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For Immediate Release

April 23, 2010

Contact: DNC Press – 202-863-8148

#### DNC Chairman Tim Kaine's Statement On Arizona Immigration Law

Washington, DC – Today, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed into law a restrictive new measure which would require Arizona police officers to question any individual they suspected of residing illegally in America. In a statement, DNC Chairman Tim Kaine criticized the measure:

“Today, President Obama highlighted the ongoing work of his Administration and Democrats in Congress to achieve comprehensive immigration reform that emphasizes compliance with our immigration laws and accountability while at the same time creating a pathway out of the shadows for the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living and working in the United States.

“Unfortunately, while Democrats in Washington seek a responsible solution to the challenges that we all face with respect to America’s current immigration laws, Republicans have proposed a patchwork of extreme fixes that will not help the situation and will instead serve to undermine Americans’ liberties and civil rights while fostering intolerance. There is no clearer example of such extremism than the bill signed in Arizona today by Republican Governor Jan Brewer and endorsed by Senator John McCain who had previously been a sponsor of comprehensive immigration reform. Arizona’s new law tramples on Americans’ basic notions of justice and legitimizes prejudice – it is both small-minded and short-sighted.

“I am hopeful that instead of pursuing such misguided efforts, Republican in Congress will join with the President and Congressional Democrats to find a responsible solution to immigration reform that will promote respect for the law, keep law enforcement resources focused on criminal behavior, and benefit all Americans.”

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**April 23, 2010**

**Dave Arnold, 718-213-6673, 718-520-9001**

## **Rep. Weiner on Arizona's New Biased Immigration Bill:**

**“Serious Times and Serious Problems Require Serious Leaders – Instead,  
We Have the Folks Running Arizona”**

**Washington, DC** – In response to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer's signage of legislation that makes it a misdemeanor to not carry proof of immigration status, Rep. Weiner (D-Queens and Brooklyn), the only New York Member on the House Immigration Subcommittee, issued the following statement:

“Serious times and serious problems require serious leaders. Instead we have the folks running Arizona.”

“Instead of helping to craft a comprehensive solution to a complex economic and social challenge, the governor and senators from Arizona have instead chosen to dive into the demagogic mosh pit that is today's Republican Party.”

“It's not a surprise, but it's still a shame.”

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**Make the Road New York**

NEWS ADVISORY

Make the Road New York

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 23, 2010

**Contact (English & Spanish):**

Ana Maria Archila, 718-565-8500 x 4406

Javier Valdes, (917) 679-2971

**One Day After Arizona Governor Signs Anti-Immigrant Legislation into Law, Latino Immigrants Call on President Obama to Take Control of Immigration Debate and Act to Pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform in 2010**

On Friday April 23, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed into law bill SB 1070, a xenophobic and irresponsible piece of legislation that legalizes racial profiling of Latinos and completely undermines the relationships between police and communities in Arizona.

Latino immigrants will gather in Queens to demand real action from the White House and Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform this year. Failure to do so will only signal to Latinos across the country a lack of political will to tackle the tough job of fixing the broken immigration system.

While we are glad that President Obama used his considerable rhetorical abilities to condemn this legislation before the Governor signed it into law, we want to remind him that if he hopes to count on continued Latino electoral support, he needs to move beyond words and bring his considerable political abilities to the project of passing a just and comprehensive national immigration reform. Our community is under assault and all elected officials who believe in equality and opportunity need to move beyond words to concrete political action in order to fix our broken immigration system.

**What:** Press Conference with Latino workers, families members affected by broken immigration system.

**Who:** Latino Immigrants from Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island

**When:** Saturday, April 24, 2010 at 11am

**Where:** Make the Road New York (Queens)  
92-10 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights NY 11372 (take 7 train to 90th street)

**Photo Opportunity / Interviews Available  
with family, friends and community leaders**

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*Make the Road New York (MRNY) is the largest participatory immigrant organization in New York City with 7,000 members. With vibrant community centers in the immigrant neighborhoods of Bushwick, Brooklyn; Jackson Heights, Queens; and Port Richmond, Staten Island; MRNY gives voice to thousands of immigrants and their families through community organizing, educates tomorrow's leaders and provides services to support families. To find out more please visit our website:*

[www.maketheroadny.org](http://www.maketheroadny.org)



*For Immediate Release*

**Date:** Friday, April 23, 2010

**CONTACT:** Jim Manley, (202) 224-2939

**REID: ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW DEMONSTRATES THE NEED FOR REFORM**

**Washington, D.C.**—*Nevada Senator Harry Reid released the following statement this evening in reaction to the signing of new immigration law today by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer:*

“Today’s signing of new immigration laws by Arizona’s Governor provides another important example of why we need to fix our broken system. While the first step in immigration reform must include border security, we cannot approach this important issue in a piecemeal fashion. Republicans and Democrats need to work together to pass comprehensive reform that is tough on people who break the law, fair to taxpayers, respectful of civil liberties and practical to implement.”

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Senate Democratic Communications Center

**Statement of Eliseo Medina, SEIU on the Signing of Arizona's Radical Anti-Immigration Bill -"SB 1070"**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2010

Krysta Curl, [krysta.curl@seiu.org](mailto:krysta.curl@seiu.org), (202)730-7624 or (202) 286-5163

Governor Jan Brewer signs radical anti-immigrant bill into law despite the thousands of Arizonans who called her to oppose the bill.

Washington D.C. - Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Executive Vice President Eliseo Medina released this statement after Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed the "SB 1070" into law today.

"We are deeply disappointed that Arizona Governor Jan Brewer decided to fall back on the same old election year game of demonizing immigrants to score cheap political points with her base. Worse than the usual anti-immigrant rhetoric, this bill gives racial profiling the force of law and institutionalizes racism. Not only that, it will waste Arizona and its local governments' already stretched resources while doing nothing to fix our broken immigration system.

"At a time when elected leaders should be demonstrating leadership instead of creating division, Governor Brewer and Senator McCain have chosen to support a flawed and dangerous law rather than put forward real solutions to truly fix our broken immigration system.

"This radical anti-immigration law should be a wake-up call to Congress and the White House. Immigration is a national problem that needs a national solution. The lack of action from the Federal government to address the immigration crisis led to this desperate measure by the Arizona legislature. Several representatives who voted for this bill cited this as their reason for their vote - even though they did not think it would do anything to solve Arizona's immigration crisis.

"This could happen in other states if Congress doesn't pass real reform. We need immigration policies that will eliminate the underground economy by getting undocumented immigrants into the system, paying fines, back taxes, learning English, and getting on local, state and federal tax rolls. We need reform that will truly end illegal immigration and hold bad-actor employers responsible for depressing wages and violating the right to a safe worksite for all workers. "In the coming weeks and months, SEIU together with dozens of other reform minded organizations, will be turning up the pressure on Congress and the President to address this crisis once and for all and pass true comprehensive immigration reform. This must stop in Arizona."

###

With 2.2 million members in Canada, the United States and Puerto Rico, SEIU <<http://www.seiu.org/>> is the fastest-growing union in the Americas. Focused on uniting workers in healthcare, public services and property services, SEIU members are winning better wages, healthcare and more secure jobs for our communities, while uniting their strength with their counterparts around the world to help ensure that workers--not just corporations and CEOs--benefit from today's global economy.

**Florida Immigrant Coalition**

8 PM TONIGHT IN MIAMI:

EMERGENCY PROTEST DENOUNCING  
ARIZONA'S RACIST SB 1070

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Contact/Contacto: Maria Rodriguez: (305) 322-6705

WHERE: Marching from the Stephen P. Clark Government Center: 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami 33128 to the National Historic Landmark Freedom Tower at Miami Dade College, at 600 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132

We are outraged that SB 1070 was passed this afternoon in Arizona. This law institutionalizes racial profiling and will terrorize our brothers and sisters of Latin American and Hispanic heritage in that state. We will march peacefully on the sidewalk and denounce this trampling of civil rights.

We call on our elected officials to join us in denouncing this law--and all local enforcement of federal immigration law.

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En Español:

8 P.M. ESTA NOCHE EN MIAMI:

PROTESTA de la EMERGENCIA que DENUNCIA LA LEY RACISTA SB 1070 de ARIZONA

DONDE: Marchamos del Stephen P. Clark Government Center: 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami 33128 hasta la National Historic Landmark Freedom Tower at Miami Dade College, at 600 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132

Nos indigna que la SB 1070 fue aprobada esta tarde en Arizona. Esta ley institucionaliza la discriminación racial y aterroriza a nuestros hermanos y hermanas de América Latina y el patrimonio hispano en ese estado. Vamos a marchar pacíficamente en la acera y denunciar este atropello de los derechos civiles.

Hacemos un llamado a nuestros funcionarios elegidos a unirse a nosotros en la denuncia de esta ley - y todos los locales de aplicación de la ley federal de inmigración.

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# # #

The Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) works to achieve equal rights for immigrants and integration into the civic and cultural life of our communities. We accomplish our mission through coordination of immigrant organizations and community education, organizing and advocacy.



## **Make the Road New York**

### NEWS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 23, 2010

**Contact:**

Ana Maria Archila, 718-565-8500 x 4406 (*English & Spanish*)

## **President Obama: Don't Let Xenophobia Win the Immigration Debate!**

### ***Statement by Make the Road New York on the Signing of SB 1070 into Law by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer***

Today, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed into law bill SB 1070, a xenophobic and irresponsible legislation that essentially legalizes racial profiling of Latinos and undermines the trust between government and people who walk the streets of Arizona.

While we are glad that President Obama used his considerable rhetorical abilities to condemn this legislation before the Governor signed it into law, we want to remind him that if he hopes to count on continued Latino electoral support, he needs to move beyond words and bring his considerable political abilities to the project of passing a just and comprehensive national immigration reform. Our community is under assault and all elected officials who believe in equality and opportunity need to move beyond words to concrete political action to fix our broken immigration system.

Although we are deeply saddened that xenophobia has won the day in Arizona, now more than ever, immigrant communities are determined to demand real and concrete legislative action from Congress and the White House. Inaction on the part of the federal government only enables the continued the exploitation of vulnerable workers, the separation of families, and the promotion of misguided policies at the local and state levels. The time to fix the broken immigration system is now. President Obama, do not allow xenophobia to win the immigration debate!

###

*Make the Road New York (MRNY) is the largest participatory immigrant organization in New York City with 7,000 members. With vibrant community centers in the immigrant neighborhoods of Bushwick, Brooklyn; Jackson Heights, Queens; and Port Richmond, Staten Island; MRNY gives voice to thousands of immigrants and their families through community organizing, educates tomorrow's leaders and provides services to support families. To find out more please visit our website:*

[www.maketheroadny.org](http://www.maketheroadny.org)

MALDEF



***ACTION  
NEEDED!***

Dear Fellow Advocate,

**[SUPPORT MALDEF'S FIGHT AGAINST ARIZONA ANTI-IMMIGRANT LAW TODAY!](#)**

Fifteen years ago, MALDEF went to court and successfully challenged Proposition 187, a voter-approved initiative in California requiring proof of legal status to access virtually all public services. The initiative's enactment tore apart schools and communities across the state as fear and suspicion became pervasive, and the State wasted tens of millions of dollars defending a law ultimately struck down as unconstitutional.

Today, we face a similar law in Arizona. Arizona Governor Jan Brewer just signed SB 1070 into law which would require police officers to act on "reasonable suspicion" to determine a person's immigration status and turn them over to ICE.

**[SUPPORT MALDEF'S FIGHT AGAINST ARIZONA ANTI-IMMIGRANT LAW TODAY!](#)**

MALDEF called on the Governor to do what is right and veto this legislation, which poses a significant threat to the general welfare and fundamental freedoms of the people of Arizona. MALDEF will now do what it has successfully done in the past and defend the civil and human rights of Latinos in our courts.

With your help, we can make sure this doesn't go any further and remind our Congressional leaders and the people of Arizona that this is not the way it is done in America. MALDEF vows to challenge the measure, but we need your help!

**[SUPPORT MALDEF'S FIGHT AGAINST ARIZONA ANTI-IMMIGRANT LAW TODAY!](#)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Saenz".

Thomas A. Saenz  
President and General Counsel  
MALDEF

## NEWS RELEASE



### Arizona governor signs bill legalizing racial profiling in Arizona

April 23, 2010

WASHINGTON - Today, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law SB 1070, which requires police officers arrest anyone who cannot immediately prove their legal status. The new law makes it a state misdemeanor to be undocumented. It has been widely panned by law experts as unconstitutional on the grounds that it usurps federal authority and would legislate racial profiling.

Pramila Jayapal, OneAmerica Executive Director, said in a statement:

"This bill is a terrible thing for the whole country on many levels. First, it not only condones but encourages racial profiling. Second, it diverts law enforcement resources from what they should be spent on - keeping the community safe - to meaningless arrests of hardworking people. Third, if this law in Arizona passes, we know there will be other 'copycat' legislation. There are already some drafts circulating in Ohio. This just spreads racial profiling to other states. Finally, this obscures the real debate we should be having and the real legislation that needs to be passed which is around true comprehensive immigration reform. That is what will fix the broken system systematically and for the long-term and that is where everyone needs to be focusing their attention."

President Obama also [denounced the measure](#) today, saying the federal government must enact immigration reform at the national level - or leave the door open to

#### Interviews Available

[Pramila Jayapal](#), executive director of OneAmerica (ENGLISH)

[David Ayala Zamora](#), organizing director for OneAmerica (SPANISH)

#### For more information or to arrange an interview:

Charlie McAteer  
Media Relations Manager  
(206) 452-8411  
[charlie@weareoneamerica.org](mailto:charlie@weareoneamerica.org)

Interviews available in Spanish and English

"irresponsibility by others."

"That includes, for example, the recent efforts in Arizona," Obama said, "which threaten to undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe."

What will happen next for the law? The law will not be enacted for 90 days after the end of the legislative session, during which time lawsuits may be issued to challenge the law. Statements will be released around the country from organizations and elected leaders condemning the law. Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois will speak about the law in Arizona on Sunday and solidarity actions around the state are planned Monday and Tuesday.

[Fast Facts on Arizona's New Law](#)

### **About Arizona SB 1070**

The [harsh and inhumane law](#) passed by the Arizona legislature last week would require local law enforcement officers who have a "reasonable suspicion" that someone is in the state without documents to determine that person's immigration status. Arizona police would be able to subject any person to an immigration status check, even without any suspicion of violation of laws and would also allow citizens to sue a city, town or county if they believe a law enforcement agency is failing to enforce the law. The bill was just signed today by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer'. According to the [Los Angeles Times](#), even Arizona's local law enforcement and city administrators worry that the law will lead to racial profiling and drain [scarce resources](#). U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), in a complete turn-around from his stance as an immigration reform advocate, called the law "an important step forward."

Jayapal describes the law as an affront to human and civil rights. She stated, "The Arizona law flies in the face of everything we hold dear to American values, and would not only condone, but promote racial profiling. We denounce the cowardice of Arizona legislators and Arizona Senator John McCain- once a man who stood up to extremist elements in his own party - who have given in to race-baiting and some mythical notion that this will be good for their political careers. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Arizona who are holding vigils and fighting back. Meanwhile, our call to President Obama

and Congress remains the same: introduce a bi-partisan comprehensive immigration reform bill by May 1. Stop hiding and lead with courage."

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### **About OneAmerica**

OneAmerica, formerly Hate Free Zone, is a non-profit organization that advances the fundamental principles of democracy and justice by building power within immigrant communities. Visit [www.weareoneamerica.org](http://www.weareoneamerica.org).



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For more information call Charlie McAteer, Media Relations Manager cell (917) 696-1321 or [charlie@weareoneamerica.org](mailto:charlie@weareoneamerica.org)



## PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

April 23rd, 2010

[Stephen Fotopulos](mailto:stephen@tnimmigrant.org), 615-364-3382 (cell), [stephen@tnimmigrant.org](mailto:stephen@tnimmigrant.org)

# TIRRC Condemns Arizona Racial Profiling Law

*and urges passage of comprehensive immigration reform to prevent other states from following suit and federal intervention to keep law from being enacted*

WASHINGTON - Today, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law SB 1070, which requires police officers arrest anyone who cannot immediately prove their legal status. The new law makes it a state misdemeanor to be undocumented. It has been widely panned by legal experts as unconstitutional on the grounds that it usurps federal authority and would mandate racial profiling. Stephen Fotopulos, executive director of the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, issued the following statement:

"What happened today in Arizona is an embarrassment to a nation that respects equality under the law and the rights of all people. No one in America should fear harassment and arrest by police simply because of the way they look, and nations around the globe are watching us in disbelief. The law mandates that police verify the immigration status of anyone they have 'reasonable suspicion' is undocumented and arrest people who aren't carrying their immigration paperwork. But how is a police officer on the streets of Phoenix, untrained in immigration law, supposed to distinguish between an undocumented immigrant and a US citizen? Supporters of the new law have indicated that police officers will be able to tell [simply by the clothes that the individual wears](#).

"Arizona's dangerous turn toward a police state clearly ratchets up the urgency for comprehensive immigration reform. We wholeheartedly agree with President Obama's statement at a citizenship ceremony today when he said, 'If we continue to fail to act at a federal level, we will continue to see misguided efforts opening up around the country.' But talk is not enough. President Obama must take immediate and aggressive action to stop other states from following Arizona's misguided path, and demonstrate stronger leadership in moving comprehensive immigration reform legislation now."

# # #

*TIRRC is a statewide, immigrant and refugee-led collaboration whose mission is to empower immigrants and refugees throughout Tennessee to develop a unified voice, defend their rights, and create an atmosphere in which they are recognized as positive contributors to the state. Since its founding in 2001, TIRRC has worked to develop immigrant leadership, build the capacity of its immigrant-led member organizations, help immigrant community members understand and engage in the civic process, and educate the public about policies that would better promote integration of new immigrants and facilitate their full participation in US society. In just a few years TIRRC has grown from a grassroots network of community leaders into one of the most diverse and effective coalitions of its kind, a model for emerging immigrant rights organizations in the Southeast and throughout the United States.*

## Center for American Progress Action Fund

April 23, 2010 | [View online](#)

CAPAF's Angela M. Kelley Condemns Passage of Arizona Immigration Bill



Read "[Fast Facts on Arizona's Immigration Crack Down](#)" (CAP)

Statement by Angela M. Kelley, Vice President of Immigration Policy and Advocacy, on Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer's signing of "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act" (SB 1070) into law.

"With the stroke of a pen, Arizona's governor has taken the state to a new low. Against the admonitions of the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police, the Arizona state house and the governor have enacted sweeping radical legislation that puts communities of color in the crosshairs, turns the Constitution on its head, and will likely deepen Arizona's financial crisis. The law legalizes the detention and arrest of people who might appear to be undocumented immigrants, simply based on how they look. As President Barack Obama noted today, the legislative efforts in Arizona threaten to "undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe."

Our nation's history is marked by poor policy decisions that were made under political pressure, but which were eventually corrected. Arizona's action now makes it clearer that Congress needs to enact federal comprehensive immigration reform that is fair, responsible, and holds people accountable. It is the federal government's responsibility to carry out immigration law enforcement—the job does not belong to the states—and Congress is obligated to lead.

The time to repair the immigration system is now, before mavericks in other states try to take the law into their own hands."

Our partner organization, the Center for American Progress released "[Fast Facts on Arizona's Immigration Crack Down](#)" detailing the dangerous social, legal, and economic consequences that Arizona's new immigration law will have on every community in the state.



**Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)**



For Immediate Release: Friday, April 23, 2010

Contact Mary Moreno, [mmoreno@communitychange.org](mailto:mmoreno@communitychange.org), 202-339-9316

## **Arizona Governor Signs Law, Codifies Racial Profiling**

*FIRM urges passage of comprehensive immigration reform to prevent other states from following suit and urges federal intervention to keep law from being enacted*

WASHINGTON - Today, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law SB 1070, which requires police officers arrest anyone who cannot immediately prove their legal status. The new law makes it a state misdemeanor to be undocumented. It has been widely panned by law experts as unconstitutional on the grounds that it usurps federal authority and would legislate racial profiling. Gabe Gonzalez, political strategist of the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, issued the following statement:

"What happened today in Arizona is a national travesty and a global embarrassment. No one in America should fear harassment and arrest by police simply because of the way they look. The law mandates police verify the immigration status of anyone they have reasonable suspicion is undocumented and arrest anyone who can't immediately prove their status. Amongst the obvious problems with this approach: How is a police officer on the streets of Phoenix supposed to distinguish an undocumented Latino from a citizen?

"This is why immigrants and Latinos of every political stripe, and anyone with common decency and sense are opposed to this law. There are no outwardly distinguishable differences between an undocumented immigrant and a citizen. Let's be clear: at its core this is about racism.

"Arizona's dangerous turn toward a police state clearly ratchets up the urgency for comprehensive immigration reform. We wholeheartedly agree with President Obama's statement at a citizenship ceremony today when he said, 'If we continue to fail to act at a federal level, we will continue to see misguided efforts opening up around the country.'

"President Obama must stop other states from following Arizona's misguided path by taking a stronger leadership role in moving comprehensive immigration reform legislation and rectifying this federal failure."

###

*FIRM (Fair Immigration Reform Movement) is a coalition of grassroots community organizations nationwide, working on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform and immigrant rights and is convened by the Center for Community Change.*

[www.communitychange.org](http://www.communitychange.org)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

April 23, 2010

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT A NATURALIZATION  
CEREMONY FOR ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS**

Rose Garden

10:15 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, everybody. Thank you, Secretary Napolitano, for being here to administer the oath --for making it official. Thank you, also, for leading our efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform so that America keeps faith with our heritage as both a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws.

To Director Mayorkas and all the dedicated folks at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, thank you for your help to these men and women, and so many of our troops, to realize their dreams of citizenship.

We are joined by Congresswoman Susan Davis, Deputy Secretary of Defense Bill Lynn and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Jim "Hoss" Cartwright.

Most of all, to America's newest citizens -- it is a great honor to serve as your Commander-in-Chief, and it is my greatest pleasure to be among the first to greet you as a "fellow American." To you and your families, welcome to the White House.

Today is your day -- a celebration of 24 inspiring men and women and the remarkable journeys that have brought you together on this beautiful spring morning to our nation's capitol. The paths that led you here began in more than a dozen countries, from Peru to Poland, from Kenya to the Philippines.

Some of you came to America as children, holding tight to your parents' hands as you arrived in a new world. Some of you came as adults, leaving everything you knew behind in pursuit of a new life. And while your stories are your own, today we celebrate the common spirit that lives within each of you -- a spirit that has renewed and strengthened America for more than two centuries.

We celebrate the love of family -- your moms and dads who were willing to say good-bye to their own families, their own countries, so they could have an opportunity to give you the opportunity you [sic] never had. Like generations of immigrants before them, they worked hard. They scrimped and they saved. They deferred their own dreams so that you could realize yours. So today is a tribute to their sacrifices as well. And I would ask that you join me in honoring your moms and dads and the families that helped bring you to this day. (Applause.)

We celebrate the spirit of possibility -- an ethic that says if you're willing to put your shoulder to the wheel and apply your God-given talents, if you believe in yourself and you play by the rules, then there is a place for you in the United States of America -- no matter where you come from and no matter what you look like.

It's the spirit that brought a young woman from the People's Republic of China and inspired her to enlist in the United States Air Force, where she excels as a material management specialist. So today we congratulate our fellow citizen, Yu Yuan. (Applause.)

It's the spirit that brought a refugee from Ethiopia and led him to enlist in the U.S. Army because, he said, he wanted to give back to the country that "has given me the opportunity to be all that I can be." And today we congratulate Berhan Teferi. (Applause.)

We celebrate the true meaning of patriotism -- the love of a country that's so strong that these men and women were willing to risk their lives to defend our country even before they could call it their own.

It's a patriotism of a daughter of Mexico, who came to America in those first terrible days after 9/11, joined the U.S. Navy and says, "I take pride in our flag and the history that forged this great nation and the history we

write day by day." So today we congratulate Perla Ramos.  
(Applause.)

And it's the patriotism of a young man from Papua New Guinea, who joined the United States Marine Corps and deployed to Iraq -- not once, not twice, but three times. Asked why he would choose to become an American citizen, he said simply, "I might as well. I love this country already." And so we congratulate Granger Michael.  
(Applause.)

The four of you can sit down. You represent not only the branch of the Armed Services that you are a part of, but also the other members who are your fellow citizens here today, and we thank you very much. We're grateful to you. (Applause.)

In short, today we celebrate the very essence of the country that we all love -- an America where so many of our forbearers came from someplace else; a society that's been enriched by traditions and cultures from every corner of the world; a dynamic economy that's constantly renewed by the talents and energies of each new citizen; and a people who understand that citizenship is not just a collection of rights, but it's also a set of responsibilities.

Like so many others, these men and women met their responsibilities. They played by the rules. They have earned their citizenship. And so on a day like this, we are also reminded of how we must remain both a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. This includes fixing America's broken immigration system.

Over the years, many have attempted to confront this challenge, but passions are great and disagreements run deep. Yet surely we can all agree that when 11 million people in our country are living here illegally, outside the system, that's unacceptable. The American people demand and deserve a solution. And they deserve common-sense, comprehensive immigration reform grounded in the principles of responsibility and accountability.

Government has a responsibility to enforce the law and secure our borders and set clear rules and priorities for future immigration. And under Secretary Napolitano's leadership at the Department of Homeland Security, that's exactly what we're doing. We've strengthened security at

our borders, ports and airports and we will continue to do so, because America's borders must be secure. That's part of what these young people here today stand for.

Businesses have a responsibility to obey the law and not undermine American workers, especially when so many Americans are out of work. Many businesses work to comply with the law every day. But for those that don't -- those that ignore the law and exploit and abuse vulnerable workers and try to gain an unfair advantage over all the businesses that do follow the law -- we will hold them accountable.

And people who are in America illegally have a responsibility -- to pay their back taxes and admit responsibility for breaking the law, pay a penalty, learn English, pass criminal background checks, and get right with the law -- or face removal -- before they can get in line and eventually earn their citizenship.

So responsibility. Accountability. Common-sense, comprehensive immigration reform. I thank Secretary Napolitano for helping to lead our efforts, both on and off Capitol Hill. And I thank Senators Schumer and Graham for working with us to forge a bipartisan consensus on a framework for moving forward, and I welcome the commitment of House and Senate Democratic leaders to take action.

I'll continue to consult with Democrats and Republicans in Congress, and I would note that 11 current Republican Senators voted to pass immigration reform four years ago. I'm hopeful that they will join with Democrats in doing so again so we can make the progress the American people deserve.

Indeed, our failure to act responsibly at the federal level will only open the door to irresponsibility by others. And that includes, for example, the recent efforts in Arizona, which threatened to undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe.

In fact, I've instructed members of my administration to closely monitor the situation and examine the civil rights and other implications of this legislation. But if we continue to fail to act at a federal level, we will

continue to see misguided efforts opening up around the country.

As a nation, as a people, we can choose a different future -- a future that keeps faith with our history, with our heritage, and with the hope that America has always inspired in the hearts of people all over the world. For just as each of these 24 new citizens once cast their eyes upon our country from afar, so too, somewhere in the world today is a young boy or a young girl wondering if they, too, might someday share in America's promise.

In the example of these new citizens, and in the actions we take as a nation, let us offer our answer, with confidence and optimism. Yes, there is a place called America that still welcomes those "yearning to breathe free." A country where if you work hard and meet your responsibilities, you can pursue your dreams. A society where out of many, we are one -- "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

That's the promise of America. That is the spirit that all of you are renewing here today. We are incredibly proud of you, God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

Now, we have one other piece of business. Would Sergeant Ledum Ndaanee please come forward. There he is. How are you, sir?

SERGEANT NDAANEE: Hello, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Growing up in Nigeria, Ledum probably never imagined he'd be standing on this stage today.

SERGEANT NDAANEE: That's right, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Neither did I. (Laughter.) But thanks to the generosity of churches in Virginia, he and his parents found a home in the United States. And Ledum, who says "I always wanted to be in the military," found his calling in the United States Marine Corps.

He deployed to Iraq, and was serving his second tour when his unit was struck by an improvised explosive device. In the weeks and months that followed, he battled to recover from traumatic brain injury. At a VA medical

center, with his parents at his side, he was presented a Purple Heart. And a few moments later, he was sworn in as an American citizen.

This Marine was not only determined to recover, he was determined to help others. He has been a leader and mentor to his fellow wounded warriors. In fact, I hear he's quite an athlete --

SERGEANT NDAANEE: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: -- he agrees. (Laughter.) He will compete next month in the first Warrior Games at the U.S. Olympic training center in Colorado.

So for his distinguished service to country, and for inspiring us all with his example of what citizenship truly means, I am proud to join the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in presenting this recognition -- the "Outstanding American by Choice" award -- to Sergeant Ledum Ndaanee. Do we have the award? (Applause.)

(The award is presented.)

With that, I'd ask Sergeant Ndaanee to conclude our ceremony by leading us all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

Thank you, everybody. (Applause.)



**\*\* Media availability until 6:00pm today with Latino leaders and immigrant rights activists reacting to the signing of anti-immigrant Arizona law ICIRR office 55 E. Jackson Blvd. Suite 2075, Chicago\*\***

## **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights**

For Immediate Release- Statement  
April 23, 2010

**For more information, contact:**

Catherine Salgado, 312.332.7360 x 235 or 630.362.6202

**Available for interviews:**

Joshua Hoyt, 773.443.0539 (mobile)

Raul Raymundo, 312.217.2643 (mobile)

# **ICIRR Condemns Reign of Racial Terror in Arizona**

*Vigil at Broadview detention center and May Day Marches in Chicago, suburbs and across the country to show urgent need for solutions*

*Today, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed SB 1070, one of the harshest anti-immigrant bills in history, into law. This law would create a racial reign of terror in which police racial profiling is mandated. The following is a statement by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR):*

We strongly repudiate the signing of SB 1070 by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer. This anti-immigrant law is the worst example of the racial reign of terror surging across the U.S., destroying hundreds of thousands of families and allowing local “cow-boy cops” to hunt whoever they think looks like an immigrant. This is the direct consequence of the failure by the Obama Administration to keep its promise to work for immigration reform during their first year in office. Just last week six new [“Secure Communities”](#) agreements were announced by ICE and six Illinois counties.

ICIRR calls on the Obama administration to step in and halt this preemption by Arizona of the federal authority to enforce our nation’s immigration laws, and asks Illinois’s elected officials at the federal, state, and local level to do the same. In addition, ICIRR calls on the Obama administration and the Senate to introduce comprehensive immigration reform legislation by April 30. ICIRR salutes the courageous organizing work in Arizona of the National Day Labor Organizing Network, students, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Reform Immigration For Arizona, and others to resist Arizona’s SB 1070.

A number of Illinois events are planned next week in solidarity with the immigrants of Arizona, as a response to the surging numbers of deportations in Arizona, and in support of common-sense federal legislation to fix our broken immigration system.

Events include:

- Interfaith vigil at Broadview Detention Center to call for President Obama to issue an executive order ending raids and deportations of undocumented immigrants on Monday April 26th 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Opening vigil Tuesday April 27th, 5:30 – 8:00 am, Morning watch at Broadview Detention Center (1930 Beach St, Broadview, IL. 60155)
- Large mobilizations for May Day in Chicago, suburbs and across the country (For more information, contact Sal Cervantes, 312.593.6411)

*The **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights** is a statewide coalition of 130 organizations dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees to full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society. For more information, visit [www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org)*

**-END-**

## **Border Action Network**

Outpour of Opposition Does Not Deter Nation's Worst Attack on Civil Rights from Being Signed by Arizona Governor

Phoenix, AZ - Community leaders across Arizona condemn Governor Jan Brewer's signing of SB1070, the farthest-reaching anti-immigrant bill ever passed by a state. The law became a lightning rod nationally due to its mandate to law enforcement to use racial profiling and to give the state a backdoor entry to enforcing federal immigration law.

"Even though we're not surprised by the Governor's action, we are still outraged," said Carlos Garcia, of PUENTE, a Phoenix-based community group. "Governor Brewer has prioritized gathering votes for her election over her responsibilities as governor to uphold the basic civil rights, our constitution, and the well-being of our state."

Somos America, Border Action Network, PUENTE and other community, faith, business and law enforcement groups as well as elected officials across the state have ardently opposed this bill. On-the-ground organizing in Arizona resulted unprecedented outpour of opposition including more than 80,000 petition and postcard signatures and thousands of phone calls and emails flooding the Governor's office every single day.

The law's sponsor, Senator Russell Pearce claims that ten other states are interested in similar legislation. However, the law continues to ignite national outcry. This morning, President Obama spoke against the bill, calling it a "misguided effort." This Sunday, Illinois Congressman Luis Gutierrez will be in Arizona to condemn the law at a rally and local church. Congressman Grijalva is hosting a rally in his district on Saturday and protests have sprouted up in New York, Colorado, Washington, New Jersey and other states across the country.

"Governor Brewer's signature on SB1070 will stain her political career and the people won't forget it," says Jennifer Allen, Director of Border Action Network, a statewide community organization. "This is an unjust and unconstitutional law that people won't stand for. The bill may have been signed into law today, but the struggle will only gain momentum after today."

The law will come into effect early August or 90 days after the adjournment of the state legislature. Somos America, PUENTE, Border Action Network and other groups around the state are launching an intensive community education campaign to respond to the fear and resentment that is emerging. Legal challenges are calling for an immediate injunction against implementation of the law.

"The signing of this immoral, illegal and unjust bill puts Arizona on the wrong side of history," said Lydia Guzman, President of Somos America. "But the groundswell of opposition to SB1070 demonstrates that we can and will change the course of history. From the voting polls, to the airwaves, to the courtroom, we will not rest until this law is defeated."

With President Obama's condemnation of the law today, groups are also putting pressure on the Administration to block implementation of the law. "This law depends on Immigration and Customs Enforcement's cooperation. We need to see today's comments turned into commitment that Washington will not play Arizona's game," says Garcia.

Throughout the weekend, events and rallies are expected to turnout out thousands of people across the state.

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Established in 1999, the Border Action Network is a human rights organization that works with immigrant and border communities in Arizona to ensure our rights are protected and dignity upheld. For more information, visit [www.borderaction.org](http://www.borderaction.org) <<http://www.borderaction.org/>>

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[www.facebook.com/borderaction](http://www.facebook.com/borderaction)

UFW: Polarizing anti-immigrant bill targets Latinos and farm workers

**United Farm Workers** President Arturo S. Rodriguez issued the following statement from the union's Keene, Calif. headquarters upon learning of the Arizona Governor Jan Brewer's decision to sign Senate Bill 1070 targeting immigrants in Arizona.

Enacting legislation to put local police officers on the front lines of America's failed immigration policies is both unfair and unfortunate. How can untrained police officers apply a fair standard by arresting people on the basis of a suspicion they are in the United States illegally, usually on the basis of the color of their skin or the language they speak?

Will an undocumented immigrant from Ireland be accosted? Probably not. Will Latino fathers bringing their sons to Little League baseball camp be targeted? Perhaps. Will the thousands of farm workers who harvest our food be automatic suspects? Certainly.

Would Cesar Chavez's be a suspect in the state of his birth and where his grandfather homesteaded a small family farm in the North Gila River Valley near Yuma? You bet. This bill not only singles out Latinos, but it specifically discriminates against those with dark complexion and humble attire.

The United Farm Workers and the agricultural industry negotiated the most bipartisan broadly supported immigration reform measure in the United States Congress: the AgJobs bill letting undocumented farm workers earn the right to permanently stay in this country by continuing to work in agriculture. It may become a model for a comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Bringing people together is never easy. Bridging emotional and racial divisions is even more difficult. Polarizing people makes it impossible.

Arizona produces much of the nation's winter vegetables. We invite the governor and Legislature to work with us and the growers in Arizona and across the country to make AgJobs a model for immigration reform, one that respects the laws of our country and the labor of those who feed us.

Today somewhere between one-half and three-quarters of the U.S. farm labor workforce is undocumented. Agricultural employment is often the entry point for new migrants to this country. We need to end the fear and help improve the lives of the immigrant farm workers whose sweat and sacrifice bring the rich bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables to our tables. They do the hardest, most difficult jobs other American workers won't do. They pay taxes but enjoy few, if any, benefits while performing some of the most important work in our nation-feeding America and much of the world.

The Arizona anti-immigrant bill is not the answer. The answer comes from AgJobs and comprehensive immigration reform.

- end -

Jocelyn Sherman

United Farm Workers  
Internet Communications Director  
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For Immediate Release: Friday, April 23, 2010  
Contact: Chandra Russo, chandra@coloradoimmigrant.org, (720) 273-2022

CIRC Condemns Arizona Governor Signing Racial Profiling Law Demands passage of comprehensive immigration reform and federal intervention to keep AZ law from being enacted

COLORADO - Today, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law SB 1070, which requires police officers arrest anyone who cannot immediately prove their legal status. The new law makes it a state misdemeanor to be undocumented. It has been widely panned by law experts as unconstitutional on the grounds that it usurps federal authority and would legislate racial profiling. Julien Ross, Executive Director of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, issued the following statement:

"What happened today in Arizona is a national tragedy and embarrassment. This law turns Arizona into a police state and brings a reign of terror on immigrant and Latino communities. That is why anyone with common decency and sense are opposed to this law. It is draconian in scope and most likely unconstitutional.

"This law requires police verify the immigration status of anyone they have reasonable suspicion is undocumented and arrest anyone who can't immediately prove their status. Yet there are no outwardly distinguishable differences between an undocumented immigrant and a citizen, requiring police use racial profiling to draw their conclusions. No one in America should fear harassment and arrest by police simply because of the way they look.

"The direction that Arizona took today demonstrates as never before the urgency for comprehensive immigration reform and the direction our nation is headed if we do not pass something soon. In a citizen ceremony this afternoon, President Obama made the statement that, 'If we continue to fail to act at a federal level, we will continue to see misguided efforts opening up around the country.' CIRC could not agree more.

"President Obama must take immediate and aggressive action to stop other states from following Arizona's misguided path. We need him to demonstrate stronger leadership in moving comprehensive immigration reform legislation now and in rectifying this federal failure."

###

**The Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)** is a statewide membership based coalition founded in 2002 to build a unified statewide voice to improve the lives of immigrants and refugees in Colorado and the United States.



**\* Media Release \***

For Immediate Release:

April 23, 2010

2:00 p.m. ET

**\* Media Contact \***

[Douglas Rivlin](#) 202-225-8203

**The Office of U.S. Representative Louis V.  
Gutierrez**

## **Congressman Plans Weekend Trip to Arizona to Stand with Latinos and Immigrants in Opposition to State Measure**

### **Congressman Also Reacts to President Obama's Remarks on Arizona Anti-Immigrant Measure and Immigration Reform**

**(Chicago)**— *U.S. Representative Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) announced that he would travel to Phoenix, Arizona to join immigrant and Latino leaders at a rally at the State Capitol on Sunday. He also reacted today to remarks delivered by the President of the United States at a Rose Garden naturalization ceremony where 24 immigrant servicemen and women were sworn in as U.S. citizens. The President addressed the Arizona state legislative measure (SB 1070) that Gov. Jan Brewer will either veto, sign, or allow to become law by Saturday afternoon and the President addressed comprehensive immigration reform. The following is a statement from Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez.*

We held a [press conference](#) this week at the U.S. Capitol, with my colleague from Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, calling the nation's attention to the serious civil rights catastrophe that Republicans in that Arizona are unleashing on immigrants and all Latinos in the state. Now the national spotlight is focused squarely on Arizona and people from all over the country are making their way to Phoenix to stand up with and stand up for immigrants and Latinos in the state.

I am going there to let the people of Arizona know that they are not alone in fighting against bigotry and hatred and thousands will join me this weekend at the State Capitol. I have not seen the Latino community nationwide react in such a forceful way to an attack on immigrants since 2006, just after House Republicans passed a measure to criminalize and deport all undocumented immigrants and their families. It is remarkable how citizens and non-citizens, faith leaders, labor unions, and community-based groups from across the country have responded to the call to help defend the people of Arizona from the short-



sighted political stunts of their own legislature playing election year politics with people's lives and families.

The President is clearly concerned about the situation in Arizona, the legality of the measure before the Governor, and I welcome the President's call for the federal government to monitor the law enforcement and civil rights conduct in Arizona very, very closely.

If there is any silver lining to all this, the legislative overreach by Arizona Republicans to inject harsh anti-immigrant politics into the brewing Election Year stew is focusing the President's attention on the need for the federal government to take charge and the urgent need for him to use his office to make something happen on immigration reform in Congress this year.

I am encouraged by what we have seen and heard from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Harry Reid, Dick Durbin, the Senior Senator from my home state, and others and I think we will have a serious debate on immigration reform in the Senate in the coming weeks. I know that if the Senate acts decisively and passes a bill, we can also pass a good bill in the House. As Senator Durbin says about the issues competing for time on the agenda, we can find the time to do important things and this is important.

I am also heartened to see courageous supporters of sensible immigration policy in the Republican Party coming forward, like Sen. Dick Lugar of Indiana who stood up with Senator Durbin in calling for a halt to deportations for immigrant students. We need more leaders in the Republican Party to come forward and work with us to enact reform. I will be reaching out to House Republicans to begin laying the groundwork for the debate when it comes to our side of the Hill, as I expect it will later this year.

This is the area that the President can be most helpful in: making the case to the nation and to lawmakers on the other side of the aisle that we need action now to address immigration, to cut-off illegal immigration, and promote border security and we need the President to roll up his sleeves and do it.

The President is right -- I fully agree that inaction at the federal level has created a vacuum and wrong-headed ideas and political opportunists have rushed in to fill it. Arizona Republicans have kicked a hornet's nest on immigration and it will come back to sting them.

I call on all justice loving Americans to join us in Phoenix. Join us in denouncing this law, join us in calling for its veto, and join us in standing up against hatred when people paint all immigrants and all Latinos as criminals. In so doing, we will be living by a fundamental truth articulated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We need to take a stand.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE // EXCUSE CROSS POSTINGS

# National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

## Pablo Alvarado Statement on Unfolding Events in AZ (Espanol)

Contact Yadira Hernandez, 213 380 2771, Marco Loera 602 373 3859

Lo siguiente es un pronunciamiento de Pablo Alvarado con respecto a la inminente firma de ley SB1070:  
The following is a statement by Pablo Alvarado on today's expected signing of Arizona SB 1070 into law:

"Todo parece indicar que la firma de la SB1070 es inminente. Pero en medio de la consternación, los milagros también ocurren. En todo caso, para que el golpe no sea tan fuerte, los pueblos humildes usualmente se preparan para lo peor.

Nuestro pueblo inmigrante en Arizona se debate entre el temor y el enojo por la SB1070. Pero entre el miedo y la imprudencia está el coraje. Coraje para no caer en la provocación. Coraje para no caer en la violencia. Coraje para resistir pacíficamente. Coraje para amar incluso a nuestros adversarios.

Si estos sentimientos y valores no están en nuestros corazones antes de salir a manifestarnos para repudiar la SB1070 y lo que ésta representa, fácilmente caeremos en la hostilidad.

Hay que salir a la calle, a manifestarse, a vociferar nuestras consignas junto a nuestros vecinos y familiares. Sonemos nuestros tambores, cantemos, bailemos y usemos el arte para pronunciarlos. Pero en paz.

Salgamos a la calle con la frente en alto que no le robamos nada a nadie. Algunos de nuestros pseudo amigos nos dirán que no gritemos nuestras consignas en español porque vamos hacer enojar a las personas de en medio; es decir a las que no han decidido si aprecian o no a su niñera, al jardinero o al que les sirve la comida en los restaurantes. No hagamos caso. Gritemos más fuerte. Seamos lo que somos: morenitos con dignidad, con orgullo, con identidad. No permitamos que se nos trate de retratar como los "pobrecitos" a los que hay que proteger porque tienen miedo. Somos un pueblo en resistencia, noble, pacífico y valiente.

La crisis de derechos civiles en nuestra Arizona va más allá del tema de migración. Tampoco se puede reducir nuestra lucha a una estrategia legislativa en Washington DC. Se trata del futuro de nuestro país. O somos un país de exclusión o de inclusión. O somos un país donde todos y todas tenemos el derecho a la vida, a la libertad y a la búsqueda de la felicidad; o somos un país donde se juzga y se limitan las oportunidades de las personas por el color de la piel.

Es hora de que estudiemos y honremos el legado de aquellos que pelearon por los derechos civiles que hoy defendemos y sobre los cuales debemos cimentar nuestra lucha. Todos los pueblos humildes del mundo han tenido que luchar, generación tras generación, para que su dignidad y sus derechos sean reconocidos. Hoy nos toca a nosotros.

El mismo legado que le permitió a Barak Obama ser el primer Presidente Afroamericano debe ser expandido para que los inmigrantes puedan tener las mismas oportunidades y que sus hijos puedan, un día, ser Presidentes también.

Si la Gobernadora firma esta ley nefasta, la siguiente fase de nuestra lucha será buscar la expansión de nuestros derechos desde el Gobierno Federal. Esperamos que Barak Obama haga lo correcto en los días venideros.

¡Sí se puede!"

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## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
1207  
April 23, 2010  
x220

Contact: Connie Andersen 602-471-

Steve Husted 602-266-6956

### **Arizona will Pay a Heavy Price for Draconian Immigration Law** *Arizona Bishops and the Arizona Interfaith Network (AIN) denounce Governor's approval of SB1070*

Governor Jan Brewer's decision to sign Arizona SB1070 will damage our economy and the social fabric of the state. By codifying racial discrimination, this law makes Arizona the laughing stock of the nation and a pariah on the international stage. The judicatory heads of major Arizona religious denominations and the Arizona Interfaith Network are deeply distressed that by her approval of SB1070, Governor Brewer sacrificed political courage for political expediency.

"This bill does nothing to address any border security concerns," said Bishop Minerva Carcaño of the United Methodist Church, Desert Southwest Conference, "At our borders and in our congregations, schools, workplaces and service programs, we witness the human consequences of an inadequate, outdated system. The passage of SB1070 demonstrates why America needs Comprehensive Immigration Reform: frustration with our broken immigration system is driving Arizona to make inappropriate and self-defeating efforts in this area. We want our broken immigration system to be healed through a just transformation of the law at the appropriate federal level of jurisdiction, which makes it possible to meet the labor needs of American business while making our border secure."

Arizona is ground zero for our nation's broken immigration policies, but SB1070 does nothing to address the root causes of the immigration problem. "This law offends the dignity of all Arizonans," said Bishop Kirk Smith, of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. "The tendency to scapegoat a vulnerable population for Arizona's economic stagnation and federal inaction on immigration issues is an unworthy and counterproductive response to the problems we face. This law will make our communities and neighborhoods less safe, it will undermine our efforts to recover from this recession, further strain our broken state budget, and fill our courts with more lawsuits and less justice."

Although the tendency to seek scapegoats during a recession is all too common, Arizona will pay a heavy price for codifying nativism. SB1070 will exacerbate Arizona's economic train wreck, since Latino's -- citizens or not -- will seek a more hospitable place to live, work, pay taxes, and spend their hard-earned money. Since Latinos will fear to report crime, neighborhoods will become less safe. Police resources will be stretched to the breaking point, interfering with their ability to pursue dangerous criminals.

According to Fr. Glenn Jenks of the Arizona Interfaith Network, these are only a few of the reasons this bill is bad law for neighborhoods and for our state economy: "At its root, SB1070 violates the basic moral code that is common to Judaism, Christianity and Islam: we must welcome the stranger as we would welcome God himself. It is time to raise a moral and

prophetic voice against this terrible law, which causes even more distress to families and society in general, pushing the immigrant population further into the shadows.”

The Arizona Interfaith Network is a non-partisan, broad-based organization composed of congregations, schools and non-profits throughout Arizona, working to strengthen family and community across lines of race, class and religion. AIN has consistently expressed concern that enforcement-only strategies to the complex problem of immigration will harm the economy, undermine public safety and damage the social fabric of our multi-cultural community.



For Immediate Release:  
April 23, 2010

Contact: Marjorie Valbrun  
(202) 463-8602 ext.305

## **Arizona Governor Chooses Politics Over Fairness and Common Sense**

### *Signs Anti-Immigrant Bill that Fails to Address State's Immigration Challenges*

Washington, DC - **America's Voice** is disappointed and outraged by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer's decision to sign into law a highly punitive bill that puts a target on the backs of all Latinos in Arizona and does nothing to solve the state's, and the nation's, pressing immigration problem. It will breed chaos on the ground, destroy community policing, cost Arizona taxpayers millions, and fail to restore control and order to the broken immigration system. Today is a sad day for Arizona and the nation. The Governor's action only points to the urgent need for the federal government to step up and enact comprehensive immigration reform.

"This legislation is not just about immigrants," said Frank Sharry, Executive Director of America's Voice. "It's now open season on all Latinos and it's an absolute travesty that Arizona lawmakers would go to this extreme in the year 2010. It might as well be Mississippi in the 1960's."

This week Democratic leaders in both the House and Senate reiterated their commitment to immigration reform and promised to move reform legislation in Congress this year. Pres. Obama also restated his support for reform legislation and urged Congressional Republicans to join Democrats in crafting a bi-partisan measure. In his comments today at a naturalization ceremony for immigrant active-duty service members the president made clear that doing nothing is not a solution to the nation's pressing immigration challenges and, in fact, only aggravates the problem.

"Indeed, our failure to act responsibly at the federal level will only open the door to irresponsibility by others," he said. "And that includes, for example, the recent efforts in Arizona, which threatened to undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe."

Sharry noted the incongruity of the president attending a ceremony for immigrants who are serving this country— immigrants who were already Americans in their hearts but are now Americans on paper but would still be targeted under the Arizona law.

“This is a perfect illustration of how egregious this law is,” he said. “It will treat Latino military veterans who have served and protected this country honorably in times of war like common criminals. It will allow legal immigrants and U.S. citizens of Latino descent who work hard, play by the rules, and contribute to our society, to be viewed with suspicion and as possible threats to peace and security. It will stigmatize Latino children and make them possible targets of bullying in school. The legislation is a symbol of the worst, most narrowly-minded and bigoted instincts of the past and has no place in government today. Gov. Brewer should be ashamed of her decision.”

*America's Voice -- Harnessing the power of American voices and American values to win common sense immigration reform.*

<http://www.americasvoiceonline.org>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Joint Statement by Major Religious Groups**

April 23, 2010

CONTACT: Kristin Williams, Faith in Public Life, 202.459.8625 or Allison Johnson, Sojourners, 612.804.4766

## **Major Religious Groups Condemn Inhumane Anti-Immigrant Law in Arizona**

*As AZ Bill is Signed into Law, Faith Community Urgently Calls for  
Comprehensive Reform*

As Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signs into law today the most extreme anti-immigrant legislation in the country (SB-1070), the national and Arizona faith community are condemning it as an affront to moral conscience that will divide families and communities. The inhumane legislation demonstrates the urgent need for national political leadership to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Arizona Senate Bill 1070 tasks law enforcement with checking papers for anyone they suspect as undocumented and penalizes those who provide aid to illegal immigrants.

Below are statements on Arizona's anti-immigrant bill from a dozen evangelical, mainline Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish leaders representing millions of Americans:

### **Rev. Jan Flaaten, Executive Director, Arizona Ecumenical Council**

"All the religious leaders of Arizona know and understand that this law will not solve the issue of crime along the border or in our state, but it will demonize anyone who looks suspiciously like an undocumented person leading to inevitable racial profiling. Our religious traditions ask us to treat people with dignity and respect, and we look for a more enlightened and hopeful way of working with the undocumented people who live along side us."

### **Bishop Minerva Carcaño, United Methodist Church, Desert Southwest Conference**

"This bill does nothing to address any border security concerns. At our borders and in our congregations, schools, workplaces and service programs, we witness the human consequences of an inadequate, outdated system. The passage of SB1070 demonstrates why America needs Comprehensive Immigration Reform: frustration with our broken immigration system is driving Arizona to make inappropriate and self-defeating efforts in this area. We want our broken immigration system to be healed through a just transformation of the law at the appropriate federal level of jurisdiction, which makes it possible to meet the labor needs of American business while making our border secure."

### **Peg Chamberlin, President, National Council of Churches**

“Our current immigration system serves no one well: not those of us worried about our jobs and the future of our children, nor the businesses that need labor that complements our own skills, nor those who want a better life for themselves and for their children. But this Arizona law changes none of that, instead it heightens tensions, crosses constitutional boundaries, and will be intolerably costly. Comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level has never been more needed.”

**Rev. Jim Wallis, President and CEO, Sojourners**

“The law signed today by Arizona Gov. Brewer is a social and racial sin, and should be denounced as such by people of faith and conscience across the nation. It is not just about Arizona, but about all of us, and about what kind of country we want to be. It is not only mean-spirited – it will be ineffective and will only serve to further divide communities in Arizona, making everyone more fearful and less safe. This radical new measure, which crosses many moral and legal lines, is a clear demonstration of the fundamental mistake of separating enforcement from comprehensive immigration reform. Enforcement without reform of the system is merely cruel. Enforcement without compassion is immoral. Enforcement that breaks up families is unacceptable. This law will make it illegal to love your neighbor in Arizona, and will force us to disobey Jesus and his gospel. We will not comply.”

**Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference**

"Today, Arizona stands as the state with the most xenophobic and nativist laws in the country. We need a multi-ethnic firewall against the extremists in our nation who desire to separate us rather than bring us together. Shame on you Arizona Republicans and shame on you Senator John McCain for endorsing the legislation.

We call upon RNC Chairman Michael Steele to condemn this new law or Hispanic Americans will read the silence as a *de facto* endorsement and a purview of what will come if the GOP takes over Congress in 2010. Second, we call upon Attorney General Eric Holder to review this legislation since it's clearly a violation of constitutionally protected civil rights. If you are Hispanic in Arizona, you just became a suspect and open to police harassment. We call upon all Latinos and immigrants who are citizens in Arizona to defend their constitutionally protected rights.”

**Noel Castellanos, CEO, Christian Community Development Association**

"The perfect storm of harsh economic need and poor immigration policy have worked together to create our current situation that threatens to not only devastate families who already live in fear of being deported, but the moral authority of our great nation.

From our founding, the United States has been a land of opportunity comprised of immigrants from every corner of the earth. While the transition from immigrant to resident to citizen has never come without trial and hardship, we have consistently welcomed the immigrant, knowing that their eventual integration into the fabric of our country would make our entire nation stronger, more vibrant, and a place of hope for the entire world.



I fear that all we aspire to be as a nation is in jeopardy with the today's passing of SB1070 by Governor Brewer in Arizona. On behalf of millions of Christians throughout our nation, we lament the passing of this legislation and will do all we can to stand on the side of families effected by this divisive new law."

#### **Jesuit Refugee Service and the Kino Border Initiative, Nogales, AZ**

"At the Kino Border Initiative's Center for Deported Migrants in Nogales, Sonora, we are seeing increasing numbers of repatriated migrants each day. Hundreds of people come to us with blistered feet and with broken spirits. Drug violence and abuses against migrants also plague the border region of Ambos Nogales, and discourage us deeply as we respond to the great needs of deportees. Finally, to add insult to injury, the Arizona state government **has passed a law that empowers** local police officers to verify a person's immigration status if they simply *suspect* he or she is undocumented.

We feel very strongly that **this legislation encourages racial profiling and will make our communities less safe**, by making people reluctant to report criminal activity to local police. We continue to support efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, which would include a path to legalization for undocumented people, as well as reform of the visa system. Such policy changes would facilitate family reunification and provide employment opportunities where labor needs exist. These steps **will obviate the misguided** efforts of Arizona and other states to enforce immigration law, which should continue to fall under the purview of the federal government."

#### **New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good**

"Throughout the Bible, God commands us in no uncertain terms to show kindness and hospitality to the foreigner and the stranger. The deplorable anti-immigrant legislation signed by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer flouts these commandments by mandating racial profiling, criminalizing ministry to undocumented immigrants, separating immigrant families, and exacerbating a climate of fear and suspicion that pits neighbor against neighbor. We join with Evangelicals and people of conscience everywhere in denouncing this wholly unbiblical and immoral law."

#### **Gideon Aronoff, President and CEO, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society**

"The Jewish community has long called on our national leaders to reform our immigration laws to 'welcome the stranger' and to create an effective federal immigration system characterized by the rule of law and the humane treatment of newcomers. In the meantime, Arizonans are now living in a world where police may impound vehicles transporting anyone found to be an undocumented immigrant, which means that Arizonans who don't check the papers of the kids they drive to Sunday school may now be engaging in illegal activity. Arizona has taken itself out of the mainstream of American life and has betrayed the proud history of a nation built by immigrants."

#### **John L. McCullough, Executive Director and CEO, Church World Service**

“We are deeply concerned about the enactment of SB 1070 as it goes beyond anti-immigrant sentiments and supports racial profiling. This legislation feels reactionary and hateful. It is a clear representation of the politics of division and exclusion. Gov. Brewer has ignored the advice of the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police and the Mesa Fraternal of Police to veto the bill. By this action, she has actively institutionalized racial profiling and will make Arizona less safe.

As a 63-year-old faith-based humanitarian organization working with 34 refugee resettlement affiliates across the United States, Church World Service understands first-hand the impact this legislation will have on communities. We do take heart that President Obama has strongly condemned this legislation, and urge his administration to do everything in its power to prevent its implementation and the consequences it will have for human rights.

This legislation is an urgent reminder of the necessity of enacting comprehensive immigration reform. Federal legislation fixing our broken immigration system is the way to heal our communities, reunite families, and create an effective and humane immigration system. We thus urge all members of Congress and President Obama to enact comprehensive immigration reform into law, and to rise above the politics of division and to embrace real solutions.

**Rev. Jerry Dykstra, Executive Director, Christian Reformed Church**

“I am deeply concerned with the direction this legislation has taken Arizona -- and for the way it will affect immigrants, impede the church's ability to do ministry, and unjustly target Latinos. Increased enforcement of our borders makes sense only within a comprehensive reform to our broken immigration system.”

**Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association**

“Arizona’s Senate Bill 1070 undermines everything our nation stands for. Under the provisions of this law, members of my own extended family could be targeted and detained, even though we have been American citizens for generations. Thousands of peaceful, law-abiding residents will be subject to the most invasive and discriminatory abuses of state power.

Everything I hold sacred as an American and as a person of faith is repulsed by this legislation.

We cannot stand by while those charged to protect us instead subject us to racial profiling, unwarranted searches, and unjust arrests. We must not let fear and ignorance cause our neighbors to be treated as lesser beings. We must not allow Senate Bill 1070 to violate our national constitution or America’s moral conscience.”

**Mennonite Church, USA**

“As Christians, we believe we are called to welcome these sojourners in our congregations and communities, especially as our government creates increasingly harsh immigration laws in the name of fighting terrorism. Assumptions about identity make some people more vulnerable to political biases and discrimination than others. Our concerns about the status of immigrants in this country relate to how people are treated based on race, nationality, ethnicity, and religious identity. We reject our country’s mistreatment of immigrants, repent of our silence, and commit

ourselves to act with and on behalf of our immigrant brothers and sisters, regardless of their legal status.”



National Council of La Raza (NCLR)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 23, 2010

1670

**Contact:**

Paco Fabián  
(202) 785-

## **NCLR SAYS NEW ARIZONA LAW IS NOT THE ANSWER**

### ***Urgency for White House, Congress to Act on Immigration Reform***

**Washington, DC**—Calling it a “sad day” for the people of Arizona and our country, Janet Murguía, President and CEO of **NCLR (National Council of La Raza)**, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, expressed deep disappointment that Governor Jan Brewer (R–AZ) signed Arizona SB 1070 into law today. The bill gives law enforcement license to stop citizens and noncitizens to check their immigration status based simply on “reasonable suspicion” that individuals are in the country without proper documentation. The law opens the door to the indiscriminate use of racial profiling and comes at a high cost to Arizona taxpayers.

“We are extremely disappointed that Governor Brewer chose politics over sound policy,” said Murguía. “She joins a long line of other Arizona politicians who are trying to ensure their own political survival at the expense of the people they claim to represent and serve.”

“This is a watershed moment for the President and Congress. Will they continue to abdicate their responsibility and allow other states to follow suit or will they show leadership and respond to the state of emergency that our communities face by enacting comprehensive immigration reform?”

The new law also requires state, county, and municipal employees to ascertain the immigration status of a person if there is “reasonable suspicion” that the person is unlawfully present in the U.S. It also subjects local governments and their personnel to lawsuits by any citizen who feels that the new law is not being enforced sufficiently. The law will impose a \$500 fine and a misdemeanor charge leading to possible deportation for individuals unable to show proof of legal presence. [President Obama stated](#) that the new law threatens to “undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe.” (For a complete summary of the bill by the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, [click here](#).)

“The passage of SB 1070 will legitimize racial profiling in Arizona and it goes against our laws and our values as a country,” continued Murguía. “At this moment, we need to appeal to the better angels of what makes us Americans, and not our worst fears. Unfortunately, the rhetoric of division, and not unity, has prevailed today. We will continue to work with our allies to find a solution to our broken immigration system at the federal level, the urgency of which cannot be overstated due to this new law.”

For more information, please visit [www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org) | [www.facebook.com/nationalcounciloflaraza](http://www.facebook.com/nationalcounciloflaraza) | [www.myspace.com/nclr2008](http://www.myspace.com/nclr2008) | <http://twitter.com/nclr>.

###

Law Enforcement Engagement Initiative (LEEI)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
(Ret)  
April 23, 2010

CONTACT: Chief Arturo Venegas, Jr.

(916) 718-7607

## **Passage of SB 1070 in Arizona a “Catastrophe” for Police Across the Country**

### ***Law Forces Arizona Police To Choose Politics Over Safety, Will Drive Wedge Between Police and Latinos***

SACRAMENTO, CA – Today, over the objections of law enforcement professionals and civil rights groups in Arizona and across the country, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed SB 1070, an unprecedented law that forces police to arrest anyone they suspect of being an undocumented immigrant and allows citizens to sue local police for not doing enough to enforce immigration law. The following is a statement from Arturo Venegas, Jr., former chief of the Sacramento Police Department and project director of the Law Enforcement Engagement Initiative:

“The passage of SB 1070 in Arizona is a catastrophe for community policing, with repercussions that will be felt by law enforcement officials across the country. The actions of the state legislature and Gov. Brewer are an unfunded mandate to Arizona police and are clearly rooted in concerns over politics, not public safety. No police officer should have to put arresting an undocumented immigrant over catching a violent criminal to avoid a lawsuit, and no victim or witness of a crime should be afraid to report it because he or she will be deported if he or she speaks to police.

“This law will drive a wedge between police and the immigrant and Latino communities not only in Arizona, but around the country. Trust between law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve is the cornerstone of community policing, and departments across the country have been working for decades to develop strong relationships with the community. Latinos and immigrants across America have been watching Arizona with fear, and will retreat deeper into the shadows now that this bill has become law.

“Today is a very sad day for the majority of us in law enforcement who believe that effective policing is based on community trust. I hope the federal government will heed this wake-up call and take long-overdue action for comprehensive immigration reform to protect our communities, and I am deeply disappointed in Governor Brewer and the Arizona legislature for passing this dangerous, costly, and ineffective law.”

Reform Immigration FOR America



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
April 23, 2010

Contact:

[Martine Apodaca](mailto:apodaca@reformimmigration.org) (202) 383-5989

## **New Arizona Law Dramatic Example of Federal Government's Failure to Lead on Immigration**

*Governor Jan Brewer Fails To Muster the Political Courage to Do the Right Thing*

**Washington D.C.** – Today Governor Jan Brewer signed SB1070 into law. It's the harshest and most extreme legislation to deal with the broken immigration system anywhere in the country. The new law enshrines racial profiling, prevents local law enforcement from doing their jobs effectively, and will be prohibitively expensive to implement. These problems are in addition to the serious constitutional and legal questions surrounding the new law, guaranteeing that costly legal action is an inevitable outcome on enacting such a proposal. The law is opposed by Arizona law enforcement, a diverse coalition of faith leaders, immigrants' advocates, civil rights leaders, and legal scholars.

Governor Brewer's politically expedient decision is likely to have implications for the immigration debate. Emboldened by the success of a harshly anti-immigrant measure in Arizona and a failure of the federal government to lead on immigration reform, anti-immigrant legislators all over the country will likely introduce new extreme measures in their own state legislatures.

This law is bad public policy and won't solve Arizona's problems. It's heat-of-the-moment legislation that gives Arizonans false hope in a state law designed to solve a much bigger federal problem. It will not end drug trafficking, it will not stop violent crime, and it takes the focus of law enforcement away from real criminals. Our broken immigration system is a serious national problem that requires a serious federal solution.

"Governor Brewer's decision shows a stunning lack of judgment and is an insult to our nation's constitution," said Ali Noorani, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum and Chair of the Reform Immigration FOR America campaign. "This law only

appeals to people's fear and their understandable anxiety about the economy, and does nothing to serve Arizona, much less our nation. Governor Brewer's failure to lead, however, rivals that of federal officials who have failed, year after year, to reform our immigration system and reassert federal control. In the absence of federal action, states have taken matters into their own hands – with increasingly disastrous results. This law is a wake up call to the Obama administration and Congress. The majority of Americans want President Obama and Congress to take immediate action on comprehensive immigration reform. Enough excuses, the time to act is now. The Republican Party needs to pick a side: the majority of Americans who want immigration reform or the extremists who want to profile anyone who looks or sounds like an immigrant.”

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## The Office of Rep. Raul M. Grijalva

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2010

Media Contact: Adam Sarvana (202) 225-2435 office (202) 573-2562 cell

Grijalva Calls on President Obama to Instruct Federal Officials Not to Cooperate With Arizona Immigration Law

Washington, D.C. - Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva today sent a letter to President Obama calling on him to exercise his "authority to limit [federal] cooperation with Arizona officials in their enforcement of SB 1070," a bill signed into law earlier today by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer that forces local police to question anyone they "reasonably suspect" to be an illegal immigrant.

"SB 1070 would exacerbate the problem of racial profiling . . . and would continue to compromise the civil rights of citizens, legal residents, tourists and foreign visitors," the letter says.

The letter also asks Obama to cut off any further potential Memorandums of Understanding between the Department of Homeland Security and state law enforcement officials regarding immigration enforcement. Such agreements, the letter says, "have been subject to serious concerns as local law enforcement agencies have used the new powers to target communities of color, including a disproportionate number of Latinos for arrest."

"This law will put every policeman in the state on notice that their main duty from now on is to question Hispanics about their citizenship," Grijalva said. "This is a discriminatory policy that cannot be enforced without committing grave breaches of due process and equal protection. The law will not withstand legal scrutiny, and I call on the president immediately to reject it in the strongest possible terms."

Grijalva questioned Brewer's priorities in signing the bill, saying that her focus "should be on working with federal officials - who have sole authority under the Constitution to create and enforce immigration policy - to achieve comprehensive reforms that protect the rights of border communities, recent immigrants, hard-working families and law-abiding businesses. This bill is nothing more than an unfunded mandate that will lead to mistrust between citizens and law enforcement. It has already made Arizona a pariah among state governments, and I am concerned that our great state's credibility will only suffer further damage if the president does not cut it off at the knees."

# # #

## Reform Movement Condemns Passage of Anti-Immigrant Bill in Arizona

*Saperstein: “This bill is an affront to America’s history as a land welcoming to immigrants who have sought not only freedom, but the opportunity to contribute to and strengthen our nation.”*

Contact: Kate Bigam or Juliana Schnur  
202.387.2800 | [news@rac.org](mailto:news@rac.org)

### The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 25, 2010 — In response to the state of Arizona’s enactment of the Safe Neighborhoods Act (SB 1070), Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement:

We are deeply disappointed by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer’s signing into law SB 1070, immigration legislation that encourages racial and ethnic profiling and dangerously extends enforcement of federal immigration law to local police. We share the concern about undocumented immigration, but here the treatment is far worse than the problem.

This inhumane and retrogressive bill virtually invites racial and ethnic profiling by broadly defining reasonable suspicion of undocumented status as grounds for questioning by police officers. Allowing an individual’s accent or skin color to precipitate an investigation into his or her legal status is an anathema to American values of justice and our historic status as a nation of immigrants. The bill is also likely to endanger our communities by discouraging immigrants from cooperating with law enforcement on issues of national security.

Over the centuries, Jews have so often known the experience of being “strangers in strange lands.” The plight of the non-citizen resonates for us. This bill is an affront to America’s history as a land welcoming to immigrants who have sought not only freedom, but the opportunity to contribute to and strengthen our nation.

We agree wholeheartedly that our immigration system is broken and in need of significant repair. Yet this bill moves us in the wrong direction, violating the principles of justice on which our nation was founded. We should, instead, focus our energy on comprehensive reform of our immigration system.

###

The **Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism** is the Washington office of the **Union for Reform Judaism**, whose more than **900 congregations** across North America encompass **1.5 million Reform Jews**, and the **Central Conference of American Rabbis**, whose membership includes more than **1,800 Reform rabbis**. Visit [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org) for more.

## **Remarks by Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa on the Signing of Arizona Law SB 1070 "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act"**

Friday, April 23 | Speech| Mexico City

With regard to Arizona Law SB 1070 "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act" that was signed today by Arizona Governor Janice K. Brewer, the Mexican government states the following:

- The government of Mexico regrets that, despite the overtures made at all levels by Mexican federal and state officials, the legislators who passed this measure and the governor of Arizona have not taken into account the valuable contributions of migrants to the economy, society and culture of Arizona and the United States of America. The Mexican government took various steps to express to the Arizona government its concerns about the law without obtaining a positive response.

- The government of Mexico acknowledges the sovereign right of every country to decide on the public policies that should apply in their territory. Nevertheless, when a measure such as SB 1070 has the potential of affecting the human rights of thousands of Mexicans, the Mexican government cannot remain indifferent.

- Criminalization is not the way to resolve undocumented immigration. The existence of cross-border labor markets requires comprehensive, long-term solutions. Shared responsibility, trust and mutual respect must be the bases for addressing the shared challenges in North America.

- The violence we have experienced on our common border and that has its roots in both countries is cause for great concern. It is crucially important to acknowledge that we face a shared, cross-border challenge. Just as Mexican officials maintain their unshakable commitment to fighting organized crime, United States officials must continue strengthening their actions to reduce the demand for drugs and control the illegal trafficking in arms, precursor chemicals and money that provide the transnational organized criminal organizations the means with which to engender violence and challenge the national authorities.

- The illegal trafficking in goods is far from being related to the migratory phenomenon. The enormous contribution of migrants to the economy and society of the state of Arizona must not be forgotten.

- The law signed by Governor Janice K. Brewer affects the relationship between Arizona and Mexico and forces the Mexican government to reconsider the viability and utility of the cooperation programs that have been developed with Arizona. The law will enter into force 90 days after the end of the current session of the state legislature.

- The government of Mexico will use all measures at its disposal to defend the rights and dignity of the Mexicans in Arizona. As the legislative process associated with law SB 1070 goes forward,

Mexico's embassy and its five consulates in Arizona will redouble their efforts to provide consular assistance and protection as well as legal advice to our citizens.

• The government of Mexico will continue to safeguard the interests of all Mexican citizens abroad, regardless of their immigration status.

**Raza Rights Coalition**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/PARA SU DIFUSION  
INMEDIATA**

Contact:

Adriana Jasso

February 24, 2010

Coordinator, Raza Rights Coalition

[coalicionproderechos@hotmail.com](mailto:coalicionproderechos@hotmail.com)

***ESTE MENSAJE SE REPETIRA EN ESPAÑOL***

**SAN DIEGO COMMUNITIES EXPRESS  
SOLIDARITY  
WITH THE PEOPLE OF ARIZONA  
AND DENOUNCE THE NEW SB 1070 LAW**

**San Diego, CA** - On Monday April 26, 2010, community organizations from throughout San Diego will come together for a vigil in solidarity with the people of Arizona, and unite their voices with those who reject the recently signed Arizona state law SB 1070. This vigil is being convened at the Federal Building in Downtown San Diego with a call by the Raza Rights Coalition and its member collectives in order to reject the approval of a law that has been clearly designed to criminalize and punish the working people of Arizona.

**"It is truly sad to witness the lack of political will on the part of the Obama administration in the effort to move on immigration reform, a reality that has motivated the extreme right wing in state of Arizona to promote and legalize the violation of civil and human rights,"** stated Adriana Jasso, coordinator of the Raza Rights Coalition in San Diego. Communities around the country, and most recently in Arizona, have been witness to how the Obama administration has provided operational funds to policies which have terrible consequences such as family separation. The most recent operation in the state of

Arizona was the largest in the history of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - an operation that mobilized over 800 agents in four different locations across the state. This operation is clearly part of the strategy of the Obama administration, which continues to concentrate all of its efforts on raids, arrests and deportations.

**"Every community across the country must speak out, mobilize and reject SB 1070 which was just been signed into law by the governor of Arizona. It is time to be a part of history, and in an organized fashion, resist these terrible attacks that our communities face on a daily basis..."**

concludes Adriana Jasso. The empty promises of change and total lack of political will from politicians at the federal level can not, and must not be the source of our communities sinking further into fear and the marginalization. The initiative for profound and definitive change must originate from our communities that suffer daily the consequences of these repressive policies. Furthermore, it should be noted that these policies have been promoted by both Democrats and Republicans.

**Vigil in solidarity with the people of Arizona,  
Monday, April 26, 2010, 6:00 pm.  
San Diego Federal Building, 880 Front Street,  
San Diego CA 92101  
(Downtown San Diego)**

###

**COMUNIDADES EN SAN DIEGO EXPRESAN  
SOLIDARIDAD CON EL PUEBLO DE ARIZONA  
Y DENUNCIAN LA NUEVA LEY SB 1070**

**San Diego, CA** - El día lunes, 26 de abril de 2010 en un a solidaridad con el pueblo de Arizona y en denuncia a la nu 1070, organizaciones comunitarias en San Diego llevarán a en el edificio federal localizado en el centro de San Diego. l Derechos de la Raza, sus colectivos y la comunidad en gene para repudiar la aprobación de una ley que claramente ha :

para castigar y criminalizar al pueblo trabajador de Arizona

**"Es verdaderamente lamentable ver como la falta de voluntad política por parte de la administración de Obama y la falta de reforma migratoria ha provocado que la extrema derecha del estado de Arizona promuevan y legalicen la violación de los derechos civiles y humanos"** afirmó Adriana Jasso, co-leader de la Coalición Pro Derechos de la Raza en San Diego. Comunidad por las partes del país y curiosamente recientemente en Arizona, la falta de cómo la administración de Obama se ha enfocado en otros operativos los cuales tienen lamentables resultados como la separación familiar. El operativo mas reciente en el estado de Arizona es el mas grande en la historia de la agencia de ICE que empleó cientos de efectivos en cuatro diferentes puntos del estado. Este operativo es parte de la estrategia de la administración de Obama que consiste en enfocando todo su esfuerzo en operativos, detenciones y deportaciones.

**"Toda comunidad en cada rincón del país debe alzarse y movilizarse y denunciar la ley SB 1070 que acaba de ser aprobada por la gobernadora de Arizona, llegó el momento de resistir la historia y resistir de forma organizada los ataques que nuestras comunidades enfrentan"** concluye Adriana Jasso. La falta de voluntad política para remediar la cuestión migratoria es una falta a los políticos no puede, ni debe ser la causa por la que nuestras comunidades se hundan en el miedo y las sombras. La iniciativa es profunda y definitiva deberá desprenderse de las comunidades que sufren las consecuencias de la política represiva que tanto los republicanos promueven.

**Vigilia de solidaridad con el pueblo de Arizona**  
**lunes, 26 de abril de 2010, 6 PM, en:**  
**Edificio Federal, 880 Front Street, San Diego CA**  
**92101**  
**(Centro de San Diego)**  
###

CONTACT US/CONTACTENOS:  
[coalicionproderechos@hotmail.com](mailto:coalicionproderechos@hotmail.com)  
619-923-3685

**SAALT (South Asian Americans Leading Together)**

## **National South Asian Organization Condemns Anti-Immigrant Arizona Law Resulting in Profiling**

**April 26, 2010** - South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national organization whose mission is to elevate the voices and perspectives of South Asian individuals and organizations to build a more just and inclusive society, condemns the enactment of SB 1070 in Arizona. Signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer on April 23, this measure allows state authorities to question individuals based upon the mere suspicion that they may be undocumented and requires immigrants to carry proof of their immigration status or else face criminal penalties.

"SAALT opposes this policy as it will undoubtedly lead to profiling of communities of color, regardless of immigration status. Anyone who appears to be an immigrant can be questioned by police and have to prove their immigration status," said Deepa Iyer, Executive Director of SAALT. "South Asian community members are all too familiar with the pernicious effects of profiling resulting from ineffective national security policies instituted following September 11th." Profiling results in community members being viewed with suspicion by not only law enforcement but also the general public and does little but fuel discrimination.

The new Arizona law also underscores the need for immigration reform and anti-profiling policies. In the absence of federal measures, state and local governments are implementing their own immigration enforcement policies that result in profiling, undermine trust between communities and police, and diminish public safety. SAALT calls upon policymakers to oppose the Arizona law, and to enact policies that respect fundamental civil rights.

### **What can South Asian community members do?**

There are a few simple steps that community members can



take to oppose Arizona's new law and to support policies that respect civil rights:

- **Contact Arizona Governor Jan Brewer** with the following message: "I am deeply disappointed that you have signed SB 1070. This law promotes discrimination and profiling by legitimizing suspicion based upon appearance. I ask that this law be rescinded immediately." Her office can be reached at (602) 542-4331 or [azgov@az.gov](mailto:azgov@az.gov).
- **Email President Obama and Congress** and ask them to [support just and humane immigration reform](#) and to [strengthen anti-profiling policies](#).
- **Join rallies occurring across the country on May 1** in support of immigration reform. Click [here](#) to find a rally in your area.
- **Learn more** about the impact of [profiling](#) and [immigration](#) on the South Asian community by checking out SAALT's resources.

*For more information, contact SAALT at [info@saalt.org](mailto:info@saalt.org).*



[South Asian Americans Leading Together \(SAALT\)](#) is a national, nonpartisan, non-profit organization that elevates the voices and perspectives of South Asian individuals and organizations to build a more just and inclusive society in the United States. SAALT is the coordinating entity of the [National Coalition of South Asian Organizations \(NCSO\)](#), a network of 39 organizations that serve, organize, and advocate on behalf of the South Asian community across the country.