



February 1... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

The federal government has engaged in a needlessly aggressive – and potentially unconstitutional – act against immigrants with recent raids in Atlanta and elsewhere that targeted women and children from Central America, according to a recent report released by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR). The report – [*Families in Fear: The Atlanta Immigration Raids*](#) – features stories from women swept up in the Atlanta home raids that began on Jan. 2. They show how ICE has trampled legal rights, subjected mothers and children to terrifying and unnecessary police encounters, and torn families apart. Although the report focuses on Atlanta, the investigation found similar problems with raids in other states.

ICE had previously granted majority of these women and children permission to remain in the US under orders of supervision. Several of the women were already wearing electronic ankle shackles. The raids also appear to have been conducted without warrants, which are required regardless of a person's immigration status. When asked for copies of warrants or orders to enter a home, ICE agents ignored the requests, threatened residents or ordered them to "be quiet," according to the report. ICE agents used deceptive tactics to enter the women's homes. These women also were denied their right to contact their lawyers until after they had been taken to the South Texas Family Detention Center in Dilley, TX.

The raids in the Atlanta area were part of a multistate operation that ended with the detention of 121 immigrants, apparently all women and children. The raids in GA, TX and NC represent a new and alarming development by a federal government with a history of abusive immigration enforcement that is being made worse by its failure to effectively address the humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, according to the report.

(Adapted from Southern Poverty Law Center)

Action One: Prayer

Our migrant sisters and brothers like the Holy Family are being forced to leave their homes to escape Herod's law of the land. They walk miles and miles, knocking on doors, seeking respite and acceptance. Just as Mary and Joseph journeyed from one region to another to protect their infant Son, God's people of yesterday and today continue to journey across the landscape of our world in search of refuge, stability, and a better life.

(Adapted from Pope Francis' Prayer Service on Overcoming Globalization of Indifference via Education for Justice)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

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

Call the White House at 1-866-961-4293 or the White House Comment Line directly at 1-888-907-2053:

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."*

Stop the Deportation Raids against Central American Refugees:

http://act.presente.org/sign/stopraids/?referring_akid=a4843200.106609.eryTc6&source=copy_thanks_email

Tell the Administration to Stop the Raids: <http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-raids-on-central-american-refugees>

Tell Obama to Call off the Raids against Immigrant Families: https://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/tell-president-obama-to-call-off-raids-against-immigrant-families?sp_ref=167551883.4.136309.o.1.2&source=clickcopy_sp

Action Three: Education

Report – Families in Fear: The Atlanta Immigration Raids: <https://www.splcenter.org/20160128/families-fear-atlanta-immigration-raids>

Recorded audio of an immigrant’s encounter with law enforcement: <https://soundcloud.com/user-69407830/audio-recording-of-the-atlanta-ice-raid>

Immigrant Families Will Finally Get Their Day in Supreme Court – What Happens Next: <http://unitedwedream.org/blog/immigrant-families-will-finally-get-their-day-in-the-supreme-court-what-happens-next/>

Action Four: Events/Resources

CLINIC Webinar – How to Help Central American Women & Children – Feb.25th at 1pm CST

Register here: <http://cliniclegal.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d1e29c8d7ab34d84237ecd8ee&id=d9b91794d1&e=87c044323d>

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

Add your Congregation to the Sanctuary Declaration here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UGcEGiyVrGOM3unpYRJJNeravT_cfd4hVmN10eSvMk/viewform

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Find free or low cost immigration legal services/providers near you: <http://www.adminrelief.org/legalhelp/>

Immigration Raids Alert: <http://www.nilc.org/raidsalert2016.html>

Know Your Rights Resources: <https://afsc.org/category/topic/know-your-rights> and

<http://immigrantdefenseproject.org/community-trainings#homerails>

Please consider a gift to help the ongoing needs of the CARA Project – you can access the Amazon Wish

List here: http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2NM5FBYOV8T4X/ref=cm_wl_huc_view

Action Five: Social Media

Twitter: Access your member of Congress’ twitter handle at <http://stuffthought.com/blog/113th-congress-twitter-handles/>

Sample Tweet: .@WhiteHouse As a person of faith I am OPPOSED to your plans to deport Central American kids and families who need PROTECTION. #Not1More

@DHSgov @POTUS Children are fleeing violence, we must protect them not deport them

#ProtectionNotDeportation @NALACC_ORG

Thank you for your efforts!