

No More racist deportations and raids in Southeast Michigan!

**Defend Francisco Romero-Caspeta and Alfredo Avila-Mendez—
they have been kidnapped by U.S. Federal Marshalls and ICE**

**Build the New, Independent, Youth-Led Immigrant
Rights and Civil Rights Movement**

**Mobilize, Rally, Fill the courtroom, Join BAMN
Fight for our Equality and Dignity, Fight to Win**

All out to the following Dates at the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse, 231 W. Lafayette Blvd:

- **Monday, August 27**, Francisco's Hearing on *Motion to move his trial date so that we have time to build his defense.*
Judge Battani, Room 272 - RALLY AT 1:00 on Fort and Shelby- HEARING AT 2:00PM
- **Tuesday, August 28, 2012** -TENTATIVE date of Francisco's Trial if the Judge does not allow an adjournment -(Same location and judge as above) 9:00AM
- **Thursday and Friday, September 13th & 14th**
Trial of Alfredo
Location: Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse, 231 W. Lafayette Blvd.,
Judge Cook, Room 718 - 9:00AM

BAMN defends the rights of undocumented people and our right to be here, in the United States. We are looking for people who want to fight and change the laws so that anyone who contributes to this country, and lives and works here or goes to school here can live here and visit home without fear of an ICE kidnapping.

The story of Francisco and Alfredo is all too common. They are being treated like the worst of criminals when nothing could be further from the truth. Francisco was pulled over by the police for driving with an expired license. The only reason he could not renew his license is because undocumented immigrants are not allowed to renew their licenses in Michigan. When he went to court to pay his fine, like a "responsible citizen," he was picked up by the ICE and put in jail. But not only is he facing immigration issues, he is in the Federal Criminal court, which is different from Immigration Court.

Francisco is being charged with a federal felony. Alleged reentry into the United States is a felony! This is a particularly vicious and degrading and senseless part of the law. At the same time, this arrogant act on the part of the government allows our movement to assert a legal defense to exercise his right to trial by jury and challenge these unjust charges. **Francisco is fighting to stay in the United States. Therefore, instead of signing deportation papers, Francisco declined to sign, and joined BAMN!** BAMN understands that we can change these laws if we tell the truth about these racist policies and bring the struggle for immigrant rights into the streets and the *public* courtroom. We only need to convince one person on the jury to have the courage to do the right thing and not cave in to the racists so that we win his case. We need people to demonstrate and fill the courtroom.

Today, Mexicans are being treated as a caste of cheap workers. Just like the old Jim Crow towards black and brown people in the 1920's- 1960's, the New Jim Crow has just as many contradictions that we can exploit and expose. It is total discrimination. The immigration laws were not always like they are today, and they do not always have to be like they are. They can change, but only if we force them to change. They want other Americans to feel privileged that they are not being treated as badly as undocumented Mexicans. But in reality, we are all being played off one another. Wages are kept low for everyone except for the very rich, and ever decreasing middle class.

Many of us think that the more we prove our respectability, the more it will strengthen our case, but the exact opposite is true. Society trains us to think that being humble, meek; telling people in authority what they want to hear will make us

seem honest. But really, the ICE, police and people who are on the side of the ICE want to keep us as second-class citizens, and they do not care about how human or “law-abiding” we are. They do not care about how nice or truthful we are or how we have families and friends that we love and need to help. The ICE picked up Alfredo, who is now in the custody of the U.S Marshalls, when he was driving his three-year-old child to day care. They knew he was a loving father and they did not care.

In Michigan, the ICE is out of control and the implementation of the federal laws is particularly bad for immigrants. This is not the same everywhere. For example, in California it is different because of the strength of the movement there. There are communities there where the ICE never enters, communities where many more people are caught up in the courts, yet are able to stay in the U.S. and not be deported.

In Southeast Michigan, we must speak out, rally, flyer and do what ever is necessary to fight to stop every deportation and get the ICE out of here. We must organize everyone not to sign anything or to say anything if they are picked up by the ICE until they have an attorney and can contact BAMN, so that we can do what is necessary to stop the deportation.

In the spring of 2006, millions of people, led by undocumented immigrants, most of them young and Latina/o, defeated the anti-immigrant bill HR4437. We need leadership again. BAMN is that leadership. In 2006, the fight was taken out of the shadows and into the streets. The fight to keep our undocumented brothers and sisters here must also be taken out of the shadows and into the public light. In federal criminal court, we cannot have plea deals that quietly go under the rug while people who should be treated like citizens are made to serve prison time or deported or both. BAMN defines a citizen as a person who lives, works or goes to school and contributes in a certain place. Documentation or no documentation, Alfredo and Francisco are American Citizens and Mexican Citizens. We are all treated equal or none of us are treated equal.

While the current deferment policy for youth is a victory, it is not nearly enough, and comes just before the 2012 Presidential election to try to cool things off with the Latino/a community. But to win bigger and longer lasting victories, we need to heat things up. In 2006, the fight for immigrant rights stopped because the movement followed the advise of the the mis-leaders who said “Today we march, Tomorrow we vote.” And our faith went into the elections of Obama, and not into the power of the movement that got him there. We, the movement, undocumented people yearning to breathe free, must learn from that lessen of 2006 and not repeat it. We have to keep the *faith in ourselves*. That is where our real power lies, independent from both the republicans and the democrats. There have been more deportations lately than any other time in modern U.S. history. We have to draw the line here.

If we can defend Francisco and Alfredo, and our other brothers and sisters in this situation we can begin to stop the kidnapping and stealing of our family and friends and change the immigration laws to fit the reality of our lives.

READ AND SHARE THIS INFORMATION!!!!

If you are arrested by the ICE:

1. **Do not say anything** to the ICE, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Police or any City or County or and other law enforcement
2. **Do not sign anything.** They will tell any type of lie to get you to sign your own deportation papers. They will say “You will be deported either way,” “They will sign it for you if you do not,” “They will deport your kids if you do not sign,” anything to scare and intimidate you into signing. Its all a lie, do not trust them!
3. **Contact BAMN.** We need to make these cases public. There is no reason why the federal criminal courts should be in immigration, and we can stop cases from being brought to federal criminal court if we bring these cases and bring our fight out of the shadows, tell the truth about how racist these law are and how the government is cynically deporting people who they know will righteously come right back just so they can exploit Mexican laborers and keep Mexican and other Latin American immigrants as second-class citizens.
4. *People may know a person who cooperated with the police and were not deported. But that happened one in a hundred times. The police use that person to make other people feel like they have a chance if they work with the police and it is just not true.*

The Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, & Immigrant Rights, and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) www.BAMN.com

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