



“THE ALIEN AMONG YOU”

AN IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY NETWORK

The Episcopal Church
Office of Government

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IMMIGRATION RAIDS

Building an Immigration Advocacy Network

After the failure of Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) in the 110th Congress, state and local measures have reinforced the “enforcement only” approach, often framing immigrants as criminals and having an adverse affect on our communities.

This scenario of criminalization of migrants requires and calls for action. The consequences are great and what is at stake is too important to remain silent. The most aggressive enforcement tactics are not only disrupting the status quo, but also victimizing hard-working individuals and separating families.

Meanwhile, the rights of those who are targeted as well as the

best interests of our nation are being ignored.

Therefore, it is especially important that the Church educate its members about the issues faced by immigrants and stand against all attempts to divide people of faith and goodwill.

Working together with other Episcopalians and like-minded allies will make us a more powerful force in advocating for just comprehensive immigration reform in the next Congress and Administration.

As part of this new Episcopal immigration advocacy network, we want to hear from you and we ask you to spread the word in your community about the



“You shall also love the stranger, for you were a stranger in the land of Egypt” (Deut 10:19)

network.

Please send us material (stories, pictures, resources, etc.) that we can share with the advocacy network to: awhite@episcopalchurch.org

JOIN THE ADVOCACY IMMIGRATION NETWORK!
SEND AN EMAIL TO:
AWHITE@EPISCOPALCHURCH.ORG

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Legislative update

Congress...

In the House: Passed [H.R. 6633](#), re-authorizing E-Verify for five years, but not making it mandatory. The bill commissions two studies by the GAO. The Immigration Subcommittee passed [H.R. 5882](#), a bill that would “re-capture” employment-based and family-based immigrant visas that had not been allocated under existing ceilings due to bureaucratic inefficiencies. The Immigration

Subcommittee passed two other positive measures: [H.R. 6020](#) would facilitate naturalization for military personnel, and provide certain relief from deportation for members of the military and their family members. [H.R. 5924](#), the Emergency Nursing Supply Relief Act, would provide extra visas for nurses. **In the Senate:** **S. 3414** was introduced by Senators Menendez, Cantwell, Murray, and Kennedy. It

reauthorizes a number of immigration programs expiring this year (E-Verify Religious Workers visas) and would also recapture unused family- and employment-based immigrant visas. The Senate also passed [H.R. 2608](#) (previously passed by the House), extending the time period during which elderly and disabled refugees, asylum seekers, and certain other immigrants may receive benefits under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

ICE Raids: Postville, Iowa, Laurel, Miss. and beyond

On Monday August 25, in the most massive raid in its history, Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) detained 595 immigrants in Laurel, Mississippi. The raid took place in Howard Industries Inc., which manufactures electric transformers. Of those initially detained 106 were released under alternative detention for humanitarian reasons. The workers detained were from a diversity of countries: Germany, Peru, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras and Brazil. On May 12, 2008 ICE carried out its second largest raid in Agriprocessors Inc., the largest kosher slaughtering and meat packaging plant in the country, located in Postville, Iowa. More than 900 ICE agents apprehended 389 immigrant workers. Most of the workers were Guatemalans and Mexicans from rural areas. In less than a week most of these workers were incarcerated, and sentenced to five

months in prison after which they will be deported back to their countries. These raids are further evidence of the prevailing enforcement approach that looks to criminalize immigrants.

The Episcopal Church resolution A017 "The Alien Among You" passed by the 75th General Convention in 2006 is based on the Christian principle of welcoming strangers. While the Church recognizes the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its border, we understand that enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane. At the same time, an immigration policy based only on an enforcement approach does not provide the appropriate response to the challenges the migration system presents. Through this same resolution

the Episcopal Church deplores any action by the Government of the United States which unduly emphasizes enforcement, as the primary response to immigrants entering the United States to work.

The raids in Postville had devastating consequences, not only for those directly affected, but for the community as a whole. This small town in Iowa had more than 15% of its population detained from one day to the next. The raid affected businesses, schools, families, and neighborhoods; leaving a town uncertain about its future. The raid spread fear and left a town traumatized by the scale of the enforcement measure. As expressed by Bishop Alan Scarfe, the Diocese of Iowa: "there is a cynical and cowardly aspect to this approach which can wipe out half a town in the process"

The Episcopal Church is committed to welcoming strangers as a matter of Christian responsibility. Under this mandate the Episcopal Church requests the halt of this enforcement approach and the policies that criminalize migrants and divide families. Congress should provide oversight of ICE enforcement actions and call for the end of these measures that provide an inadequate response. The enforcement policies only make more evident the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

Interpreting after the Largest ICE Raid in US History:

A Personal Account
Erik Camayd-Freixas, Ph.D.
Florida International University

<http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2008/07/14/opinion/14ed-camayd.pdf>

"IT MUST BE SAID THAT WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS. HAVE WE FORGOTTEN OUR ROOTS, AND LOST SIGHT OF OUR PRINCIPLES OF WHAT CONSTITUTES HUMANE BEHAVIOR?"

BISHOP SCARFE, DIOCESE OF IOWA

The Episcopal Church on Migration Issues: "The alien Among You" Part I

RESOLUTION: A017-2006

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church receive "The Alien Among You" in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the

following fundamental principles included in "The Alien Among You" as the policy of The Episcopal Church.

1. Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.
2. Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.
3. Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.
4. Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.
5. Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane; and be it further

RAIDS' RESOURCES

Immigrant Advocate Network

The Immigrant Advocate Network (IAN) has an excellent Raids and Immigration Enforcement library with legal materials with sample motions to suppress, bond motions, complaints for racial profiling. It also includes raid response plans and advocacy materials. CLINIC affiliates can register to become a member of IAN at <http://www.ian.org>.

RAID RESPONSE PLANS

CLINIC's National Enforcement Response Plan: *A plan to help communities prepare and plan for immigration enforcement actions.* By the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. You can access this document at www.cliniclegal.org.

AILA Chapters: *Workplace Raids Action Plan; Lessons Learned From New Bedford, MA; and Raids Preparedness*

Checklist. By the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

You can access materials at: www.aila.org. Additionally, there are other materials available to members on AILA's website.

Maryland Raid Response Plan. By CASA of Maryland. For a copy of the plan or for more information you can contact Eliza Leighton at (301) 431-4185.

Community Raid Preparedness Checklist. By the Fair Immigration Reform Movement. You can access this document at: www.fairimmigration.org

How to be Prepared for an Immigration Raid. By the National Immigration Law Center (NILC). You can access this document at: www.nilc.org

From Raids to Deportation: A Community Resource Kit. By the

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, Inc. and Detention Watch Network. You can access this document at: www.detentionwatchnetwork.org.

Preraid Community Safety Plan. By the Detention Watch Network, Families for Freedom, and National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, Inc. You can access this document at: <http://detentionwatchnetwork.org/sites/detentionwatchnetwork.org/files/Pre%20Raid%20Community%20Safety%20Plan.pdf>

“Welcome the stranger, and care for the alien in your midst”

A Message from the Rt. Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, XXVI Presiding Bishop: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3687_32100_ENG_HTM.htm?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Material for your community

WARNING: Protect Yourself From Immigration Raids. By CASA de Maryland. (English and Spanish). You can access this document at: www.immigrantrights.org/CASAofMaryland.pdf

Brochure: Rights during immigration raids. By the Detention Watch Network, National Immigration project of National Lawyers Guild, and CASA de Maryland. You can access this document at: <http://www.nilc.org/ce/ceindex.htm#know-rights>

How to be Prepared for an Immigration Raid. By the National Immigration Law. (English and Spanish) you can access this document at: <http://www.nilc.org/ce/ceindex.htm#know-rights>

WHAT TO DO IF You Are Stopped By Immigration Agents Or Police While On Foot. Your Car Is Pulled Over By Immigration Agents Or Police. Immigration Agents Or Police Come to Your Home. By the ACLU of Southern California. (English and Spanish) You can access this document at: <http://www.aclu-sc.org/Action/KnowYourRights>

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: What to Do If Questioned by Police, FBI, Customs Agents or Immigration Officers. By the ACLU. You can access this document at:

http://www.aclu.org/kyr/kyr_english.pdf. A similar version of this document is available in Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Farsi and Somali at: <http://www.aclu.org/safefree/general/17444res20040528.html>

What to do in the event of a Raid. By the National Day laborer Organizing Network, Legal Aid Justice Center – Immigrant Advocacy Project, Tenants and Workers United, Central American Resource Center, Catholic Charities Hogar Hispano, Virginia Organizing Project, El Pueblo Unido. (English and Spanish) You can access this document at: http://www.justice4all.org/our_programs/vjc/links

Know Your Rights at Home and at Work. By the National Immigration Law Center. (English and Spanish). <http://www.nilc.org/ce/>

[ceindex.htm#know-rights](http://www.nilc.org/ce/ceindex.htm#know-rights)

If I am Stopped ... A Know Your Rights Guide. By the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium. (Korean and English) <http://www.nakasec.org/blog/968>

Know Your Rights. By the Canal Street Alliance. (English, Spanish, Portuguese, Mayan) http://www.canalalliance.org/Immigration_Resources.shtml.

Know Your Rights Video. By the By Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles (CHRLA). (English and Spanish) You can order the video by contacting CHRLA directly or online at www.chirla.org

Guide for Community Training on Raids and Detentions. By the Immigrant Defense Committee (coalition of immigrant advocates, religious organizations, and unions). (English and Spanish) This is an excellent training manual with curriculum. Order the Guide by contacting Tim Bell at timobell@yahoo.com

A PARISH AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION RAIDS AND ACTIONS

From the Diocese of Olympia

Our congregation of Saint Matthew/San Mateo in Auburn, Washington in the Diocese of Olympia has been deeply involved in advocacy for immigration reform, grass roots organizing, education, outreach to the immigrant community and providing pastoral care and support of families who have been severely impacted by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) over the past two years. At the end of 2006 we knew ICE actions were on the increase around the country. We did not feel particularly threatened in Auburn, a relatively small, suburban community about 20 miles south of Seattle. This changed for us on February 14th, 2007 when a local UPS distribution center was raided and 51 workers were detained. We were in shock. A month later, Emerald Downs Race Track was raided and one of our parishioners was detained. Rene is out on bond and his case has been appealed. He has become a spokes person for the New Sanctuary Movement. Saint Matthew was one of the first churches in Washington State to declare itself a Sanctuary Congregation. We gathered as a community in the Jubilee Center to find ways to respond. The initial response was to set up a fund to provide help with legal fees and bonds. A local Spanish radio station was very helpful in giving us lots of free publicity calling on people in the Latino communities in our area to donate to the fund. One of our parishioners, Miguel Prado knew an immigration attorney whose

family was from the same Purepecha village in Michoacan, Mexico (Purepecha is a large indigenous Mexican group, and about 5000 Purepecha have immigrated to our area). Adolfo Ojeda became involved and offered general information forums on immigration rights. He does some pro-bono work for us, and charges about half his normal fee for people who come through the Jubilee Center. We have received grants from domestic violence programs and donations to our immigration fund to help those who have no resources with legal expenses.



We attempt to provide relief to families caught up in these awful raids. We have a team of people who visit detainees in the Northwest Detention Center, keeping families informed since many family members themselves cannot get into the detention center.

Our strongest response has been through the development of El Comité Sur – a truly grass roots organization. El Comité Sur has been working in the small community of Pacific, Washington over the past year attempting to bring to light the police practice of profile stopping Latinos for minor traffic issues and proceeding to inquire of immigration status, subsequently delivering individuals to the detention center. In 2007 we were in contact with 27 individuals or their families who were turned over to ICE by the police depart-

ment. The profiling was so apparent that the U.S. Department of Justice contacted us to offer to help us negotiate with the City of Pacific. Stops have included people in the U.S. on visas. One case has been filed in U.S District Court. It is the Latino Community of Pacific and their allies from the Jubilee Center who have brought about awareness of the Pacific Police practices. We have marched in the face of threats to be arrested if we tried to hold a march. We continue to invite the City of Pacific Officials to meet with us in an honest dialogue to attempt to build positive relationships in Pacific – we are waiting. We have not succeeded in bringing about policy that is fair and just but, we can report that there has been a notable decrease in the number of stops of Latinos and resulting immigration violation investigations. We are not content to leave it at that, and will continue to work for policy in Pacific that respects the dignity of all, to provide community police protection in the City of Pacific and not act as un-trained immigration agents.

Finally, we share our stories anywhere in the church and community we can. We try to create an understanding of the complexity and brokenness of the current immigration system in the United States. Many of our Biblical “heroes” were immigrants, their stories are our stories.

Dianne Aid, TSSF.

St Matthew, Diocese of Olympia



Immigration Rights March - May 1

“EVERY DAY, OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES SEE THE STRUGGLES OF IMMIGRANTS AS WELL AS THE HURTFUL ENFORCEMENT MEASURES THAT MAKE THEIR LIVES UNBEARABLE”

READ BISHOP RICKEL'S LETTER TO THE SEATTLE TIMES ON IMMIGRATION
http://www.ecww.org/news_detail.cfm?NID=148

ICE raids in Asheville, NC

On August 12, 2008, ICE agents conducted the largest raid in the history of North Carolina at Mills Manufacturing, a parachute making facility, in Buncombe County. 57 workers were arrested on site after being told to gather for an "organizational meeting," and were then transported to the neighboring Henderson County Jail for processing. While immigration raids have happened more frequently in the eastern part of the state, this was the first raid of such proportions in the mountains. The raid followed the recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Henderson County and ICE (called 287-g), which empowers local law enforcement to initiate deportation proceedings upon detainment.

As a priest serving in a Spanish-speaking congregation, I witnessed how this raid sent a shockwave of fear throughout our community.

"STUDENTS, RETIREES, SPANISH-SPEAKERS, ENGLISH-SPEAKERS, JEWS, CHRISTIANS, ATHEISTS, DOCUMENTED AND UNDOCUMENTED HAVE ALL COME TOGETHER TO REJECT THE FEAR THAT CURRENTLY DOMINATES BOTH OUR IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT"

Rumors of more raids and checkpoints began to circulate, while many families were afraid to even leave their homes. I couldn't help but think of the post-crucifixion disciples being locked in their room for fear of those who had arrested and executed their leader.

And, as in the biblical witness, even fear would not keep the resurrection from the disciples locked in that room. Due to the hard work of community organizers, we had a community defense network (defensa comunitaria) in place, which promptly sprung into action as soon as news of the raid traveled beyond the walls of Mills Manufacturing. Human rights observers arrived to document and witness treatment of those being arrested. Phone calls led to an impromptu prayer vigil at the jail. Teams wrote letters to the editor, organized legal counsel and financial assistance for the families affected, and by the weekend large scale marches and vigils were being held. It took months of preparation and planning, but that work paid off as we were able to quickly mobilize and inform the sympathetic community.

As of today, those directly affected are still dealing with legal, financial, and emotional issues, but instead of the paralysis borne of fear, our community has found the freedom that comes from moving beyond the walls of our traditions, lan-

guages, and social standings. Students, retirees, Spanish-speakers, English-speakers, Jews, Christians, Atheists, documented and undocumented have all come together to reject the fear that currently dominates both our immigration policies and their enforcement. In the wake of such a painful event, the hope borne of our joint efforts has been uplifting. Please keep the 57 and their families in your prayers, and do all in your power to struggle for justice in your own community.



The Rev. Canon Austin Rios
Canon for Spanish Speaking Ministries
Diocese of Western North Carolina

MORE INFORMATION:

In the news:

- * <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008808250305>
- * http://www.wcbj.biz/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1410&Itemid=1

You can access a video about the Mills Manufacturing raid: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKj8z4sZs64>

Other sources:

<http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/node/2304>

IMMIGRATION RAIDS

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CALL YOUR SENATOR AND
REPRESENTATIVES AND
LET THEM KNOW THAT
YOU WANT TO STOP
IMMIGRATION RAIDS AND
SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE
IMMIGRATION REFORM!

MORE INFORMATION ON THE RAIDS IN POSTVILLE and LAUREL:

- * The House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugee, Border Security and International Law had a hearing on Immigration Raids: Postville and Beyond. You can access the testimony here: http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear_072408.html
- * For more information: The Episcopal Church Des Moines Register: Worker exploitation reports anger bishops <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080711/NEWS10/807110385/1001/NEWS>; Gazette: Religious leaders decry abuse of migrant workers; <http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080711/NEWS/205714839/1006/news>
- * Immigrant community in fear after nearly 600 detained in southern Miss. ICE raid
By Holbrook Mohr The Associated Press, August 27, 2008
<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/ats-ap-immigration-raidaug27,1,3485283.story>

OTHER INFORMATION ON IMMIGRATION:

- * Interfaith Immigration Coalition: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org>
- * The National Immigration Forum: www.immigrationforum.org
- * Immigration Advocate Network: www.immigrationadvocates.org

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR STATE, COUNTY OR CITY/TOWN?

State and Local Enforcement

The enforcement only approach is not limited to the federal government, we have seen the emergence of state and local governments taking migration issues into their hands. States and local governments are passing laws and ordinances that attempt to address migration issues. Some of these measures are tough expressions of the enforcement only approach, pointing to the criminalization of migrants and creating a hostile environment to the migrant communities. Hazelton, PA, Phoenix, AZ, Farmers Branch, TX, Escondido, CA, and the State of Oklahoma are examples of those addressing migration issues at the local level.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the number of states passing immigration-related bills skyrocketed in 2007. No fewer than 1,404 pieces of immigration-related legislation were introduced in legislatures during the first half of 2007, with 182 bills becoming law in 43 states. That is more than double the number of immigration-related state laws enacted during all of 2006,

While these bills covered a wide variety of topics, many states focused on education, employment, identification and driver's licenses, law enforcement, legal services, public benefits, trafficking, and voting procedures. The Migration Policy Institute notes that most bills introduced in 2007 targeted

employment and local enforcement initiatives, but measures addressing human trafficking and family law had the highest rate of passage. In all, 306 measures sought to expand the rights of immigrants, while 256 contracted the rights of immigrants. Texas, New York, Tennessee, and Virginia introduced the most state measures. (<http://www.migrationinformation.org/integration/regulation.cfm>)

Send us information about what is happening in your community:
awhite@episcopalchurch.org