



**Coalición de Derechos Humanos**  
**Alianza Indígena Sin Fronteras**  
Post Office Box 1286  
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For Immediate Release  
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## **Community Decries Tucson Police Department Racial Profiling Actions**

On Monday, November 14, 2005 at approximately 6:30am, the Tucson Police Department and the Border Patrol executed a sweep in which 23 individuals were rounded up, taken to an alley and searched. A witness reports that individuals were thrown to the ground, and some were kicked. Two of the detained individuals who were able to prove their immigration status were released and then reported the incident to Coalición de Derechos Humanos.

Tucson Police Department initially contacted Border Patrol, who in turn requested backup of TPD for execution of the sweep, which was provided in the form of two bicycle officers and a sergeant. This action is in direct violation of the policy that Tucson Police Department has maintained of not enforcing immigration laws.

As stated in TPD's policy on racial profiling: *"Except where race or ethnicity is part of an identifying description or characteristic of a possible suspect, any consideration by members of the agency of race or ethnicity in deciding whether to stop, question, search, or arrest a person constitutes racial profiling and is expressly prohibited."* It is quite clear that the individuals rounded up on November 14<sup>th</sup> were, in fact, detained because of their race or ethnicity, and the decision by TPD to contact Border Patrol was not through any information or intelligence that was in fact in possession of TPD.

"All individuals in the United States have a right to live free of unreasonable search and seizures" stated Isabel Garcia, Co-chair of Coalición de Derechos Humanos. "The fact that these individuals were rounded up en masse without any individual regard in a Border Patrol sweep that was initiated by TPD is absolutely unacceptable. We cannot allow these practices of racial profiling in communities of color to continue. This incident is alarmingly similar to the joint actions of Chandler Police Department and the Border Patrol several years ago, which was widely condemned by then Attorney General Grant Woods."

The actions of Tucson Police Department and the Border Patrol are an assault on the Tucson community at large, and are a clear indication that there is cooperation between police and Border Patrol, despite what the official stance is. Such practices are a threat to the necessary community relations that must exist between law enforcement and local communities.

Coalición de Derechos Humanos/Alianza Indígena Sin Fronteras calls for all people of conscience join us in condemning the actions of the Tucson Police Department and Border Patrol. Our community must have trust in its police agencies in order to maintain public safety. By engaging in practices of racial profiling and overstepping the bounds of enforcement jurisdiction, Tucson Police Department sends a message of racism and intolerance.

Please voice your concern over these alarming practices of racial profiling on the part of TPD and Border Patrol!

Office of Professional Standards at the Tucson Police Department: 520.791.4426  
Office of Professional Responsibility, US Border Patrol: 520.407.2200

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