



March 7... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

The cessation of hostilities in Syria is holding despite reports of fighting, said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. On Friday, the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for all sides to respect the truce. UN-led peace talks are expected to restart March 7. (Adapted from UN Wire)

Central America's Northern Triangle region (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) has gained notoriety in recent years for its extreme levels of organized crime, gang violence, and poverty. As these problems have intensified, the number of people fleeing from the region to other countries has also skyrocketed. While lower than the surge in summer 2014, the uptick in the number of unaccompanied children and families arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border in the latter months of 2015 is still historically high and serves as a stark reminder of the region's worsening conditions. El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala were among the 5 most dangerous countries in the Western Hemisphere in 2015. The effect of this extreme level of violence is the escalation in the number of people fleeing the region. (Adapted from Center for American Progress)

Action One: Prayer

God of Life and Compassion, you have given us the gift of a free country and the gift of citizenship. As Catholics, you have given us the responsibility to participate in working with our country and allowing the Christian values of the Gospel to lead us in all of our actions. During this year of election, may we take our social responsibility to register to vote, to pray, to study the issues and the candidates and then vote from our Gospel values this November. May our choices take into account the poor, vulnerable and our common home. We pray for our elected leaders so that wisdom and prudence may give them the strength to make decisions that are right and true. We pray for our future leaders and let them know our concerns for justice. We ask the Spirit of God to be with us during this year of election. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Written by Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSPS)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Call the White House at 1-888-473-5915 & Tell President Obama to STOP the raids against Central American children and families!

Sample Script: *"I am from City, State, and as a Catholic/person of faith, I urge President Obama to immediately STOP plans to deport Central American children and families. These individuals are refugees fleeing violence and should have access to legal counsel so that they can apply for asylum and protection in the United States."*

Tell the Obama Administration to Stop the Deportation of Asylum Seekers Hilda Ramirez & her Son:

<http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-deportation-of-asylum-seekers-hilda-ramirez-and-her-son-ivan>

Ask President Obama & Congress to Commit to Humane Policies that Respond to Realities of Migration:

https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50887//p/dia/action3/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=17128

Stop Private Prisons from Abusing Immigrants:

https://action.aclu.org/secure/stopCARprisons2?redirect=stopCARprisons2FB&ms=FB_160201_massincarceration_immigrantrights_CARprisons

Tell Congress to Oppose the Harmful TPP Trade Agreement: <https://act.openmedia.org/finalbattle?src=RA>

President Obama: Stop the Raids! http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/president-obama-stop-59?source=s.fb&r_by=326945

Action Three: Education

New Report shows Poor Medical Care Led to Deaths at US Detention Centers:

<http://immigrantjustice.org/publications/FatalNeglect>

Increasing Number Fleeing Violence in Northern Triangle:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2016/02/24/131645/they-are-refugees-an-increasing-number-of-people-are-fleeing-violence-in-the-northern-triangle/>

Sr. Simone Campbell & Bishop Carcaño's Editorial on Presidential Candidates: <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/270517-defining-disgraceful>

Pope Francis Prays for Those who died in Search of a Better Life:

<http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2016/in-silence-pope-remembers-those-who-cross-mexican-us-border.cfm>

Action Four: Events/Resources

Sign up for Interfaith Immigration Coalition state refugee action alerts here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17CiNfgXFFsXaC5pgVUvFAWoZhRv1dPe7r_-wUWE42Lo/viewform

Sign Up for NETWORK's Lenten Resources: <http://networklobby.org/lent>

See Presidential Candidates' Stance on Immigration: https://ballotpedia.org/2016_presidential_candidates_on_immigration

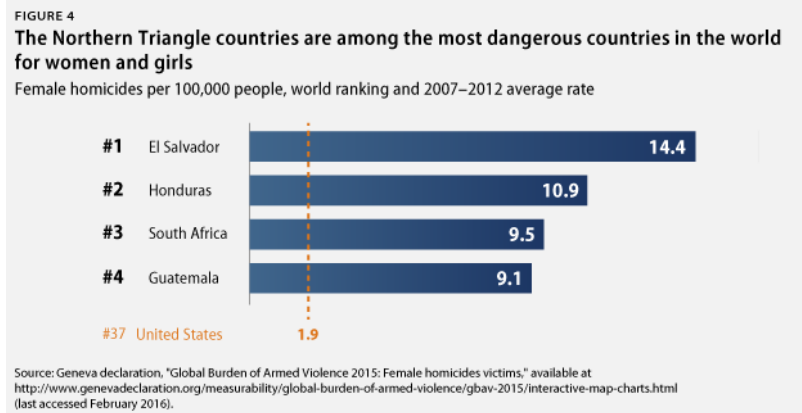
IIC Lenten Resources:

<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2015/06/05/religious-holiday-resources/>

Know Your Rights Resources:

<https://afsc.org/category/topic/know-your-rights>

ICIRR Hotline – Call if you need information on your case or are facing deportation [1-855-435-7693]



PRIMARY ELECTION

The **Illinois Primary Election** will be held on **Mar. 15** and the **General Election** on **Nov. 8**. Find your state's primary election day here: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/elections/election_dates/. By voting, you can send a clear and direct message to candidates that the issues affecting your community demand attention and action. Looking at candidates' stance on immigration and other issues that are inter-related will help us to make our choices. Keep praying for the candidates. More info here: www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/RegistrationLookup.aspx

Resources:

Where the Candidates Stand on Issues:

https://www.yahoo.com/politics/where-the-candidates-stand-on-the-issues-129228051706.html?soc_src=mail&soc_trk=ma

Tell the Legislature to Pass SB 2134 (Automatic Voter Registration):

https://secure2.convio.net/comcau/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1256&sp_ref=173626631.214.153995.t.0.2&s_subsrc=taf_tw

If you missed the Feb. 16 primary voter registration deadline, you can still register! You can register in person at your local election authority up until Election Day. You can also register at a polling location on the day of the election.