

February-March 07 U.S. Immigration Alert!

A Monthly Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network
February-March, 2007 Issue, Volume 21

No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights!

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New Congress, How It'll Affect (or Benefit) Our Immigrant Rights Movement?

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May Day 2007: Call to Action! National Mobilization to Support Immigrant Workers!

A national day of multi-ethnic unity with youth, labor, peace and justice communities in solidarity with immigrant workers and building new civil rights movement!

<http://www.MayDay2007.org>

- 1) No to anti-immigrant legislation, and the criminalization of the immigrant communities.
- 2) No to militarization of the border.
- 3) No to the immigrant detention and deportation.
- 4) No to the guest worker program.
- 5) No to employer sanction and "no match" letters.
- 6) Yes to a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- 7) Yes to speedy family reunification.
- 8) Yes to civil rights and humane immigration law.
- 9) Yes to labor rights and living wages for all workers.
- 10) Yes to the DREAM Act and LGBT immigrant legislation.

March - April: Local May Day Organizing Conferences

Mid-April: National Call-In/Washington D.C. Congressional Lobby Day

May Day 2007: National Day of Mobilization

July 27-29: 2nd Annual National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference, Richmond, VA.

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Analysis: The ILRC Forecast on 2007 Immigration Reform

Judith Golub, Executive Director, Immigrant Legal Resource Center

With the November mid-term elections behind us and the 110th Congress convened, what is the prognosis for immigration reform? While it would be an uphill fight, reform could be enacted this year, given both the public's demand that Congress fix our nation's problems (and our broken immigration system being one of the primary problems needing attention) and some momentum remaining from last year's Congressional debate. Both Democratic and Republican Senate leaders have prioritized immigration reform. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Act of 2007 (S. 9) on the very first day of the 110th Congress and has reserved floor time to consider the issue. This “placeholder” bill will be replaced most likely with a reform package negotiated by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and John McCain (R-AZ). Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has acknowledged that immigration is a pressing concern needing to be addressed. On the House side, Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), who is poised to become Chair of the House Immigration Subcommittee, wants to produce “a practical and bipartisan bill that gets broad support” and believes that “if everybody can lower their voice, just stop yelling and go through the issues one by one, that we can come to consensus.” However, a determined opposition led by Senate and House Republicans are expected to put roadblocks in the way of reform. In contrast, President Bush in his State of the Union address underscored the fact that “convictions run deep in this Capitol when it comes to immigration. Let us have a serious, civil, and conclusive debate – so that you can pass, and I can sign, comprehensive immigration reform into law.”

But what kind of reform remains the question, as does whether there will be reform at all – given the “convictions that run deep.” While the following does not exhaust the possibilities, below are four scenarios:

- The “**good enough**” scenario in which a measure passes that includes both hard pills to swallow and significant positives and can be implemented. This will be a very uphill fight;
- The “**get done what we can**” scenario in which, due to time constraints and other roadblocks, a smaller scale package passes (that includes AgJobs and DREAM Act and other measures along with some enforcement provisions) that has sufficient Congressional support and will provide the foundation for future reform;
- The “**not good enough**” scenario in which a measure passes that does not depart significantly from last year’s Senate-passed bill, S. 2611, should be opposed on its merits and cannot be implemented; and
- The “**crash**” scenario in which too many constraints, conflicts, and roadblocks stand in the way so that Congress fails to address reform this year.

Several factors will help determine which scenario might become reality and include:

- **The Composition of Congress:** While Democrats narrowly control both Houses of Congress, some newly elected Democrats ran on enforcement-only platforms and opposed positive reform of our immigration system. They cannot be counted on to support a pro-immigration package. Also, some pro-immigration Republicans (such as former Senators Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) and Mike DeWine (R-OH) and Representative Jim Leach (R-IA)) lost their seats in the last election. Their defeats will make it harder for reform proponents to find bipartisan allies and the numbers they need to pass a bill. And the more proponents want reform in this challenging environment, the more leverage they give to those who want to restrict reform. Hill observers also note that 60 votes are needed for cloture in the Senate, and that most likely 15 Senate Republicans and 50 to 60 House moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats are needed to support the passage of major reform.
- **The 2008 election:** Members of Congress already have focused on the November 2008 election and will want to resolve controversial issues (like immigration reform) by this October, well before that election. Because Democrats want to stay in the majority and Republicans want to recapture it, both will seek to protect their Members from difficult votes – a concern that probably will be reflected in the content of reform legislation and votes taken on amendments. Leadership also has indicated that they will delay considering reform until 2009 if they do not pass a bill by the October deadline. Presidential electoral politics also will play a role, with many who intend to run looking at the issue in terms of how it will impact their candidacies and play to their base. And the fact that both parties want to capture the Latino vote will impact on how they deal with the issue.
- **The Role of the President:** President Bush has made immigration one of his four domestic policy priorities and during his State of the Union address acknowledged both that our current immigration system is not “worthy of America” and that our laws and our borders are routinely violated. His solutions to fully securing our border are a temporary worker program, worksite enforcement of our immigration laws, an employer verification system, and a resolution of the status of those already in our country – “without animosity and without amnesty.” He also emphasized that “all elements of this problem must be addressed together,” and urged Congress to pass a measure so that he could sign a bill into law. A document issued just before he delivered his address would allow undocumented workers to be considered for legalized status if they pay a “meaningful penalty,” “learn English, pay their taxes, pass a background check, and hold a job for a number of years.” However, the President’s proposal is very ambiguous, focuses on a temporary worker program and a mandate that immigrants return home, and is unclear what the legalized status for the undocumented really is. Questions also remain about the amount of political capital (and if he has any left is a question) he is willing to expend on this issue and if his dismal standing in the polls will lead him to sign into law any measure sent to him.

• **Lack of Consensus on Core Issues:** Last year's reform debate exposed major challenges and disagreements on several issues and what would be acceptable bottom lines and trade-offs.

1. **Legalization:** The three-tiered legalization program in S. 2611 would have made ineligible millions of people and is unworkable. Congressional leaders have yet to agree on the kind of legalization to be included in legislation or the number of people covered. If too many are left uncovered, they fear the program will not work. If too many are covered, they fear attacks that the program is an "amnesty." The field also differs on what constitutes "good enough" legalization. In addition, even in the best case, many likely would not be covered because of documentation, eligibility, and other problems, and there is no consensus on how to deal with this population including whether to bring them to the head of the line of the worker program.

2. **A future flow program:** One of the main flaws in our current system is the absence of legal pathways for many to enter the U.S. The major flaw of the 1986 reform was that it addressed only the symptom of our broken system by legalizing a significant number of undocumented people, but not the cause: the lack of a program that creates future legal flows. We cannot afford to make that same mistake twice because without a program that legalizes a future flow, any reform measure would be obsolete the day after it becomes law because there would be no means for significant numbers to come legally in the future. Many Members of Congress support fixing the system by creating a new kind of temporary worker program and understand the details of such a program matter. The field is badly divided on the issue, with those who oppose a worker program (given experiences with the bracero program) as part of reform failing to provide alternatives to address future flows. Advocates who accept that a worker program is an inevitable part of reform believe that it is better for workers to be temporary than undocumented and that such a program must include portability (the right of an immigrant to change jobs), worker protections, and the rights to bring one's family and at the end of the program adjust to permanent residency if U.S. workers would not be displaced.

3. **How to meet US labor needs:** The debate about how best to meet future U.S. labor needs is central to the immigration reform debate generally and worker programs specifically. While there is disagreement about these programs, the field agrees on the need to increase permanent immigration and the number of green cards. However, Congress does not have the political will or sufficient support to make available a sufficient number of green cards to meet the need and there is little discussion about how best to use both approaches. Finally, this debate usually ignores the contribution of family-based immigration and the fact that many needed workers enter our country through that flow.

4. **Mandated Return:** Several bills introduced in past Congresses, including S. 2611, included a mandate that some (if not all) undocumented had to return to their counties of origin. This return is controversial and a key demand of conservatives. While some believe it may be the necessary price for legalization, others believe it is unacceptable because it will cause hardship, dramatically reduce program participation because people will fear they will be unable to return, disrupt the labor force and separate families. Some also note that "touch base," the phrase that has been used in the debate for this mandated return, belittles the disruption such a return would cause.

5. **Enforcement:** Especially after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, enforcement and security measures have been embedded in the immigration reform debate, notwithstanding the fact that these measures have little to do with either enforcement or security.

To download the entire report: <http://www.ilrc.org/la/ILRC%20Forecast%20on%20Immigration%20Reformpdf>

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Report from January 29 NISN Congressional Meeting Rep. Nancy Pelosi's Staff

National Immigrant Solidarity Network

On Monday, January 29, a group of us, representatives from San Francisco La Raza Legal Centro, National Organization of Women, veterans and I met with Speaker Nancy Pelosi's staff on immigration and present our open letter and exchanges ideas on the immigration issues.

We met for one hour and had a frank and open discussion about the immigration legislation issues. We have some agreements and difference at our points of unity.

- While Rep. Pelosi supports the DREAM Acts and the immigrant labor rights, we disagree on the guest workers program, she supports the program and we're against it. The staffer of the Pelosi office told us we're the ONLY(?) national organizations had lobby her against the program—while almost all other national organizations had told Pelosi that they'll support the guest worker program.

- We disagrees on the border fence program, and the anti-immigrant bill, they told me we cannot get the perfect pro-

immigrant bill to pass in the Congress, and we need to make "compromise" on supporting certain enforcement part of the immigrant bill in order we can pass something this year.

- They told us 2007 is the best possible year to push for comprehensive immigration reform legislation, and we only have until August, 2007 to do this, "if we missed this year (2007), we'll need to wait 10, even 20 years before next chance to push for the comprehensive immigration reform legislation at the Congress." They told us.

- Basically, they told us immigrant organizations from across the country need to work together and "compromise" what kinds of comprehensive immigration reform legislation they want to push, they said we need collectively agrees on what to push and what to give up (or put on hold) in order we can have realistic a chance to pass this year.

- They suggest we need to focus on local level lobbying to gain supports from Congressional members at the anti-immigrant district for passing the comprehensive immigration reform legislation, because they are the "wild card" on the vote on the Congress, if anti-immigrant groups mobilize their base to demand their elected officials to against the pro-immigrant bill, they will do so, however, if we can mobilize their local communities and interfaith leaders to talk with them, we'll have chance to gain their supports to pass the bill.

In addition, we also raised our concern to them about the war in Iraq, the war funding and the link with the immigrant rights movements.

In conclusion, we aggress to maintain our communication for the coming future on drafting the comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

Reports from other Congressional visits/calls: <http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/MayDay2007/Jan2907lobbyday-report.html>

Immigration News Briefs from Across the Country

Immigration News Briefs is a weekly English-language summary of US immigration news, e-mail: nicaig@panix.com.

1. BORDER PATROL KILLS MIGRANT

On Jan. 12, a Border Patrol agent shot and killed Francisco Javier Dominguez Rivera, a construction worker from the town of Cuautla in the southern Mexican state of Puebla, after he allegedly resisted arrest near the border between Bisbee and Douglas, Arizona. Dominguez was with six other people trying to cross the border into the US when they were stopped by the Border Patrol; the group included two of his brothers and a sister-in-law, now being held as witnesses in the case. The Cochise County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident as an officer related shooting; the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also says it is investigating. The agent who shot Dominguez has been placed on paid administrative leave. The Mexican government has formally demanded a full investigation, and Derechos Humanos, an immigrant rights organization in Tucson, is calling for an independent investigation based on its lack of confidence in the Cochise County Sheriff's Office and FBI investigators. [Arizona Daily Star (Tucson) 1/14/07, 1/18/07; AP 1/23/07]

2. SMITHFIELD PLANT RAIDED

On Jan. 24, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested 21 workers in a raid on the Smithfield Foods Inc. plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina. In contrast with high-profile raids at six Swift meatpacking plants last Dec. 12, this time ICE officials kept the operation low-key: they called Smithfield to say they were coming and showed up in unmarked cars and plainclothes, according to Smithfield spokesperson Dennis Pittman. The workers were then sent into a room with ICE officials, questioned

and arrested on administrative immigration charges. The 20 men and one woman arrested were moved on Jan. 25 from the Mecklenburg County Jail to Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia, nearly 700 miles from Tar Heel.

Local church officials and spokespeople from the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union said the workers' families didn't know where they were, and other immigrant workers were terrified of more arrests. Those fears led hundreds of workers--including most of a nighttime cleaning crew--to stay home, resulting in a production slowdown on Jan. 25. "There were several hundred people who didn't show up," said Pittman; he accused union organizers of warning workers to stay home. Pittman said the company spent most of Jan. 25 trying to persuade employees to return to work, even placing advertisements on a Spanish-language radio station. Local UFCW organizer Eduardo Pena denied that the union told workers to stay home, and said the workers themselves, and their families, were the ones who spread the word. "There are hundreds of immigrant families who will have to decide, 'Do I show up to work [Friday] and risk being arrested by immigration?'" said Pena.

Last Nov. 16, about 1,000 of the Tar Heel plant's 5,000 employees staged a walkout after Smithfield fired 75 people in a crackdown on undocumented workers. The walkout ended two days later after Smithfield officials agreed to rehire the fired workers and give them 60 days to get their documents in order.

Smithfield spokesperson Pittman said about half the workers arrested on Jan. 25 had been identified by the company as having unverifiable identification information. Pena, the UFCW organizer, called the latest arrests an intimidation tactic. The union has been trying to organize the plant for over a decade. On Jan. 15, the UFCW organized a small walkout at the Tar Heel plant to protest the fact that plant officials refused to designate the date-Martin Luther King Jr. Day--as a paid holiday. [*Fayetteville Observer* 1/26/07; *AP* 1/25/07 from *Dow Jones Newswire*; *AP* 1/26/07]

Pittman said 541 of the plant's 5,000 employees will face termination in mid-February because of discrepancies on their job applications, unearthed after Smithfield began participating last June in the ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers (IMAGE) program, in which businesses submit I-9 employee eligibility verification forms to ICE for an audit. Pittman called Smithfield's agreement with ICE "a business decision" resulting from an implied threat. "We knew raids could be a possibility," he said. "We felt going this way, there would be less of an effect."

The UFCW charges that Smithfield has used the IMAGE program to target organizers."Most of the leaders of [the November walkout] are on their list," said UFCW spokesperson Leila McDowell. "Whether ICE is consciously in collusion or not, Smithfield could very easily manipulate the process and can use it as a tool to intimidate and threaten workers, which it has done in the past and been found to have done so illegally." [*Washington Post* 1/29/07] On Jan. 25, a day after the raid, Smithfield announced it had reached an agreement with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that clears the way for a new union election at the Tar Heel plant. UFCW assistant general counsel Renee Bowser called the announcement "a public-relations ploy to shift attention," noting that the company still faces "outstanding unfair labor-practice charges." NLRB official Howard Neidig said that although the board had reached an agreement with Smithfield regarding the intimidation of employees during union elections in 1994 and 1997, no new election would be scheduled because a case involving a subcontractor is still pending against Smithfield. Under the terms of the agreement, Smithfield Packing, a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods Inc., agreed to pay \$1.1 million in back wages, plus interest, to employees who were terminated by the company. [*Winston-Salem Journal* 1/26/07 from *AP*]

3. JUDGE THROWS OUT LA 8 CASE

In a decision received on Jan. 30, Los Angeles immigration judge Bruce J. Einhorn terminated deportation proceedings against Khader Musa Hamide and Michel Ibrahim Shehadeh, the last two members of the "Los Angeles Eight" (LA 8) group of Palestinian rights activists who were still fighting deportation. The government has been attempting to deport Hamide and Shehadeh since January 1987 on the basis of their alleged political associations with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a faction of the Palestine Liberation

Organization. In his decision, Einhorn said that the proceedings must be terminated because the government had violated the constitutional rights of Hamide and Shehadeh by its "gross failure" to comply with his orders to produce "potentially exculpatory and other relevant information."

Hamide and Shehadeh were legal permanent residents when they first arrested on Jan. 26, 1987, for allegedly distributing newspapers, participating in demonstrations and engaging in other lawful political activities on behalf of the PFLP. In his 11-page opinion, Einhorn wrote that "the attenuation of these proceedings is a festering wound on the body of respondents and an embarrassment to the rule of law." "The government spent millions of dollars and thousands of hours trying to deport us, and the only things they ever accused us of were constitutionally protected activity," said Hamide on Jan. 30 after learning of the ruling. "Judge Einhorn's decision is important not only for Hamide and Shehadeh but for all immigrants in this country who want to be able to express their political views," said San Francisco attorney Marc Van Der Hout, who has been representing the LA8 on behalf of the National Lawyers Guild since 1987. "For 20 years the government has been attempting to deport these individuals for political activities that would clearly be protected if they were US citizens," said David Cole of Georgetown Law School, who has served as co-lead counsel for the LA8 on behalf of the Center for Constitutional Rights since the case began. [*Press Release* 1/30/07 from *Center for Constitutional Rights, National Lawyers Guild & ACLU of Southern California*; *Los Angeles Times* 1/31/07]

ICE spokesperson Virginia Kice said ICE "finds the judge's decision troubling as a matter of fact and law, and the agency is considering its legal options." [*NYT* 1/31/07] Last Dec. 20, another LA 8 member, Aiad Barakat, was sworn in as a US citizen after a federal judge ruled last June that the government must allow him to naturalize. [*AP* 12/20/06] Three other members of the LA 8 have obtained permanent resident status since their 1987 arrest. One member returned to the West Bank city of Bethlehem, and Ayman Obeid is still awaiting approval of his application for permanent residency. [*LAT* 1/31/07]

4. PALESTINIAN FAMILY RELEASED

Five members of a Palestinian family jailed by immigration authorities in Texas since November were released on Feb. 3, a day after the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accepted to reopen their asylum case. Salaheddin Ibrahim, his wife Hanan Ibrahim, who is five months pregnant, and four of their five children had been detained since a Nov. 2 raid on their home by ICE agents. Hanan Ibrahim was jailed at the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas, together with the couple's 15-year-old son Hamzeh and daughters Rodaina (14), Maryam (8) and Faten (5). Salaheddin Ibrahim is held at a separate facility in Haskell, Texas and had not been released as of Feb. 4. Three-year-old Zahra Ibrahim, a US-born citizen, has been cared for by her uncle, Ahmad Ibrahim, since her parents' arrest. The family's plight stirred media and

public attention, and at least three protests were held outside the Hutto facility during their detention there. [Dallas Morning News 1/31/07, 2/4/07; WFAA-TV 2/1/07]

On Feb. 1, New York lawyers Ted Cox and Joshua Bardavid filed writs of habeas corpus on the family's behalf in federal district courts in Dallas and Austin, arguing that the government has no legal basis to detain the family and that their detention harms the "psychological, emotional, and mental health of all petitioners." "The government will have three days to explain why they are in detention," Cox said. [AP 2/2/07] The habeas suit charged that Hanan Ibrahim had not been provided appropriate medical treatment, and that she had been forced to remain standing on several occasions despite her complaints of fatigue or pain. Visits to an OB GYN doctor involved a two-hour drive, and she was kept in arm and leg shackles for the duration of her physical exams. [Austin-American Statesman 2/2/07]

The Ibrahims arrived on valid visas from the West Bank in 2001, and were denied asylum and ordered deported in 2003. Attempts to reopen their case were denied in 2004 and 2005. Their temporary Jordanian passports have expired, and they have been unable to get permission from Israel to return to the West Bank. Lawyers for the Ibrahims sent letters to 54 countries asking each to accept the family. [DMN 2/4/07] On Feb. 2, the family's Dallas attorney, John Wheat Gibson, announced that the BIA had agreed to reopen the family's asylum case. "I have never heard of the Board granting such a motion for Palestinian asylum seekers before, even though many people have tried," wrote Bardavid later on Feb. 2. "I believe that the pressure put on the government by the actions filed in the federal courts, the media attention... and good work and thorough preparation of Mr. Gibson in his motion on behalf of the Ibrahims resulted in this outcome." (The BIA decision was apparently based, at least in part, on changed country conditions: the election of Hamas—a group designated by the US as terrorist—to head the Palestinian Authority.) [Texas Civil Rights Review 2/3/07]

Dallas businessman Ralph Isenberg, who earlier in January won a 14-month battle to bring his deported wife back to the US from China, helped win the release of the Ibrahim family by bringing Cox and Bardavid onto the case. Isenberg said the hundreds of other children still jailed inside the Hutto facility need to be freed. "You do not lock children and mothers that are pregnant up in the United States of America—that is not what this country is about," he said. [WFAA-TV 2/4/07] Earlier in the week of Jan. 29, Ahmad Ibrahim picked up mail from his brother's apartment and found that one of the girls had written a letter to herself from detention. "I guess that was all she could think of doing, because there's nothing else to do there," he said. "She just wrote things like, 'How are you doing?' and 'How was school today?'" [DMN 1/31/07]

5. BALTIMORE: DAY LABORERS ARRESTED

On Jan. 23, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested 24 undocumented day laborers in the parking lot of a 7-Eleven convenience store in the

Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland. ICE spokesperson Marc Raimondi said the agents were part of a fugitive operations team on an unrelated assignment when they stopped at the convenience store. A group of day laborers approached the agents' unmarked vehicles, believing they were contractors looking for workers. According to Raimondi, the ICE agents then determined that all 24 men assembled at the store were out-of-status, and brought them to an ICE holding facility in Baltimore. "Although ICE conducts targeted enforcement actions, we will not ignore immigration violations we encounter during the course of doing business," said John Alderman, acting director of ICE's Baltimore field office. Ten of the arrested men were Honduran, eight were Mexican, five were Salvadoran and one was Peruvian. According to ICE, six of the men had criminal records in the US, eight had failed to comply with final removal orders from an immigration judge and one had been caught at the border on four occasions. At a press conference later the same day in front of the 7-Eleven where the arrests took place, the immigrant advocacy group CASA of Maryland said the "illegal raid" unfairly targeted Latin Americans and was beyond ICE's authority. "Asking a bunch of people about their immigration status is well beyond the confines of a specific warrant," CASA spokeswoman Kim Propeack said. Other immigrant advocates and faith leaders joined in the press conference to protest the arrests and call for reforms to the country's immigration system. [WT 1/24/07]

6. CHICAGO: CLEANING WORKERS ARRESTED

On Jan. 23, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested 11 women immigrants from Poland who worked cleaning residences and businesses in the Chicago area. The women were employed by CleanPol, a cleaning service company operated out of a residence in Glenview, just north of Chicago. All 11 had entered the US on visitor visas and overstayed. They have been placed in removal proceedings. ICE initiated the investigation into CleanPol in October 2006 after receiving information that out-of-status immigrants were employed there. ICE subsequently discovered that CleanPol employed workers who were picked up in a van each day and driven to various job sites. ICE agents stopped a van at an intersection on Chicago's north side and made the arrests after watching the driver pick up workers at several locations. [ICE News Release 1/24/07]

7. MORE MILITARY BASE ARRESTS

On Jan. 17, ICE agents and US Army security personnel arrested 24 contract workers as they attempted to enter Fort Benning, Georgia, to build a barracks for soldiers. Three of the workers had overstayed visas and are to be placed in removal proceedings; the other 21 face federal charges in the US District Court for the Middle District of Georgia in Columbus for identity theft and immigration violations, including improper entry and reentry after deportation, according to ICE. In Virginia on Jan. 18, ICE arrested 14 undocumented workers on administrative immigration charges—three of them at the Quantico Marine Base, three in Fredericksburg and eight at an apartment complex in Dumfries. ICE arrested two other men—one of them a US citizen—at the same Dumfries

apartment complex; the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia has charged the two with conspiracy to harbor "illegal aliens." A third man is being sought. The three men are accused of hiring undocumented immigrants to work on a construction project on Quantico Marine Base. They are also accused of leasing apartments for the workers and providing them with transportation onto the base using trucks bearing Department of Defense decals.

On Jan. 18, ICE agents and Nellis Air Force Base security officers arrested two immigrants at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada. The two were employed by a masonry construction company to construct aviation electronics buildings on the base. According to ICE, one of those arrested is a Nicaraguan who "is a member of MS-13, considered to be one of the most dangerous gangs operating in America." The investigation into is ongoing, says ICE. Agencies assisting in the three operations included the US Marshals Service, the US Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Social Security

Administration Office of Inspector General, US military security personnel and the police department of Prince William County, Virginia. [ICE News Release 1/19/07]

During the week of Jan. 22, federal and Florida state agents arrested 13 individuals at the Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida. ICE reported that two of those arrested were undocumented and "in possession of fraudulent" green cards; the US attorney's office has agreed to prosecute, ICE said. Two other men were arrested on outstanding state warrants and nine on state fraudulent identifications charges, ICE reported. More than 120 individuals who did not have proper naval IDs were escorted off the base. All those arrested and escorted off base were employed by general contractors, the agency said. Other agencies involved in the operation included the Naval Air Station Key West, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Key West Police Department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. [Miami Herald 1/29/07]

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ISN is a coalition of community, immigrant, labor, human rights and student activist groups, founded in 2002 in response to the urgent needs for the national coalition to fight immigrant bashing, support immigrant rights, no to the sweatshops exploitation and end to the racism on the community. Please visit our website:

<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>

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