



Coalición de Derechos Humanos  
 c/o Arizona Border Rights Foundation  
 P.O. Box 1286  
 Tucson, AZ 85702

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Calendar of Upcoming Events & Activities

International Human Rights Day  
 December 10, 2009

International Day of the Migrant  
 December 18, 2009

March Against Sheriff Arpaio  
 in Phoenix, Arizona!  
 January 16, 2010

Save the Date!!  
 Corazon de Justicia Awards Dinner  
 February 19, 2010



**ABUSE CLINIC**  
 Every Tuesday & Friday  
**5:30-7:00 p.m.**  
 631 S. 6th Avenue

Meet with  
 us to discuss  
 your issues  
 involving:



- \* Law Enforcement Abuses (Police, Border Patrol, Sheriff)
- \* Labor Abuses
- \* Housing Problems
- \* Discrimination
- \* Vigilante and Hate Group Abuse

**Tel: 520.770.1373**

Our meetings are held  
**every Thursday**  
**5:30pm-6:45pm**  
**Sam Lena Library**  
 (1607 S. 6th Avenue)  
 Meetings are free and  
 open to the community.



# Coalición de Derechos Humanos

¡ Ningún Ser Humano es Ilegal! ~~~ No Human Being is Illegal!

Volume 1, Issue 2

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2009

## In this Issue:

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Upcoming Events!

## Isabel García receives the Ohtli

On November 12, 2009, Isabel Garcia received the Ohtli Award from the Institute for the Mexicans Abroad (IME). The ceremony took place during the XIV Ordinary Meeting of IME's Advisory Council held at Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. Ohtli means "path" in Nahuatl. IME annually hands this acknowledgment to all those who promote the well being of Mexican nationals living abroad and make way for future generations so they can encounter better courses to follow.



Isabel Garcia receives the Ohtli from Cándido Morales, Director of the IME

Past recipients of this award includes Dolores Huerta, founder of the National Farm Workers Association, Eduardo Peña, former LULAC president and Tommy Espinoza, former president of Chicanos por la Causa, as well as Richard Fimbres, elected member of the Tucson City Council.

See page 3 for more photos

## International Human Rights Day and International Day of the Migrant

International Human Rights Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Over the years, a whole network of human rights instruments and mechanisms has been developed to ensure the primacy of human rights and to confront human rights violations wherever they occur.



The UN Convention on Migrant Workers' Rights is the most comprehensive international treaty in the field of migration and human rights. Adopted in 1990 and entered into force in 2003, it sets a standard in terms of access to human rights for migrants. However, it suffers from a marked indifference: only forty states have ratified it and no major immigration country has done so.

## Our Mission

Coalición de Derechos Humanos is a grassroots organization that promotes respect for human/civil rights and fights the militarization of the Southern Border region, discrimination, and human rights abuses by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials affecting U.S. and non-U.S. citizens alike.

## Bracero Struggle Continues

More than 10 years ago, former Mexican guest workers also known as braceros began their struggle to recuperate money that was stolen from them after working in the U.S. with temporary work permits. As part of their participation in the Bracero Program (1942-1964) a savings fund was created from a 10% deduction of these workers' salaries. Most braceros never received this money from the Mexican national banks that managed it, and since 1998 they have been fighting to recuperate their savings fund.

After many years of organized struggle, the Mexican government ultimately conceded to paying braceros the equivalent of \$3500 as 'social aid.' Although it was no small victory for the bracero movement to get back at least part of this stolen money from the Mexican government, the road to distributing this 'aid' has been fraught with numerous injustices. Thousands of braceros or their descendants have been left out of this process as they could not meet the government's requirement of showing documentation that proves their participation in the Bracero Program. The majority of those that were lucky enough to keep their documents and register to receive the "social aid" continue to fight the Mexican government's unwillingness to do them justice: in a recent move, the committee that oversees the budget to pay the braceros decided that it would pay them in yearly installments of--hard to believe but true--\$400.

*Continued on page 3*

Derechos Humanos invites you to a weekly

## Community Vigil



Every Thursday  
at 7:00 pm

El Tiradito Shrine  
(on Main St, between  
Simpson & Cushing Street)

Join us as we remember our sisters and brothers who perish or are lost in the desert every day, and discuss the growing concerns over U.S. Immigration and border policies.

## Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior meet in Guadalajara

Dr. Anna Ochoa O'Leary, Steering Committee member of Derechos Humanos, recently attended a bi-annual meeting of the Consejo Consultivo del Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior (CC-IME), in Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. The CC-IME is an organization of more than 100 community leaders living in the U.S. and Canada, and was established as a way to better understand the challenges and opportunities that affect Mexican nationals living abroad.

A goal of this national advisory organization is to propose to the Mexican Government and its institutions strategies and actions that can improve the lives and conditions of its co-nationals. In 2008, Anna was elected from several candidates put forth by local organizations within the Tucson consular areas. Her term as consejera (advisor) will run until December of 2011.

Within the CC-IME, Anna coordinates the activities of the Border Issues commission, Comisión de Asuntos Fronterizos. One of the objectives of the meeting in Guadalajara on November 12-13 was for the various commissions to identify and develop recommendations to the Mexican government. For the 2009-2011 term, the Comisión de Asuntos Fronterizos has outlined a total of nine projects, most of which involve proposals for action on behalf of Mexican nationals in the U.S. These include:

- Request that the Mexican government to monitor and share information about Operation Streamline so that through the various mediums, public awareness of this process is increased.
- Communities mobilize against the further build-up of the wall between the U.S. and Mexico. A declaration in opposition to the wall was created and will be made available to community leaders throughout the U.S.
- Increase the availability of Plazas Comunitarias (online learning programs) in south Texas colonias
- Recommend that the Programa Paisano be extended and limits on the value for importation of goods into Mexico be increased.

You can learn more about the work and achievements of the IME by logging on to the CC-IME webpage at <http://www.ime.gob.mx/>

# Support Our Work!

Dear Friends:

As a person of conscience, I find myself contemplating about how I want to invest my energy for social justice. I ask myself, "Am I doing enough? Am I really making a difference? Will this ever get better?" It can be overwhelming as the community reports injustices to our office on a daily basis. For years you have walked and marched with us and know the trauma and damage inspired by xenophobic immigration enforcement and unjust economic policies that continuously violate the human rights of our brothers and sisters.

But there is hope and our most recent victories and upcoming opportunities have only happened because of your action and accompaniment. Recently we joined the Basta Dobbs Campaign to demand that Lou Dobbs' dangerous anti-immigrant rhetoric be removed from CNN. As a result, last month Lou Dobbs announced his resignation from the very profitable news network.

Derechos Humanos is constantly moving forward in a sociopolitical climate that would prefer we stop. **Invest your energy in Derechos Humanos today!** Your generous donation of **\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100** or more will allow us to continue our important work. We appreciate your support, and look forward to your accompaniment in upcoming marches, vigils, and other events.

In Solidarity,  
Lynda "Cruz" Cruz,  
Development Coordinator  
520.770.1373  
cruz@derechoshumanosaz.net

## Did you know?

We offer an internship opportunity through the University of Arizona with the Department of Mexican American Studies and Raza Studies. Interns can earn college credit while working to create social change in their community. Interested? Call us for more info!  
520.770.1373

## Wish List

Letter and legal size white paper  
Poster Sized Paper  
Multi-Color Paper any size  
Manila Envelopes  
White Envelopes  
Dry Erase Markers  
2 pocket folders with or without prongs  
Paper Towels  
Cleaning Supplies  
Ink Cartridges for HP C3150, HP 7350, HP 6310, and Cannon i960  
Office Max or Staples Gift Cards  
Gas Cards Much Appreciated

Monetary and in-kind donations can be dropped off at our office

**Monday through Friday**  
**from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**  
at 631 S 6th Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85705

## In-Kind Donations

Help us save money on much needed office supplies by donating them to us! Let us help you host a small or large get together or party and ask guests to bring office supplies or donations for Derechos Humanos.



*Dr. Anna Ochoa O'Leary,  
Marcos Santana,  
and Isabel Garcia*



*CC-IME/ Comisión de Asuntos Fronterizos*



*Braceros, continued from page 2*

Coalición de Derechos Humanos provided instrumental support in the organization of the first meeting of ex-braceros in Tucson in 2005. Since then, Derechos Humanos has continuously supported the local bracero group that today identifies as Alianza de Ex Braceros del Norte 1942-1964, Tucson. Their fight is strong and continues until all braceros see some kind of justice while they are alive. At the November meeting, the oldest member of the local group, Alberto Valenzuela, celebrated his 95th birthday. At the pace the Mexican government wants to pay him, he would be 105 by the time he receives his last installment.

For more information on the local group please email [dominguez.violeta@gmail.com](mailto:dominguez.violeta@gmail.com)