

For Immediate Release
July 26, 2006

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Community Organizations to Hold a Public Hearing on the Impact of Border Militarization

Tucson—On August 17, 2006, allied organizations will hold a Public Hearing entitled: **“Communities on the Line: Impacts of Militarization and Impunity.”** The panel, presided over by Congressman Raúl Grijalva and other community leaders, will receive testimony about the impact of border and immigration enforcement strategies. The hearing will serve to help document the effects that immigration policing, more than twelve years of border militarization and related political, social, and economic policies, practices, initiatives and laws are having on the rights, livelihood, services, and health of immigrants, refugees, and communities of color in the United States.

Members of the community and organizations are invited to attend and participate in the community hearing, which will be held at Armory Park Community Center Ballroom on **Thursday, August 17, 2006, 6:00-9:00 p.m.** The event is free and open to the public.

The purpose of the hearing is to bring together the voices and recommendations of communities on the U.S.-México border, including Indigenous peoples, the foreign-born, migrants, communities of color and working people to expose the impacts of so-called “border security” policies, and propose alternatives and solutions to border militarization and its intended and unintended consequences.

“The exclusionary and one-sided Congressional hearings are being staged across the southwest to justify more failed border enforcement and are clearly an election year ploy,” says Violeta Dominguez of Alianza Braceroproa. “They have made no effort to include a broad range of community voices and there is absolutely no space for dialogue about the violence and suffering these border policing strategies have inflicted on our communities.”

The hearing is part of a critical national effort to educate and mobilize members of communities, the public at large, voters and elected officials on the mounting threat current and pending immigration legislation poses to the rights, well-being and safety of our communities. Results and recommendations of the hearing will be presented to local, state and federal elected officials and policy-makers, community members and leaders, and partners and allies as part of demanding just and fair immigration reforms.

This hearing is one of a series of community hearings, activities and actions being convened during August and September in Arizona, California, Washington state, Michigan, Florida and New York in coordination with the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and members of the Rights Working Group, an alliance of immigrant rights, civil liberties, civil rights, human rights and immigrant community organizations working to restore and protect civil liberties.

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