



Coalición de Derechos Humanos

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PRESS CONFERENCE:

STOP THE WAR ON IMMIGRANTS!

*Communities urge an end to Operation Streamline and the
criminal prosecution of immigrants in the federal court*

APRIL 3, 2008 at 11 AM

**EVO DE CONCINI U. S. DISTRICT COURT
W. BROADWAY, TUCSON, ARIZONA**

Tucson- Community groups will gather at the steps of the federal courthouse in Tucson, Arizona, to call for a halt of the Border Patrol Tucson Sector's version of Operation Streamline, "Arizona Prosecution Denial Initiative," (APDI). After more than a decade of an ever-growing prosecution of immigrants for illegal entry and re-entry, and after several months of meetings with the court and the U. S. Attorney's Office, on January 14, 2008, the Border Patrol announced the launch of APDI, a project aimed at criminally prosecuting an even larger number of immigrants.

Under an "expedited" procedure, which undermines the principles that are the foundation of the U.S. criminal justice system, immigrants are now "processed" through a criminal prosecution and sentenced all within one day, with court proceedings taking approximately one minute per person. Though the program began with 40 immigrants per day, it has been increased to 60 per day with a goal of reaching 100 per day within the next few weeks. As a result, hundreds of immigrants have endured unacceptable conditions while in detention, from lack of sleep, proper bedding, adequate food, water, and medical care, and who emerge with a criminal conviction that will preclude them from future ability to return to the U.S., even though many have their families here. Many are receiving sentences ranging from time-served to 180 days in the for-profit prison, Correction Corporation of America (CCA).

The plan to transfer proceedings onto Davis Monthan Air Force Base, where the Border Patrol has its headquarters and detention center, has now been called off, citing lack of adequate facilities and technology, to possibly be re-visited in the future. Derechos Humanos applauds the refusal to proceed with this dangerous move, and urge that it not be pursued in the future.

"Operation Streamline is simply an irresponsible, brutal, and extremely expensive response to the issues surrounding immigration. We ask the public to take note of the total lack of any deterrent value, which they cite as the justification, and especially of the enormous price tag paid with our tax dollars, while our families suffer from lack of medical services, schools, jobs, and other needed services" states Isabel Garcia of Coalición de Derechos Humanos.

"We cannot continue to allow these private corporations to be the winners in this 'war-on-immigrants' being waged in our communities,"

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