

MIGRA PATROL-COPWATCH

For Immediate Release

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MIGRA PATROL-COPWATCH IS POLICING THE POLICE

Migra Patrol-Copwatch is a volunteer-run monitoring project that uses video and photo to document local law enforcement agencies' and the Border Patrol's interactions with the public to ensure that they respect and honor civil and human rights. Migra Patrol-Copwatch was formed as collaboration with Coalición de Derechos Humanos and Pan Left over 12 years ago. We have ramped up our patrols and participation is growing in response to a **visible increase in collaboration between local law enforcement and Border Patrol**, as well as the **use of minor traffic violations by police as a strategy to check immigration status** and increase deportations.

Migra-Patrol Copwatch is operating in partnership with Yo Soy Testigo campaign. When calls are received at the Yo Soy Testigo 24 hour hotline 520-261-5890, volunteers who are available will head to the site immediately with cameras to monitor and document racial profiling and abuses that occur.

By sharing footage with the media and over the internet, Migra Patrol-Copwatch also seeks to bring broader public attention to the fear and intimidation experienced regularly by many people living in Tucson, especially on the South side – citizens and U.S. residents as well as undocumented immigrants.

Footage already taken by members of the group in the month of August has captured scenes of police and Border Patrol collaboration, the detention of a woman with a legal visa to be in the U.S., and the separation of families as Border Patrol detains parents in front of their children. (Footage included in press kit). This documentation by Migra Patrol-Copwatch demonstrates that targeting of Latinos and immigrants and collaboration with Border Patrol by city and county law enforcement existed in our communities before S.B.1070 and has continued even with the partial injunction of S.B.1070.

Call the Yo Soy Testigo hotline at 520-261-5890 if witnessing a stop or detention in progress that involves Border Patrol. To get involved please e-mail migrapatrol.copwatch@gmail.com or call 520-344-3270. Training is provided and patrols go out in groups.

We demand an end to racial profiling and collaboration between local law enforcement and Border Patrol. We are calling on the broader community to join us in this work

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