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DAY LABORERS RESPOND TO DOJ LAWSUIT IN ARIZONA

(Phoenix/Los Angeles) Today, the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit challenging Arizona's SB 1070. The National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) with its member organizations in Arizona have resisted the new law, organizing community members, holding large-scale marches, and participating as counsel in a lawsuit against SB 1070 with a coalition of civil rights partners. Today, Pablo Alvarado, director of NDLON, issued the following statement:

"Arizona's demagogue leaders have scapegoated immigrants, subordinated Latinos' civil rights, and fallen down a slippery slope. They have received a free pass for too long in part because they have engaged in persecution of a class of people they have tried to dehumanize and deem 'illegal.' Today, our country is standing up to say, 'NO MORE! No more dehumanization. No more criminalization. No more racial profiling. No more Arizonas.'

"The people Jan Brewer calls 'illegal' will one day be citizens of this country, they will become leaders of Arizona, and they will have succeeded in strengthening the Union and defending our Constitution along their path. Today, we ask Governor Brewer, "What part of federal don't you understand? What part of unconstitutional don't you understand? What part of the Fourteenth Amendment don't you understand?"

"Immigration reform will not be won with one single piece of legislation. It will be won when immigrants achieve the political equality we deserve. We will earn our right to stay here by unifying the country and redeeming its proud tradition as a nation of immigrants. We will mark the victory achieved in defeating Arizona's SB 1070 as a seminal moment in this enduring struggle. We are confident justice will prevail."

Chris Newman, legal director for NDLON and counsel on a lawsuit challenging 1070 said:

"The Department of Justice took the extraordinary step of filing this lawsuit to defend the Constitution from attack. Our federal government will not allow a

fragmentation of the Union because of anti-immigrant hysteria. Our legal system will not tolerate Arizona's latest attempt at nullification. Our courts will not allow the 14th Amendment to be trampled upon.

We are confident federal courts will prevent this odious legislation from ever seeing the light of day. Meanwhile, while the legal process is under way, we will continue to urge the Obama administration to take other necessary steps to prevent states and localities from arrogating federal authority."

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