



CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION

2007 CIVIL RIGHTS SUMMIT

PROGRAM

10:00 - 10:20 - Inauguration

Moderator: Jo Chamberlain
Inaugural Address Mayor Bob Wasserman
Conference Overview Jo Chamberlain

10:25 - 11:25 - Civil Rights & Immigration Crisis: Three Perspectives

Moderator: Juan Castro
Rene Saucedo
Dr. David Bacon
Evelyn Sanchez

11:30 - 12:30 - Strategy Building

Moderator: Hazem Kira
Eric Vickers, Esq.
Dr. Todd Christian
Nativo Lopez

12:30 - 1:30: Lunch - Keynote Address

Moderator: Nativo Lopez
Former Congressman Pete McCloskey

1:30 - 2:00 - Coalition Building

Moderator: Mark Hinkle
Dr. Kim Geron
Dr. Agha Saeed

2:00 - 2:30 - Summit Resolution

Moderator: Harry Scott
Jo Chamberlain
Mark Hinkle
Juan Castro

Vote of Thanks - Dr. Kim Geron

ABOUT US

Formed in Jan 2003, the California Civil Rights Alliance (CCRA) is a statewide civil rights coalition, which includes 25 mainstream organizations from diverse backgrounds, races, religions, and economic status, who have come together to protect the civil rights of all Californians. The CCRA coordinates state legislative campaigns on behalf of major civil rights legislation that promote the enactment and enforcement of effectual civil rights and immigration legislation. The CCRA also compiles information for voters about where their representatives stand on civil liberty issues, works to protect immigrant rights, and seeks the repeal of provisions in the USA Patriot Act, warrant-less wiretapping, racial and religious profiling, and other violations to guarantees found in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

CCRA PROJECTS

- 1. Civil Rights Survey:** In each election cycle, a Civil Rights Questionnaire is sent to all Presidential and California federal, state, and local candidates. The results of this survey are widely publicized through a scorecard, press release, press conference, newspaper ad(s), and multiple websites.
- 2. State Senate Study:** The CCRA recently spearheaded a successful campaign to get the Senate Office of Research to conduct a detailed study on the impact of the USA Patriot Act on all California minorities. Senator Liz Figueroa commissioned the study. Researched directly by the Senate Office of Research's Principle Consultant Max Vanzi.
- 3. Multi-City Hearings:** The CCRA is working with state legislators to organize multi-city hearings on the impact of unlawful detention, warrant-less wiretapping, and racial and religious profiling.
- 4. Civil Rights Legislation:** The CCRA successfully spearheaded a grassroots campaign to introduce and pass the largest state censure of the USA Patriot Act, warrant-less wiretapping, and other civil liberty abuses (SJR 10).
- 5. Regular Town Hall Meetings, Forums, & Annual Convention:** The CCRA organizes regular town hall meetings, candidate forums, and an annual convention. The annual convention brings together activists from all over the state to unify and consolidate support for civil rights of all.

Member Organizations

1. Al-Awda
2. Al-Kalam
3. American Muslim Alliance
4. Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee (Bay Area Chapter)
5. Blue Triangle
6. Committees of Correspondence
7. Council on American Islamic Relations
8. Ecumenical Peace Institute /CALC
9. Green Party of California
10. Justice for New Americans
11. Libertarian Party of California
12. MSA-Berkeley
13. Mexican American Political Association
14. Muslim Public Affairs Council
15. Mustard Seed Affinity Group
16. Northern California Interreligious Conference
17. Office of Public Policy and Social Concerns, The Archdiocese of San Francisco
18. Pakistan American Democratic Forum
19. Peninsula Peace and Justice Coalition
20. Sacred Roots
21. South Alameda County Peace and Justice Coalition
22. Strategic Research Foundation
23. The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, Bishop Episcopal Diocese of California
24. United Muslims of America

A THREE PRONGED RESOLUTION TO PROTECT CIVIL LIBERTIES

SEC 1-CALL FOR FAIR CONGRESSIONAL IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

Whereas, the U.S Congress is debating legislation including S.B. 1348 which, if passed, will violate the human and civil rights of immigrant families, and

Whereas, the proposed legislation, if passed, will place severe obstacles to an immigrant's path to citizenship, including lengthy waits, requirements to return home, pay exorbitant fees and penalties, risk denial of a visa by the arbitrary judgment of the immigrant service, and

Whereas, the proposed legislation, if passed, will allow immigrants to obtain work visas based on a point system of skills desired by companies rather than family needs and unification, and

Whereas, the proposed legislation favors highly skilled and professional workers and therefore will do nothing to impact the unskilled and semiskilled workers of primary concerns according to all the polls, the hundreds of workers dying on the border every year, and the workers historically exploited by unscrupulous employers to the prejudice of other workers, and

Whereas, the proposed legislation includes a guest worker program that is equivalent to extreme exploitation similar to conditions of servitude, and

Whereas, the proposed legislation does little to preserve due process rights of immigrants, including use of secret evidence against immigrants and lack of legal representation, and

Whereas, the proposed legislation does nothing to protect the physical well being of persons being deported and their citizen children left behind after deportation, and

Whereas, militarization of the borders has proven a failed policy that will create increased deaths for immigrants as has happened the past ten years when the number of Border Patrol agents doubled and unlawful entrants doubled in lock step,

Therefore, be it resolved that members and supporters of the California Civil Rights Alliance (CCRA) call on the U.S. Congress to vote against current legislative proposals and pass immigration legislation that (1) protects human and civil rights (2) provides for issuance of work visas based on mutual needs of immigrant employees and employers. (3) Provide a just program giving immigrants the opportunity to become U.S. Citizens in accordance with existing U.S. Immigration Laws, (4) provide incentives for orderly entrance and exit of immigrants and protection of immigrant rights while in this country, especially in regards to labor rights.

SEC 2- CALLING FOR CLOSURE OF GUANTANAMO BAY PRISON

Whereas, the United States has set up the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for the purpose of detaining persons by use of secret evidence in violation of due process, and with lack of probable cause, and without the right of the writ of Habeas Corpus in violation of the U.S. Constitution, and

Whereas, torture and coercion is used to obtain information from prisoners, which is permitted in the Military Commissions Act of 2006, and which violates the Geneva convention of 1949, and

Whereas, legislation to require the President of the United States to close the Guantanamo Bay Detention facility has been introduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and has been referred to the respective Armed Services Committees for action, and

Therefore, be it resolved that members and supporters of the California Civil Rights Alliance (CCRA) call for the Congress of the United States to pass legislation requiring the president to close the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and upon closure to transfer the detained persons to an International court for determination of their legal status, and if found to be innocent of any crime, to be released from any further detention.

SEC 3- CALLING FOR REPEAL OF THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

Whereas, since the adoption of U.S. Constitution, people who are arrested by U.S. authority have had a right to be brought before a civilian judge and informed of why they are being detained including the charges against them, the origins of which go back 800 years to the Magna Carta, and are in Article 1, Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution, which protects the right of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, and have had a right to be tried before a civilian judge and jury of their peers under the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments; and

Whereas, current law is sufficient to apprehend and try those who commit acts against the United States and world peace; and

Whereas, the Military Commissions Act of 2006 allows the President to designate people as "enemy combatants", and (1) deny them the right to file a habeas corpus petition and (2) permit the executive branch to detain and try them without oversight by an independent judiciary, in violation of the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments and in violation of the UN Charter, articles 55 and 56;

Therefore, be it resolved that the members and supporters of the California Civil Rights Alliance call on the U.S. Congress to immediately repeal the Military Commissions Act of 2006.

FOUR MOST AGGREGIOUS ATTACKS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES IN OUR "WAR ON TERROR"

1) Antiterrorism Act of 1996 Secret Evidence Law (Immigration Act)- In deportation cases, a violation of Due Process which is in the 5th Amendment which states that no person "shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law" and the 6th Amendment which states that each person has the "Right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witness against him"- Violation of 1st Amendment rights in accusing persons of being guilty by association with "terrorist" organizations.

Status: "Secret evidence" law was about to be repealed by congress in the

Secret Evidence Repeal Act before 9/11, but following 9/11 secret evidence has been used extensively by the Bush Administration.

2) USA Patriot Act- October, 2001 law expands the scope of the Antiterrorism Act of 1996 expanding the powers of Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978(FISA) with more stringent laws violating individual civil rights by using (1) guilt by association, (2) inadequate due process, and (3) lowering standards for using illegal search and seizure and (4) taking action without probable cause, a violation of 1st, 4th, 5th & 6th Amendments.

Thousands of illegal detentions were initiated using this act, causing hardship. It expanded the powers of National Security Letters, which were excessively used by the FBI to obtain information according to a March 9, 2007 Inspector General's report.

Status: 404 Local jurisdictions and 7 states including California have passed resolutions calling for repeal of unconstitutional provisions of the Patriot Act. Congress has not acted except in stopping illegal library searches. The CCRA played a key role in working to get the California legislature to pass its resolution.

Several court cases have had favorable results in defending persons such as Prof. Al Arian in Florida; however, the Bush administration find ways to counter this by holding Prof. Al Arian as a material witness. The 20 year old "LA 8" case (1st Amendment rights to distribute literature) was revived using the Patriot Act and was finally thrown out of court by a judge; however, the administration has again appealed.

Legislation has been introduced in congress to establish congressional oversight and set parameters for use of the NSL to prevent further abuse by FBI.

3) Warrantless Wiretapping Program- Administration violated FISA by failure to use required FISA Court warrants for checking thousands of communications.

Status: Congressional Investigations to determine extent of this illegal program. The administration is trying to become legal by enacting the legislation that would permit extensive wiretapping without FISA warrants. Legislation has been introduced in Congress to reinforce the requirement for FISA warrants; however, with some modifications to speed up procedures and expedite the review of the program by the Supreme Court.

4) Military Commissions Act of 2006- Denying Habeas Corpus to "enemy combatants" Establishing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Use of torture and coercion at detention facilities to obtain intelligence information.

Status: Legislation introduced in Congress to amend sections of MCA to restore Habeas Corpus and some other sections and for the Closing of Guantanamo Bay (See MCA Fact Sheets and Resolution on MCA and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba)

SOURCE: The California Civil Rights Alliance (www.civilrightsforall.net), The Bill of Rights Defense Committee (www.bordc.org), Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org), Center for Constitutional Rights (www.ccr-ny.org) and ACLU (www.aclu.org)

Title: The Revenge of Zorro on Immigration Reform

By: Nativio V. Lopez, National President of Hermandad Mexicana Latinoamericana, and the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) -- nativolopez@sbcglobal.net

Are you ready for the Zorro visas? I mean Z, as currently being hammered out in the U.S. Senate, a bipartisan effort to craft new immigration reform legislation before Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev) imposes his arbitrary deadline to introduce legislation similar to that approved by the Senate last year.

The essence of the current immigration debate, in fact raging for the past fifteen years, essentially is the management of an ample, but vulnerable, labor supply for corporations, large and small, urban and rural, and on their terms. At the heart of all the proposals this is the bottom line. And, this can be observed in the initiatives submitted by both Republicans and Democrats.

The general framework of all legislative proposals to surface on both sides of the aisle are heavy enforcement measures in exchange for some form of regularization of the estimated 12 million undocumented already in the U.S. and a massive contract-worker program as a way to enroll future flow entrants. The quibbling between the two parties as they work to reach a deal is more around the edges of the framework – the specific terms, the parameters of each measure, and the “triggers.” But the equation of onerous enforcement for regularization has never been in question, and the Washington-based lobbying groups that pretend to represent the interests of immigrants, have never questioned it either. Why wouldn’t they find this Faustian deal acceptable when they are actually sponsored and subsidized by the very corporations that clamor for the low-wage contract-labor program contemplated by the proponents? And they are even referred to as the “stakeholders” by some of the legislators.

Degrees of vulnerability and uncertainty in this modern era labor management experiment can be observed in the details of the debates – six years versus eight prior to qualifying to apply for permanent residency, touch back and return or adjust status within the U.S., varying steepness of multiple fines, learn English and civics, criminal background checks, a tortuous point system premised on levels of education and skill set, proscribed from receiving any social safety net benefits, go to the back of the visa wait line and wait some more, pay all back taxes, contract workers recycled out of the country after completing the term of their contract or allowed to remain and stumble onto the path to permanency, and much more.

These are all punitive messages and measures directed against acknowledged hard-working immigrants for having entered the U.S. without inspection. Their penance, notwithstanding that they were drawn by the ever increasing demand for their labor and expelled from their countries of origin, particularly Mexico and Central America, due to the failures of neoliberal economic policies.

And, the proposed restrictive enforcement measures will only heighten the tenuousness of the immigrant’s existence in the future. For example, enhanced employer sanctions for hiring persons without documents, mandatory verification of all prospective employees based on a federal centralized database, a border wall, a steep increase of border agents, local law enforcement collaboration with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, streamlined legal removal, criminalization of future non-inspected entrants, and rapid expansion of detention facilities. And, we thought we defeated Sensenbrenner.

The surnames of the authors may be different – Gutierrez, Flake, Reid, Specter, and the bill numbers changed, but the parameters of the deal are within the same ballpark of comprehensive reform. No matter how many times comprehensive is repeated in the press releases of the advocates of this type of “reform,” it will never make it fair, humane, or rational.

While President Bush and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales were conducting immigration raids throughout the country to whip all parties into line to accept their version of “guest-worker” servitude, thousands of grassroots immigrant activists, attorneys, and immigrant organizers were working to forge a consensus on a fair immigration overhaul. They call it the “Unity Blueprint for Immigration Reform.” And, while it may not have a legislator-author, it is an honest reflection of the aspirations of the humble immigrant worker. In fact, the document was not completed until it had a broad hearing amongst the immigrants themselves.

The blueprint proposes a rational allocation of visas on an annual basis based on both the need for labor and the desire to reunify families – relative and employment derived visas. The government knows with all certainty what these numbers look like, but allocates a far inferior number of visas, thus, the creeping growth of the undocumented population over the past twenty years. Why not meet the demand with a corresponding number of permanent resident visas? But, that would be too reasonable and rational.

The permanency of the visa guarantees the worker a better prospect of protection under federal and state employment statutes, and makes him less malleable in the eyes of the employer. This would be the real revenge of Zorro, though.

NATURAL ALLIES

Hazem I. Kira

If blacks challenging institutional racism defined the civil rights era of the 20th century, then perhaps historical annotations of the 21st century will be of a Brown-Black era challenging an evolved, yet similar, status quo.

A natural alliance between Latinos, Muslims, African Americans, and other minorities has flourished since September 11th; as government measures increasingly seek to curtail civil liberties, privacy rights, and immigrant rights.

“Latino-Americans and Muslim-Americans are natural allies”, said CSU Hayward Professor Agha Saeed, because, historically, in the United States any attack on civil liberties has invariably been accompanied by attack on immigration of Third World people.

For example, “the draconian National Security Act of 1950, introduced by Sen. McCarran, led in 1952 to the Eurocentric and anti-third world McCarran-Walter Immigration Act.” On the other hand, passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 led to first non-racist immigration act of 1965. The passage of the USA PATRIOT ACT is now accompanied by HR 4437, which seeks to criminalize 11 million undocumented workers and implicate priests, teachers and social workers who may try to help them exactly the same way as those helping run-away slaves.”

Today, “the passage of the USA PATRIOT ACT has been accompanied by HR 4437, which sought to criminalize 11 million undocumented workers and implicate priests, teachers and social workers who may try to help them exactly the same way as those helping run-away slaves.”

Speaking at a coalition meeting organized to mobilize Latino and Muslim communities during the 2006 midterm election, Juan Castro declared to the audience, “I am here to represent MAPA’s national president Nativo Lopez. We are delighted to work with our Muslim brothers and sisters in getting Mr. McCloskey elected. We believe that minorities can only succeed by participating in the political process and by exercising their priceless privilege of voting in the elections. Working hand in hand with the American Muslim Alliance, we plan to turn out the largest number of Latino, Arab and Muslim voters. ... Therefore, we need to bring honest and efficient people...in the Congress.”

Earlier this year, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), endorsed a successful effort by Muslim and other civil rights groups, progressive political and social organizations in getting California to censure provisions in the USA Patriot Act as well as warrantl-less wiretapping and racial profiling.

Highlighting the coalition’s general national efforts, Hilary Shelton, federal and legislative affairs director for the NAACP, declared, “There are an awful lot of places where our issues and interests converge, and on which we find ourselves working together.” “The NAACP”, said Shelton, “has an interest in standing with American Muslims,” adding that “the fastest-growing religious membership in the African-American community is Islam”.

Time will tell how fruitful this Brown-Black coalition will turn out; but just as the nation as a whole benefited from the 20th century’s civil rights movement, the accrued benefits from this century’s movement is already becoming clear: ending government spying of all its citizens, opposing all forms of religious and racial profiling, and ensuring humane treatment of all immigrant laborers who work and live in our midst.

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES: MEXICAN AMERICAN POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

JOIN US TO PREVENT THE BETRAYAL OF IMMIGRANT RIGHTS – NO TO THE U.S. SENATE “GRAND BARGAIN AND TO GUTIERREZ-FLAKE IMMIGRATION BILL (STRIVE ACT – H.R.1645)

The Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) and the Hermandad Mexicana Latino Americana call on all organizations concerned about the rights of immigrants, concerned about the growing intensity of immigration raids and deportations, which target predominantly Latino communities and workplaces, concerned about the forced separation of families and the abandonment of children by undocumented parents detained by ICE, concerned about the increased militarization of the border and the continued incidents of death on the border, and concerned about the increase of interior enforcement and cooperation between local police authorities and ICE – to join us in opposing the U.S. Senate “grand bargain” and to definitively declare to the party leaders that the Gutierrez-Flake Immigration Bill, known as the STRIVE ACT – H.R.1645, does not reflect the legitimate aspirations of immigrant families throughout the U.S.

In 2006, millions of families marched to demand LEGALIZATION FOR ALL, NO TO THE BORDER WALL and NO MILITARIZATION OF THE BORDER, NO BRACERO/GUESTWORKER programs, and PROTECTION OF LABOR AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. Today we add demands to STOP IMMIGRATION RAIDS, DEPORTATIONS, and NO FORCED SEPARATION OF FAMILIES through the deportation of undocumented parents.

The grassroots immigrant coalitions and membership-based organizations represent the backbone of the immigrants’ right movement, and we must urgently convey to the Democratic Party (the DNC) and the national federal legislative leadership – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid - that the Gutierrez-Flake legislation represents an incredible betrayal of the immigrant’s interest, a rank strategic concession to the right-wing of the Republican Party that emphasizes enforcement-only or enforcement-first, over any form of fair and rational legalization of the estimated 12 million undocumented persons currently in the U.S., and the creation of a massive bracero-type program dubbed falsely as the “new worker visa.” This initiative surfaced first, and now, leaders of both parties in the U.S. Senate have cooked up their “grand bargain,” which presents a similar faulty framework of heavy enforcement in exchange of some form of regulation and contract-workers. This is nothing short of a massive labor management experiment to supply corporate America, large and small, urban and rural, but on their terms, low-wage vulnerable and exploitable (and in the case of the contract-workers, recycled and disposable migrant workers) labor force of a second-class category status.

We will not be intimidated by the argument used by Congressman Luis Gutierrez that if we don’t accept his legislation the immigration raids will not only continue, but intensify. We will not be bullied into accepting the argument that the only way to stop the separation of families and deportations is to embrace his proposal and, and the “grand bargain.” We refuse to accept the rationale that in order to obtain a fair legalization program, we must accommodate ourselves to a loss of due process rights and the criminalization of our families. This is not a fair exchange. It is an unfair bargain.

The immigration proposals recently released by President George W. Bush are ten steps to the right of the Gutierrez-Flake Bill, but the framework is essentially the same. The “grand bargain” is only to the right of the STRIVE ACT by degrees. The emphasis is on enforcement and the creation of a massive guest-worker program – guaranteeing cheap and vulnerable labor for corporate America and depressing the prevailing wage for domestic labor.

We will not be forced to accept the supposedly less onerous legislative proposal due to the existence of a more draconian and extremist measure. In fact, Congressman Gutierrez has already used the White House proposals to buttress his own. “If you don’t like my legislation, just look what the White House has in store for you.” Neither proposal is a good choice for our families.

While the majority of Latinos are Democrats, and were incredibly loyal to the party in the November 2006 elections, which resulted in it assuming control of the U.S. Congress, the party has not demonstrated equivalent loyalty to the Latino electorate and immigrant communities of America on the issue of immigration.

The Latino and immigrant communities expect more from the party leadership. We must demand full legalization for our families without being hooked into a massive bracero-type program, not be forced to voluntarily deport ourselves and waive our legal rights (return and touch base to our countries of origin and

then apply for legal permanent resident status), or be criminalized for having entered the country without inspection.

If we do not act immediately to stop the betrayal represented by the Gutierrez-Flake Bill and the senate's "grand bargain," and the surrender of our legal rights, it will too late. We must impress upon the Democratic Party leadership that we will not be intimidated nor bullied.

WHY FOCUS ON THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY?

We have been asked - why focus on the Democratic Party? The answer is simple – it is the party in power and has the votes to prevent passage of any legislation that is not fair, humane, and rational. The repeated use of the term "comprehensive" does not mean fair, humane, or rational. In fact, the recent debate demonstrates that the use of the term "comprehensive" really means harsh enforcement combined with some form of regularization. The Washington DC-based lobbying groups and foundation-financed immigrant "advocates" have inherently accepted this proposition or "bargain." They only quibble about aspects of the framework, but do not challenge the frame-work itself. They present the "lesser-of-two evils" and "something is better than nothing" arguments to convince the mass of immigrants to not oppose the current momentum building in the U.S. Congress that will ultimately criminalize our communities and pit native-born against foreign-born, and mortgage our future in this country.

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

The debate on and the amendments to the "grand bargain" in the Senate will continue this week, but shortly the debate will move to the House. In reality, this is where we will have more leverage. The main focus of our attention should be on the House Subcommittee on Immigration, chaired by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. The majority of the members are Democrat and a number of them are considered left-of-center, and are generally friendly to our endeavors. These are the members who will have the most to say in relation to any House version. While the general marches throughout the country have had the effect of mass political pressure to prevent the passage of onerous immigration legislation, the political target and direction of our marches, protest, and movement NOW must be specific. They must be directed to the specific members who will have everything to say about any future immigration legislation. The majority of these members are Democrats, and we must not be shy about pressuring them for what we want, notwithstanding political party affiliation, loyalties, or patronage funding. We would be shy at the expense of our constituency. This is what we recommend, and what we have already begun implementing in California:

1. Launch a mass letter and visit campaign to each individual member of this subcommittee in the respective district. In other words, collect tens of thousands of letters within the district addressed to the member, but strongly encourage the individuals who sign the letter to take it personally to the member's office to demand fair, humane, and rational immigration reform (June, July, and August);
2. For those who do not have congress members from this subcommittee or the House Judiciary Committee (chaired by Congressman John Conyers, a historic ally and friend to immigrants) in their states, their letter and visit campaign can be directed to the Democratic members within their reach;
3. Organize mass mobilizations (marches and protests) during the latter part of June and early July; general marches are good, specific marches directed at the members are better;
4. Launch a KNOW YOUR RIGHTS and DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS campaign within the immigrant communities to educate and organize against the ICE raids and deportations and separation of families, or continue if such has already been in effect;
5. Pressure the unions in your area to actively oppose any unfair immigration legislation, particularly any that proposes deficient legalization provisions and/or massive contract-worker programs; the unions must put up and make this a priority as they have on other issues; the unions are the institution that traditionally advocates in support to strengthening the prevailing wage, and therefore, have the most to lose if a massive contract-worker program is approved; additionally, this is the institution that has the most leverage and influence on the Democratic Party (in addition to the corporate financiers);
6. Present the Unity Blueprint on Immigration Reform to the Democratic members as the most rational alternative to the current debate and proposals in Congress.

Well, based on our years of experience in the fight to defend the rights of immigrants, these are best recommendations that we can make about where and when appropriate political pressure can be applied to get what we want. It is only a question of conducting the campaign. We wish you luck.