

Stop the War Abroad

Stop the Domestic War against Immigrants, Refugees and Communities of Color

We call for an end to the U.S. led war-drive against Iraq

We call for an end to the growing domestic war on the rights of immigrant and refugee communities, and all people of color. To ensure the public safety and security, we must fully protect our civil liberties, and civil and constitutional rights.

We raise our voices and extend our hands in solidarity with the victims of U.S. government racist violence abroad and domestically.

War Abroad, War at Home

The looming U.S. war against Iraq threatens to violently displace entire communities in the Middle East, again creating new generations of refugees and displaced peoples. During the 1991 Gulf War, over five million migrant workers from Asia, the Middle East, and other parts of the world were forced to flee for their lives and countless Iraqis and Kuwaitis became casualties of the war.

The U.S. war drive also has a disproportionate impact on immigrants, refugees and communities of color living in the United States. Our communities already suffer from inequitable domestic policies that result in higher levels of unemployment, incarceration, and military service.

Anti-terrorist laws and policies further criminalize entire communities, shatter lives and impoverish families whose loved ones face detention and deportation.

President Bush's "permanent war against terrorism" has sown fear and confusion, increasing public anxieties and stereotypes that terrorists are "living in our midst." A series of policies, practices, measures, and laws targeting immigrants and refugees have been unleashed. The three major post-September 11 anti-terrorist laws – the USA PATRIOT Act, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, and the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act – criminalize immigrants, prolong failed border militarization, and give measures of impunity to immigration law enforcement. The 9/11 anti-terrorist measures

have increased border militarization resulting in further abuses and deaths of migrants crossing to work in the U.S. The FBI and INS, with other local, state, and federal law enforcement forces, have systematically stepped up harassment and carried out raids where immigrants and refugees live, work, worship, study, and play.

Immediately after 9/11, using illegal racial, ethnic, and religious profiling, the INS with the FBI and other police began arresting and, in many cases, deporting scores of South Asian, Arab, and Muslim men as part of the anti-immigrant/anti-terrorist hysteria and scapegoating that swept the country. The government has yet to account for thousands of illegally detained, deported, and "disappeared" persons. Immigration proceedings are NOT criminal proceedings. In many cases the government utilizes immigration laws when there is no other way to prosecute an individual or group. Immigration laws have built-in profiling techniques that put large sections of immigrant communities at risk of deportation.

Policy Wrongs, Immigrant Rights

Under the guise of "national security," a coalition of federal government agencies led by the Department of Justice unleashed "Operation Tarmac" raids against low wage airport service workers including non-citizens and U.S. citizens. While over 1,000 mainly Latino and Asian airport workers have been arrested and deported, hundreds more lost their jobs; yet not one single "terrorist" was found.

Thousands of other longtime airport security workers who were lawful permanent residents lost their jobs after the federalization of airport security screener jobs required U.S. citizenship.

The current INS “Special Registration Program” is only the most recent attack on the rights and freedoms of Arab, African, and Asian communities that may lay the groundwork for continuing sweeps of other immigrant communities.

All anti-terrorist immigration law enforcement programs, policies, practices, and laws targeting immigrant and refugee communities must end.

Stopping the war abroad must include stopping the war against immigrants and refugees and all communities of color at home.

Restore Civil Liberties and Protections

Laws and policies that target groups based on religious beliefs, culture, ethnicity, race and immigration status are abhorrent to people throughout the world. Our Constitution and international treaties prohibit such discrimination, abuse, and violation of basic human rights and principles. Once proud ideals, such as habeas corpus, due process rights, and innocence until proven guilty have been left in the ditch as the Bush Administration rushes to war.

TOGETHER WE MUST:

HOLD ACCOUNTABLE	all elected officials responsible for trampling the constitution and eroding civil and human rights in the “war on terrorism.”
REPEAL	anti-terrorist immigration law enforcement programs, policies, practices, and laws.
PREVENT	the further erosion of Constitutional guarantees, such as the recently leaked PATRIOT Act II, which would strip people of their citizenship and other rights.
STOP	hate violence and illegal racial, ethnic, and religious profiling.
DEFEND	our civil liberties by upholding full constitutional protections and processes, including accountability by the FBI, INS, and other law enforcement agencies.
GUARANTEE	all members of our communities, regardless of their immigration status, live in peace, safety, and security.

Ending the domestic war on the rights of immigrants, refugees and people of color guarantees the peace, safety, and security of all communities in the U.S.

SIGNED (Partial List of Endorsements*):

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, San Francisco
CAAHV: Organizing Asian Communities, New York
Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Tucson
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Filipinos for Affirmative Action, Oakland
Filipino Civil Rights Advocates, Oakland

INS Watch – La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Boston
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Lawyers Guild, Massachusetts Chapter
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
South Asian Network, Los Angeles

To endorse this statement, please email or call:

**National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, (510) 465-1984 ext 305; Email: agarcia@nnirr.org
This declaration is available at: www.nnirr.org**