 2017 Issue, Volume 61  
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**Immigrant Shooter = Entire  
Community Guilty  
Muslim Shooter = Entire  
Religion Guilty  
Black Shooter = Entire Race  
Guilty  
White Shooter = Mentally  
Troubled Lone Wolf**

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**10/6: Mass Shootings, Gun Violence and the Pathology of the US as a Terror State**

**Prabir Purkayastha – Peoples Democracy**

THE Las Vegas mass shooting by a lone gunman, with a death toll of 59 and 527 injured, raises many questions. Why is the person involved – a 64-year Stephen Paddock – not being considered a terrorist by the police and the US administration? Why is gun violence so much higher in the US than any other country? And for the rest of the world, does the US invasion of other countries have any correlation with its gun violence? Or does reaching for the gun to shoot so easily, also encourage violence as a mode of “solving” international problems?

The easy one first – who is a terrorist in the US? From the president downwards, there is a reluctance to name any white man who goes on such a homicidal spree as a terrorist. Whiteness somehow converts any such perpetrator of violence, as acting not on his political beliefs, but because he is mentally disturbed. It does not matter, even if it is a man with white supremacist beliefs, who walks into a black church in Charlestown, South Carolina and shoots down 12 people, killing nine.

In the case of Muslims – whether they are mentally disturbed or not – does not matter. Based on the name alone, from Trump to the media, all of them will immediately call it a terrorist attack. Mass shooting or violence is terrorist only if the person is not white.

Shaun King, in *The Intercept* (October 3, 2017), in his piece titled *The White Privilege of the Lone Wolf Shooter*, writes, “What we are witnessing is the blatant fact that white privilege protects even Stephen Paddock, an alleged mass murderer, not just from being called a terrorist, but from the anger, rage, hellfire, and fury that would surely rain down if he were almost anyone other than a white man. His skin protects him. It also prevents our nation from having an honest conversation about why so many white men do what he did, and why this nation seems absolutely determined to do next to nothing about it.”

To others in the world, it raises a different question. Is there a deeper connection in the US peoples’ willingness to invade other countries, particularly those who are not white? Does the underlying Islamophobia that colours who is a terrorist, also make it easier to invade states simply because their populations are Muslim?

In a *Washington Post* op-ed (October 3, 2014), the military historian and former US Army Col. Andrew Bacevich wrote, “As America’s efforts to “degrade and ultimately destroy” Islamic State militants extend into Syria, Iraq War III has seamlessly morphed into Greater Middle East Battlefield XIV. That is, Syria has become at least the 14th country in the Islamic world that US forces have invaded or occupied or bombed, and in which American soldiers have killed or been killed. And that’s just since 1980.”

From who is a terrorist, let us move on to the other issue: gun violence. While periodically, we read about gun violence or mass shooting in the US, we are generally unaware of the extent of such mass shootings or the larger gun debate. Or its connection to the larger political debate in which right to bear arms – even assault rifles and semi automatic weapons – overlap with race and political beliefs.

Let us look at simply the numbers. This year alone, according to the US non-profit Gun Violence Archive, there have been 273 mass shootings in the US. Deaths related to gun violence number 11,754, a number far higher – per hundred thousand population – than any other country in the world. Except those who are in a state of civil war. The US has 10.2 deaths due to gun related violence per hundred thousand people. This is 10 times more than Germany; or about 50 times more than India.

The US not only is a far more violent country than any other economically advanced one, it also has the highest number of guns per capita than any other country. By far. With only 4.4 per cent of world’s population, it has 42 per cent of world’s firearms that are with the civilian population! It is an addiction that is only becoming worse. As mass shootings in the US have risen, so has the support for the gun lobby. The Las Vegas shooting, led to an immediate rise in stock prices for gun companies. The minute people in the US hear about a mass shooting, they seem to go out and buy more guns.

The issue is not only simple numbers of how many guns, but the kind of guns. The US is one of the very few countries which allows assault rifles and semi automatic weapons to be bought and sold without regulations. The difference between these and fully automatic weapons is not in their fundamentals but in how they can be fired. Both have near identical features, and with very few alterations, a semi automatic weapon can be converted into a fully automatic one that can fire continuously. A semi-automatic weapon fires once per trigger pull – it cannot be fired continuously unlike an automatic one.

For the rest of the world, it is difficult to see a civilian use of assault rifles and semi automatic guns. Why would anyone use it for hunting, supposedly the only civilian use for such rifles?

How did Stephen Paddock fire nearly a thousand bullets, if not thousands, in a time of 9 to 11 minutes, the time before he was taken down? Did he have illegal automatic weapons in his possession?

Unless they are pre-1986 vintage, the US tightly regulates automatic weapons. However, the semi automatic weapons can be converted to near automatic ones with simple additions, and are not regulated. One such addition is what is called a bump-stock, which can easily be fitted into a semi automatic one. Here the person firing “pulls” the trigger only once, the recoil of the weapon moves it back and forth, therefore making it fire continuously. It degrades the accuracy of the weapons, and makes it unsuited for hunting.

The way an automatic weapon has been defined in the US law, this device is “legal” even if it converts a semi automatic weapon into an automatic one. With such a device, a magazine of 100 bullets can be fired in about 12-15 seconds.

Paddock had 23 weapons in his hotel room, some fitted with such bump-stocks. He also had a number of magazines, holding a large number of bullets. He was firing into a packed audience of 22,000 people; he did not even have to aim – just point and pull the trigger, letting the gun do the rest. He did not even have to shoot all his victims, the stampede would have killed many more, as we know from the Elphinstone overbridge stampede. The stampede was as deadly as the mass shooting that triggered it.

While gun control is a recurring theme in US politics, its racial overtones should not be forgotten. The National Rifle Association supporters in the US, are right wing, much more likely to be sympathetic to white “nationalism”, and the demography that brought Trump to power. Michael Moore, in his film “Bowling for Columbine”, has traced the gun violence in

the US, not to the easy availability of guns, but to racism and slavery. It is the fear in the white population of the freed slaves that promote gun culture and gun violence. While such a connection may be arguable, what is not open to debate is the disproportionate support in the white population for the gun lobby.

Is the gun violence in the US related to its wars abroad? Can the psyche of a country remain unaffected when its soldiers go and kill all the villagers in order to "save the village"? As in My Lai? Or when it is easier to fire at anything that moves, as in Iraq and Afghanistan than think about civilian casualties? Or when the US civilian bombing obliterates most of Mosul or Raqqa including its civilians?

We cannot know the pathology of an individual. Statistically, we cannot analyse individuals. But we can, when it comes to collectives. It is the pathology of the US state that makes it the number one terror state in the world. And it is this pathology of the terror state that correlates very well with the mass shootings in the US.

## **10/11: CAIR, Asian Americans Advancing Justice and NILC Disappointed by Supreme Court Order on Muslim Ban 2.0**

### **Civil rights groups vow to continue legal challenge to unconstitutional discrimination against Muslims**

San Francisco, CA - Today, the Supreme Court of the United States issued an order in Trump vs. International Refugee Assistance Project dismissing the case from its docket. The case had been before the Court after a lower court blocked the President's second attempt to impose a Muslim ban.

The Supreme Court's order today dismissed the government's appeal as moot, since part of President's Trump's ban expired two weeks ago. This order returns attention in the case to the Maryland district court, where the plaintiffs in IRAP have already moved for a court order blocking the President's third Muslim ban before it goes fully into effect on October 18.

In response to this action, Gadeir Abbas, Senior Litigation Attorney for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Elica Vafaie, Staff Attorney for Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Avideh Moussavian, Senior Policy Attorney at the National Immigration Law Center, released the following statements:

Avideh Moussavian, Senior Policy Attorney at the National Immigration Law Center:

"While the court didn't issue a decision on the merits of the ban, we continue to fully believe that this iteration of the Muslim ban -- like prior versions -- is unlawful and unconstitutional. In doing so, the court was highlighting that this was a procedural decision. Despite this, this latest news doesn't change the chaos and confusion suffered by our communities when traveling under the Trump administration."

Elica Vafaie, Staff Attorney at Asian Americans Advancing Justice:

"Regardless of the decision of the Supreme Court, the current Muslim Ban continues to cause real harm to Muslim immigrants and refugees every day. This administration has made multiple attempts to ban Muslims through Executive Orders, proclamations, and administrative policies. We have been here before with Japanese internment and the Chinese Exclusion Act, and we will not be silent. We ask everyone who wants to challenge these hateful Muslim Bans to join us in Washington, D.C. on October 18th."

Gadeir Abbas, Senior Litigation Attorney at CAIR National:

"We will be in court on Monday to stop the latest attempt to ban Muslim communities. The fight is not over and we are not giving up. We will continue to fight the new Muslim Ban, both in the lower courts and in the streets. We have been fighting the discriminatory and un-American actions of the Trump administration since day one and we will continue to hold the president and others accountable."

The Supreme Court's order does not affect the pending challenges to the new ban; nor does it apply to Trump vs. Hawaii, the case from the 9th Circuit, which blocked the refugee ban, a partial version of which expires in two weeks, in addition to blocking the now-expired travel ban.

## **11/21: Ending Protected Status for Haitian Refugees is Latest Cruel Attack from Trump & GOP**

**Voces de la Frontera:** The Trump Administration has announced they will end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) protections for almost 60,000 Haitian refugee families who came to the United States following the devastating 2010 Haiti

earthquake. TPS was created in a bipartisan 1990 bill signed into law by the first President Bush to provide humanitarian relief to immigrants from countries struggling in the aftermath of war, natural disaster, or humanitarian crisis.

This cruel blow comes after the Administration ended TPS protection for 5300 Nicaraguan families and delayed a decision extending TPS for 86,000 Honduran families for six months, leaving them in continuing limbo. Most TPS recipients have lived in the United States for over 20 years. Taken with the elimination of DACA and Trump's executive orders to increase deportations, these attacks mark the largest rollback of legal protections for immigrants and refugees in generations. Voces de la Frontera issued the following response:

"Immigrant communities in Wisconsin are resisting the attacks we now see from Republicans at every level of government, including this cruel decision to end TPS and separate thousands of Haitian families," said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera. "Given the US' long history of undermining democracy and economic development in Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua, we have a responsibility to continue these protections for TPS recipients. We call on Paul Ryan, as Speaker of the House, to bring legislation to the floor to protect TPS recipients, along with a clean Dream Act to protect the millions of families at risk of separation from their families."

"At the state level, we recently defeated 287g in Milwaukee County, and are organizing to demand that Waukesha County Sheriff Eric Severson drop his 287g application to join Trump's war on immigrants by turning his deputies into ICE agents. Governor Walker must block the show-me-your-papers hate bill AB190/SB275, which would have a similar effect to 287g statewide. As we witness this assault on the rights of immigrants and refugees, our resistance is only escalating. Voces de la Frontera is engaging immigrant community members and allies statewide to prepare for a sustained 'Days without Immigrants' general strike to defeat the hate bill AB190 and 287g."

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## **10/8: White House Sends Congress Plans for Immigration Enforcement**

**Laura Meckler – Wall Street Journal**

WASHINGTON—The White House sent Congress an expansive set of principles that would sharply increase immigration enforcement at the border and inside the U.S. and significantly cut the number of new legal arrivals, demanding a high price for legislation under consideration to help "Dreamers."

The documents arrive as lawmakers begin an emotional and contentious debate over whether to legalize young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children, often called Dreamers. These young migrants will lose work permits and protection from deportation starting in March under a six-month phaseout ordered by President Donald Trump.

The White House documents, sent to congressional leaders in both parties on Sunday, amount to a lengthy wish list of longstanding conservative immigration goals. White House officials told reporters that they want these to be included in any immigration deal, but stopped short of saying the White House will insist on them.

"Without these reforms, illegal immigration and chain migration, which severely and unfairly burden American workers and taxpayers, will continue without end," Mr. Trump said in a letter to congressional leaders that outlined some 70 separate principles.

Many of these measures are nonstarters for Democrats and some Republicans and insisting on them could put the congressional effort to legalize the young immigrants into jeopardy. A White House official said the president isn't issuing any veto threats but declined to detail which of the ideas were the highest priority, saying the administration didn't care to negotiate with itself.

Among the principles is a call for funding sufficient to "complete construction" of a Southern border wall. The White House wants to end legal protections for unaccompanied minors who arrive without authorization and allow them to wait inside the country while their cases are considered. The administration also wants to make it harder for people to qualify for asylum and detain asylum applicants while their cases are being considered. In most cases applicants currently are allowed to live freely inside the U.S. during what can be a lengthy wait for a decision on their status.

The document also calls for punishing jurisdictions that don't cooperate with federal immigration enforcement—so-called "sanctuary cities"—by withholding federal grant money. And it wants Congress to mandate the use of E-Verify by employers to check the immigration status of prospective workers. The system is currently voluntary.

The principles also lay out changes to the legal immigration system that Mr. Trump has already endorsed, including large cuts to green cards issued for family members and shifting existing employment-based green cards to a skills-based system.

Democrats are opposed to some of these ideas outright and don't support others unless they are part of a comprehensive package that includes a path to citizenship for almost all of the estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. illegally.

"The administration can't be serious about compromise or helping the Dreamers if they begin with a list that is anathema to the Dreamers, to the immigrant community and to the vast majority of Americans," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.) said in a joint statement Sunday.

Last month, Mr. Trump met with the pair for dinner and, afterward, it seemed that a deal to legalize Dreamers might be at hand. All three of them suggested that they had agreed to pair protections for the young migrants with border security provisions that didn't include the proposal for a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico.

But immediately after that, many congressional Republicans said they would seek to extract more significant enforcement provisions as part of any deal. And on Sunday, a White House official said that the only agreement was that dealing with Dreamers was a priority and that they would try to come to a resolution as quickly as possible.

None of the White House goals is surprising in and of itself, with the president and his aides having articulated most if not all of them in the past, sometimes at length. But it was unexpected that the administration would suggest trading such a sweeping enforcement agenda for legalization affecting only a slice of the undocumented population.

Frank Sharry, executive director of the advocacy group America's Voice, raised the possibility that the principles reflect immigration restrictionists such as White House aide Stephen Miller more than Mr. Trump. "We will be watching to hear from the president himself," he said, suggesting the proposals may be designed as a "signal to his base that he's still a hard-liner, not a list of must-haves."

But conservatives in Congress said the proposals would bolster their case in negotiations. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R., Va.) called it a "serious proposal" that would be considered by a GOP working group.

While the principles went into detail on some matters, other questions remained, including details of the border wall. Administration officials declined to say how many miles of barrier it wants or how much it would cost and didn't offer a timetable for construction.

Many of the proposals outlined are included in legislation that has passed the GOP-controlled House but hasn't been considered in the Senate, in part because they likely don't have support from the 60 senators that would be needed to pass them.

Another contentious question is what sort of protections Congress might enshrine for the young people who had been protected by the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The program currently covers about 690,000 people.

A White House official said that the administration wasn't interested in providing these people with a path to citizenship, as the Dream Act provides. But last week, two administration officials told a Senate committee young people should have the opportunity for citizenship.

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## **11/6: 26 Nigerian Women Die At Mediterranean Sea**

### **Vanguard (Nigeria)**

The bodies 26 women were unloaded in a procession of black bags on to the dock of Salerno. The deceased women, believed to be Nigerian in origin, were recovered by the Spanish ship Cantabria as part of operation Sophia, an EU anti-trafficking force.

Most of the women, aged in large part between 14 and 18, were drowned when the rubber boat carrying 64 sank on Friday while crossing the Mediterranean. The other three victims were collected as part of other operations and transferred the Cantabria as it headed to Salerno to turn over the bodies to the Italian authorities. 375 rescued migrants were also brought to Salerno, originating from sub-Saharan Africa, Gambia, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan, and Senegal: 90 of them women, eight of them pregnant; and 54, children.

An investigation into the deaths of the women has been launched by Salerno prosecutors who believe there is a possibility that sexual violence played a role in the death of these women. Public prosecutor Luca Masini has arranged the external

examination of the bodies with emphasises on toxicology and evidence of rape. The bodies were frozen on board the Cantabria in order to preserve evidence that may have been lost during the journey to the coast. Full autopsies are expected to be completed at the Salerno morgue within the week. Police have detained 7 people for questioning including two men of Libyan and Egyptian origin who are believed to be the captains of the vessel.

Salerno's prefect Salvatore Malfi has expressed doubts that the women were being trafficked into sex slavery, as he said "the sex trafficking routes are different. Loading women onto a boat is too risky. The traffickers would not do it as they could lose all their 'goods, 'as they describe them, in one fell swoop." While women are statistically at more risk during this kind of migration, it is far beyond the 5 to 6 death rate of men to women crossing the Mediterranean.

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## **9/20: Unions Are Training Hotel Workers to Face Down Immigration Raids**

### **Contract negotiations are a key tool to restrict hotels from collaborating with ICE**

**Josh Eidelson - Market Watch**

Hotel workers in cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York have been gathering for training sessions recently on how to handle visits from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The sessions, organized by the labor union Unite Here!, teach workers how to effectively stonewall ICE agents, emphasizing employees' right to refuse to answer questions or show identification.

Organizers don dark sunglasses or jackets and role-play as ICE agents, with a "good cop" entreating the volunteers with lines such as "You look like a good person," and a bad cop screaming threats at them. "I need you guys to be just absolute assholes," organizer Hugo Soto, a former hotel worker who helped develop the training program, tells colleagues when preparing them to portray agents. "We need to train ourselves to be able to beat ICE."

As part of President Trump's crackdown on undocumented immigrants, ICE arrests have spiked about 40 percent, and the pool of targets considered priorities for deportation has vastly expanded. "If you are in this country illegally," Acting ICE Director Thomas Homan testified in May, then "you need to be worried."

Labor groups are at the forefront of the resistance, staging rallies and walkouts against Trump's travel ban and lobbying for such bills as a California measure restricting law enforcement from collaborating with ICE and a proposed Orlando ordinance limiting immigrant detention. In May the national AFL-CIO offered its affiliates a 200-page toolkit explaining how to train workers to respond to immigration raids.

Unions also are trying to use collective bargaining to tie companies' hands. Unite Here says curbing collaboration with ICE will be a priority in bargaining for the 270,000 hotel, casino, and food-service workers it represents, almost half of whose contracts expire within the next year.

"We know the companies that we have relationships with are going to comply with the law," says D. Taylor, the union's international president. "We just don't want them to do anything that makes it easier for ICE to come in and just take people away." Union leaders say that along with safeguarding individual rights, the protections help employees organize without immigration being used as a pretext to punish them. Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Hyatt Hotels, and Marriott International didn't comment.

Under model language prepared by the union for collective-bargaining agreements, a company would be restricted from letting ICE agents into the workplace unless they possess a valid judicial warrant. They would also be banned, except where required by law, from auditing or sharing workers' I-9 employment eligibility verification forms and from checking their status using the voluntary E-Verify program. A company would also be required to let employees get their jobs back after leaves of absence to address immigration issues and to notify the union about requests or subpoenas received from authorities.

Labor lawyers say that such proposals are legal: If the law doesn't require a company to do something, a contract can require the company not to do it. Just as individuals have discretion about whether to let police into their home without a warrant, companies have a range of options on how much to cooperate with immigration enforcement—something that some Motel 6 hotels in Arizona demonstrated this year when they provided logs of their guests to ICE agents. After a Phoenix New Times report exposed the practice, Motel 6 said it would prohibit hotels nationwide from voluntarily giving guest lists to ICE.

Unite Here has included immigration-related protections in its contracts since the 1990s and says it now has them in hundreds of contracts, including at some Hilton, Hyatt, and Marriott hotels. Union leaders are proposing the more stringent provisions in negotiations under way at hotels including Hiltons in Miami, and they plan to do so around the country over the next year.

This all puts hotels in a tricky position, says David Sherwyn, a former attorney for management who directs the Cornell Institute for Hospitality Labor and Employment Relations. “It’s a balancing act between the wrath of the law and what they want to do and what they think is right,” he says. Laura Huizar, an attorney for the National Employment Law Project, a pro-labor nonprofit, says businesses often have more discretion than they understand. “Employers have rights, and they should prepare their teams to assert those rights,” says Huizar, who urges businesses to have a plan for how to deal with ICE. “Employers should practice for immigration enforcement in the same way that they would practice for a fire drill.”

To anti-immigration conservatives, that’s a disturbing comparison. “It’s normally a good idea to show some deference to federal law enforcement when they come in,” says Republican Representative Louie Gohmert, a Trump ally from Texas who warns that companies that get “bullied” into noncooperation could end up raided by ICE and shut down completely. “It really seems like the antithesis of the purpose of a labor union, to protect the interests of labor. Normally you think of American labor.”

Immigration has historically been a thorny issue for labor unions, which often took a much harder line in the name of protecting native workers. That position has shifted dramatically in recent decades, as organizing the growing ranks of immigrant workers became a do-or-die proposition for shrinking unions. “There was a recognition on the part of the labor movement that it’s too late to kick people out, so we have to organize them,” says Janice Fine, a Rutgers University labor expert. “The labor movement as a whole has probably never been more pro-immigrant.”

Yet there remain deep divisions over the issue among union members, 37 percent of whom voted for Trump despite union presidents’ near-unanimous endorsements of Hillary Clinton. Some local unions remain hostile toward immigrants or skeptical they can be organized, Fine says, especially in industries with more conservative workers, such as construction.

Along with proposing contractual restrictions on ICE collaboration, Unite Here has sought to enlist hotel leaders as political allies on immigration, with limited success. Taylor, the Unite Here president, sent a letter in February to the largest hotel and casino companies whose workers the union represents, asking them to join him in “rebuking” Trump’s actions and to commit to all legally allowed measures to shield employees. So far, that hasn’t happened.

Marriott, Hyatt, and Hilton’s chief executive officers signed an August open letter urging Trump to preserve Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and Marriott has voiced concerns that the travel ban depressed tourism. But they’ve kept a lower profile than Unite Here had hoped for. Says Taylor: “They’re very scared of getting tweeted.”

## **9/7: Professors Arrested at DACA Protest**

**Leah S. Yared - The Harvard Crimson**

Thirty-one professors from Harvard and other Boston-area universities were arrested Thursday for blocking traffic along Massachusetts Ave. in protest of President Donald Trump’s decision to rescind an Obama-era program that gives legal protections to undocumented young people.

Professors took to the street outside Johnston Gate in a planned act of civil disobedience, forming a human chain and blocking traffic on Mass Ave. Before the arrests, Cambridge Police officers read a written statement warning protesters that they would be arrested if they did not move.

According to Cambridge Police Department spokesperson Jeremy Warnick, the protesters face charges of disturbing the peace and bail is set at \$40. After posting bail, they will be required to appear before a judge tomorrow morning, Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert wrote in an email.

African and African American Studies professor Walter Johnson, who was among those arrested, spoke of a “moral responsibility” to stand with undocumented students.

“It just came to a point of crisis, both for the nation and for us,” Johnson said. “It seemed like it was time for us to jump off, and to try to both stand firmly with our students, to stand for justice and decency in the face of an unjust law, and to try and kick off a conversation about resistance between campuses in Boston and among faculty.”

Trump’s decision Tuesday drew strong criticism from top Harvard administrators, including University President Drew G. Faust—who denounced the move as “cruel”—and Dean of the College Rakesh Khurana. Several dozen Harvard students

benefit from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which provides work authorizations and relief from deportation to undocumented young people who arrived in the United States at a young age.

Kirsten A. Weld, a History professor who started a conversation about the DACA repeal over a faculty email list, was also among those arrested. That conversation led to a meeting Wednesday morning, where roughly 75 to 100 faculty members from Harvard, Tufts, MIT, Babson, and other area universities brainstormed what they could do to support undocumented students, according to Weld.

Weld said the professors wanted to do more than sign a petition, and felt it was "high time" to act. In a speech to the crowd, she said three of the students in her 14-person course were undocumented.

"It's not business as usual because the Trump administration is targeting our students," Weld said in an interview before her arrest.

Divinity School professor Ahmed Ragab was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in downtown Boston just an hour before he was arrested in the protest.

"This is something that allows me to live under protection, to be safe and secure," Ragab said of his new citizenship status. "It feels so sad to see that on the day, at the time that I'm getting these rights, that my students are being deported and taken away from this country, that is their country."

Before the arrests, several professors, one undocumented student, Massachusetts State Representative Marjorie C. Decker, and Memorial Church Minister Jonathan L. Walton spoke of the need to take action against the policy outside Massachusetts Hall to a crowd of roughly 300 students, faculty, and affiliates from five different universities. Khurana was also at the protest.

Walton, who was later arrested, denounced the Trump administration in his remarks.

"We are here to say to the U.S. President, to his Attorney General, and to all the insecure leaders of this nation, that no human being is illegal," Walton said.

Trump's decision to end DACA in six months sparked outrage across campus Tuesday, and hundreds of Harvard affiliates gathered to protest in front of Memorial Hall.

## **10/12: Hundreds Pack Wisconsin Senate Hearing to Oppose Anti-Immigrant Bill AB190/SB275**

**AB190/SB275 is a copycat of Texas' SB4, and would require local law enforcement and employees to cooperate with Immigration agents**

### **Sam Singleton-Freeman - Voces De La Frontera**

Madison, Wisconsin – On Thursday, hundreds of Wisconsin residents filled a Senate hearing room, three overflow rooms, and the hallways of the Capitol to oppose the controversial anti-immigrant bill AB190/SB275 (factsheet here). The bill is a copycat of Texas' SB4 and very similar to a bill defeated last year through the Day without Latinxs and Immigrants general strike. The bill would give sweeping powers to local law enforcement and public employees to interrogate, arrest, and deport immigrant community members, and require local law enforcement to comply with unconstitutional ICE detainer requests.

"I have lived here 28 years," said Eduardo Perea, a member of Voces de la Frontera from Milwaukee (video here). "I run my own business, and I pay taxes. I don't have a driver's license, so some may say I am a criminal, but the system makes me a criminal. When I'm driving with my kids, when they see a police car, they pray we don't get pulled over. That is pure fear, and it hurts more than anything. I am a subcontractor and I have to drive. This bill only increases this fear. We should be debating something else. Wisconsin should welcome hardworking people like the families who are here."

As of Thursday afternoon, 11 organizations had registered against the Senate bill and 12 against the Assembly companion bill, without a single registration in favor. Organizers urged lawmakers to meet with constituents in their districts to discuss the legislation.

"We oppose this legislation because of the effect it will have to further endanger the lives of domestic violence victims," said Tony Gibart, Associate Director of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. "Earlier this year a Wisconsin advocate told us the story



of a victim who lives with the father of her two children. After an incident in which her partner strangled her, dragged her by the hair, and threatened to kill her, she sought help from her local domestic abuse program. However, fear of ICE and being deported and separated from her children continues to make her hesitant to report the abuse to law enforcement or seek a restraining order. All across our state, domestic violence programs are reporting dramatic decreases in Latino and immigrant willingness to work with the legal system or even file restraining orders. This legislation, by increasing the fear of arrest and deportation for immigrant survivors, will therefore push victims of crime to the shadows of our society where they are afraid to report violent crimes, making them more vulnerable to victimization and harm."

"The Catholic Church teaches that every migrant is a human person, who as such possesses fundamental inalienable rights that must be protected by everyone in every circumstance," said Barbara Sella, Associate Director of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the policy voice of the Wisconsin Catholic bishops. "We urge you to oppose SB275 and instead work with local law enforcement, immigrants and federal authorities to address violent crime, preserve security, and promote the common good."

Although hundreds of people registered as present or to speak against the bill, three people spoke in favor of the legislation, including a spokeswoman from FAIR, a hate group according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Senators Nass (R-Elkhorn County) and Wanggaard (R-Racine County) both spoke forcefully in favor of the bill, although both had left by 1pm, hours before testimony ended. Sen. Lasee (Kewaunee County) never appeared at all, though he called in briefly by phone. Community members came to oppose the bill from Walworth County, Manitowoc, Green Bay, Dodgeville, Jefferson County, Racine, Sheboygan, Madison, Milwaukee, and elsewhere.

"Farmers need a stable labor force and business climate, in contrast with the wild swings in immigration policy we're seeing at the federal level," said Nick Levendofsky, Government Relations Associate with the Wisconsin Farmers Union. "SB275 will mean that all those swings at the federal level will be the directive for local law enforcement as well. Let's leave the craziness in Washington and keep some measure of stability and predictability here at home."

"This bill is racist, unconstitutional, irresponsible, and immoral," said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera. "Today with only two days notice, hundreds of people have come to oppose this bill. Last year over 40,000 risked their livelihoods or closed their businesses in a general strike to oppose this bill. Why? Because they know this is not theory. They know what this bill opens the door to. And if this bill does move forward, we will not just turn out for one day, but if it takes two days, three days, a weeklong statewide general strike, people are willing to do it to stop this bill. Because we contribute to this state, and we will not just stand by and let our families be separated. We will fight for each other."

"I ask you to vote against SB275 because it raises serious constitutional concerns and is wrong for public policy," said Emmanuel Monroy, Legislative Staff Attorney with the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund, or MALDEF. MALDEF currently represents San Antonio, El Paso, and other cities, counties, and local officials challenging the implementation of SB4 in Texas. "SB275 puts Wisconsin and local governments at risk of litigation and prevents local governments from making the policies that best fit their communities. It would lead to arrests that violate the 4th and 5th amendments to the US Constitution."

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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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U.S. Activist Solidarity Delegation to China, organized by National Immigrant Solidarity Network and Action LA Network, will explore historic, cultural, social, political and economic aspects of China. Our goal is to help promote a deeper understanding and to realize the importance of U.S.-China relations to the US and the world. At our second delegation to Southeastern China's Pearl River Delta Region of Shenzhen, Dongguan and Hong Kong, the so-called "factory of the World." We'll explore China's economy, globalization, working class and visit Hong Kong--my birth place, meeting with left-wing activists, understand their struggles against US/NED backed right-wing forces.

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