



Oregon New Sanctuary Movement

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400 Walk in Procession for Respect and Dignity

By Amanda Aguilar Shank (Reprinted from the ROP web site)

February 20, 2009

Yesterday, 400 members of the Columbia County Latino community and their allies joined together in a community march entitled, “**Procession for Respect and Dignity.**”

Organized by **Latinos Unidos para un Futuro Mejor** (Latinos United for a Better Future) (LUFM), the procession began at the First Christian Church and wound through St. Helens, ending at the Columbia County Courthouse. The group was born from the struggle against two Columbia County ballot measures targeting the immigrant community.

The **Procession for Respect and Dignity** featured speeches by members of the community who shared their perspective on the ballot measures. “When these measures first appeared on the ballots, I felt as though I would have to leave the town which I loved so much,” said **Gretchen Ramos**, a Columbia County resident. “How could I raise my children here? My husband is now legal, but I want my children to belong to a community that is united.”



Yesterday’s walk through St. Helens brought together in a demonstration of solidarity responsible community members, who work hard to support their families and contribute to the local economy.

“We organized this procession because, as Latinos, we want to show a positive image of ourselves — that we are hardworking, honest people who care deeply about our family and community,” said **Yesenia Sanchez**, President of LUFM. “Human rights and dignity belong to everybody. It doesn’t matter where you come from, the color of your skin, or your documentation status. Everyone deserves to be treated with human dignity.”

The situation that members of the community addressed yesterday is not unique to Columbia County. It reflects an issue of national concern. “This country needs to fix its broken immigration system. We need just and humane immigration reform. Lacking that, we will see poor localized solutions like Arizona and now Columbia County,” said **Marcy Westerling of the Rural Organizing Project**, based in Columbia County. “What we have seen in this community could happen anywhere else in the country if one person decides to go on a crusade.”

At the close of yesterday’s procession members of LUFM delivered a letter and a basket of white flowers from the community to St. Helens’ City Hall. The basket of flowers was intended as a symbol of peace.

Measure 5-190, which sought to impose heavy fines on employers of undocumented immigrants, was approved by voters but had been placed on hold temporarily due to challenges to its constitutionality. Measure 5-191 failed at the ballot.

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Public Denounces Anti-Immigrant Actions of Sheriff Arpaio in Maricopa County, Arizona

by Rev. Liana Rowe, New Sanctuary Movement, Phoenix, AZ

On Saturday, Feb 28, 2009, over 5,000 people from all over the United States gathered in Phoenix, Arizona in a united voice against the way that 287g agreements have been implemented across the country. 287g is the paragraph of ICE code that deals with agreements with local law enforcement agencies allowing their local officers to conduct immigration law enforcement activities. The National Day Laborers Organizing Network, in conjunction with Puente Arizona and Somos America in Arizona, organized the gathering that saw participants walk nearly five miles from Steele Indian School Park, past the Maricopa County Sheriff's offices in the Wells Fargo building and on to the Federal Courthouse.

Ground zero for the worst possible ways in which the 287g has been embraced and abused is Maricopa County, Arizona, where the Sheriff's office uses "crime suppression" sweeps in predominantly Latino, low-crime neighborhoods to profile the residents of those neighborhoods as undocumented, stopping vehicles for such things as bent license plates and cracked windshields.

The most recent abuse instigated by Sheriff Arpaio was in transferring over 200 unsentenced detainees between facilities from a brick and mortar jail to a "Tent City". The parade of detained persons was announced by the Sheriff's office to the media the day before in a press release, inviting media to witness and document the Sheriff's shackling and marching approximately 200 persons of Mexican origin (less than 30 were from outside of Mexico, all non-Mexicans in the group were from Central America) on a Phoenix street from their jail home to a tent facility surrounded by electrified fencing.

The 287g agreements are proliferating across the country – 67 to date – and the worst aspects of the way the Maricopa



CSAM members

County Sheriff has implemented the one in Phoenix are being copied by other law enforcement agencies. Until the Justice Department investigates Sheriff Arpaio's practices and the Department of Homeland Security places a moratorium on new agreements, hardworking families will continued to be torn apart for driving while brown.

For more information:

Article from the Southern Poverty Law Center

<http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2009/02/04/chained-immigrants-paraded-by-arizona-sheriff/>

http://www.democracynow.org/2009/2/18/arizona_sherriff_faces_civil_rights_probe

Democracy Now! Story on Sheriff Arpaio http://www.democracynow.org/2009/2/18/arizona_sherriff_faces_civil_rights_probe

New Curriculum on Immigration to be Available!

The New Sanctuary Educational Development Team is putting the final touches on a curriculum to acquaint participants with the dilemma of immigration. The curriculum will provide activities and information modeled on the four phases of the immigration experience ("Root Causes," "The Journey," "Life in the United States," and "The Knock at the Door").

Each module will include information and activities designed to give participants a clear picture of what being an immigrant entails. Modules can be presented either as individual courses or as a series of courses.

The units are particularly designed to represent the causes of immigration that force Mexican and Latin American peoples to migrate, the dangers and hardships they encounter on that journey, and the life they live while in our midst.

Call for Solidarity and Support!

Families affected in Del Monte Raid offering housecleaning and tamale-making classes!

Since the June 2007 ICE raid, affected families are still unable to work. They are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. In exchange for donations, the Comité de Solidaridad y de Apoyo Mutuo (the Committee for Solidarity and Mutual Support) (CSAM) (one of the groups of victims that formed following the raid) is offering to do housecleaning for individuals and teach tamale-making classes at your faith community.

If you want to set something up or would like more information, please contact group facilitator, Pedro Sosa, at psosa@afsc.org or (503) 752-1490.

Portland Day Labor Hire Site

There are many ways to support VOZ, the Worker Rights Education Project, and workers at the Day Labor Center! Here are a few ideas:

- Hire a day laborer.
- Host fundraising events, house parties, etc., for VOZ.
- Be present to show solidarity with the day laborers when anti-immigrant groups come to VOZ or to the Day Labor Center.
- Raise awareness about the plight of day laborers and immigrants in your faith community's newsletter.
- Be willing to talk about human dignity and immigrant rights in press conferences.
- Volunteer with VOZ' programs (eg., teach English classes and/or computer basics, translate documents into

Spanish and English, etc.).

- Attend the monthly volunteer orientation the first Monday of every month. (The next one is April 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at VOZ, 1131 S.E. Oak Street in Portland.)



Save the Date: May 9 Vigil by Northwest Immigrant Rights Organizations at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma

By Bob Brown

The Oregon New Sanctuary Movement, together with other immigrant rights organizations from Seattle and Tacoma, will be celebrating Mother's Day with a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, Washington, on Saturday, May 9. The Mother's Day vigil is intended to call attention to the consequences of detaining undocumented people who come to this country to exercise their basic human right to support their family. Detention separates families and imposes extreme hardships on spouses and children. Although alleged immigration violations are civil offenses and not criminal offenses, people swept up in raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are incarcerated until their immigration status is resolved. Breadwinners are removed. Families are subject to extreme financial hardship. Children, many of whom are United States citizens, suffer.

NWDC is owned and run by The Geo Group, Inc., a publicly-traded, privately-run company engaged in the business of running private prisons. Originally contracted to house 500 immigrants, NWDC now has the capacity to detain 1,000 and intends to increase its capacity to 1,575 in the near future. In the first four months of its operation, NWDC admitted over 1,800 people. Over the course of a year, that number tripled to 6,456. In recent months, it has expanded even further to 8,849.

The trend is proceeding in the wrong direction. A Seattle P-I article of February 13 quotes Lorie Dankers, regional spokesperson for ICE, "Nationwide there is a trend to have increased detention space. When you let people go, oftentimes they don't show back up." Thus, ICE rationalizes incarcerating people who might previously have been released pending review of their cases.

An eight-month study done by the Seattle University School of Law International Human Rights Clinic detailed many human rights violations at NWDC. Findings of the report (see <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/x3333.xml>) include the following and more:

- Overcrowding with double the number of detainees beyond what the facility was originally designed for.
- Extended detention (up to four years) in a facility designed for short-term stays.
- Violations of international law and due process.
- Misconduct by guards and federal marshals.
- Inadequate access by detainees to medical care, especially emergency care.
- Poor quality and rationing of food, insufficient to maintain detainee health.
- Inadequate treatment of the mentally ill

Please save May 9th on your calendar. Further details will be forthcoming as the date nears. Carpooling will be available. For more information, please contact the Oregon New Sanctuary Movement at (503) 550-3510 or portlandsanctuary@gmail.com,



New Sanctuary Movement Washington and Oregon: Joining Efforts

By Marco Mejia

On February 14, approximately a dozen representatives from the New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) in Oregon and Washington met with the purpose of facilitating coordination and collaboration on joint projects. Both groups had already been informally working together in response to the Del Monte ICE raid in June, 2007 and with the goal of creating a local and national NSM.

At this meeting, the groups had the opportunity to share updates on Sanctuary work being performed in both states and give feedback on the immigration raids and detentions. There was agreement that continued education was necessary to awaken sensitivity in the general public as to the human faces and the origins of immigration. Outreach efforts are particularly being focused on communities of faith, especially those who seem most likely to render support to the movement. Raids and detentions have greatly impacted families. There is a large need for material and financial emergency support. Resources are scarce, but the Sanctuary Movement in both states is committed to continue working with social justice and service organizations to provide support to these families.

Important goals include:

- Identification and coordination with groups that are working

in the vicinity of the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, particularly those concerned with conditions at the Detention Center and with representation in immigration cases.

- Identification and solicitation of primary and secondary contacts in the event of raids.

- Organization of a public vigil in front of the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma on May 9.

- Sharing resources to assist in our mutual work as well as participating in each others' meetings and gatherings.



New Sanctuary Movement members from WA and OR

Announcements

Oregon New Sanctuary Movement (ONSM) General Meeting

Monday, March 16th, 6:30 p.m.
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 1704 NE 43rd Ave. in Portland

ONSM Spring Retreat

Sunday, March 22, 2009, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Havurah Shalom, 825 N.W. 18th Avenue in Portland

Bring your thinking caps, a vegetarian potluck dish to share and your dreams for the ONSM to our spring retreat! We need the collective wisdom of ONSM

members as we decide how to focus our efforts and energy for 2009, striving to walk alongside our immigrant sisters and brothers. Let us know if you can join us at (503) 550-3510 or portlandsanctuary@gmail.com.

May Day March for Immigrant and Workers' Rights

Friday, May 1st, 2009, Time and location TBA

Mother's Day Vigil at ICE Detention Facility

Saturday, May 9th, 2009, Time TBA
ICE Detention Facility, Tacoma, WA



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ONSM Upcoming Events

