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Media Advisory
Live Webcast

Lawsuit Challenges Secrecy of ICE Program, Rights Groups Say Heightened Local, State Police Collaboration is Dangerous

FOIA Lawsuit Filed, Launch of National Campaign Exposing ICE Enforcement Program Advocates Say Has Devastating Effect on Community Safety

Washington, DC – The National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), the Immigration Justice Clinic of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, advocates and community members will hold a **press conference in Washington, DC and webcasted live at www.UncovertheTruth.org on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** announcing a lawsuit demanding records related to the little-known United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) program “Secure Communities.” The program further embroils local and state law enforcement agencies in federal immigration enforcement. The press conference will also launch “Uncovering the Truth,” a weeklong national campaign of coordinated actions and advocacy.

“ICE’s so-called Secure Communities program is growing at an alarming rate—more than 150 jurisdictions so far—without public knowledge or discourse,” said **CCR attorney Sunita Patel**. “S.B. 1070 and the recent, dangerous ICE raids in Arizona have already proven that ICE and local or state police collaboration will only further erode public trust in law enforcement, systematize racial profiling, create incentives for illegal arrests and prevent police from doing their job, failing to keep our communities safe.”

- WHAT:** Press conference announcing FOIA lawsuit and launch of “Uncovering the Truth” week of coordinated action
- WHEN:** April 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** The Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. and streaming at www.UncovertheTruth.org
- WHO:** **Ron Hampton**, National Black Police Association Executive Director; **Ben Jealous**, NAACP, President and CEO (Invited); **Pablo Alvarado**, NDLON Executive Director; **Jaime Contreras**, 32BJ SEIU Capitol Area Director & District Chair; **Sunita Patel**, CCR Attorney; **Johnny Barnes**, Executive Director of the National Capitol Area ACLU; **Sameera Hafiz**, Legal Momentum Senior Staff Attorney

For more information on the Secure Communities program and the FOIA request, media contacts, press conferences and events (listed below) visit www.UncovertheTruth.org. Follow the campaign on Twitter by searching for #StopICE.

The Center for Constitutional Rights is dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South, CCR is a non-profit legal and educational organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change. Visit www.ccrjustice.org.

The mission of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network is to improve the lives of day laborers in the U.S. by unifying and strengthening its member organizations to be more strategic and effective in their efforts to develop leadership, mobilize day laborers in order to protect and expand their civil, labor and human rights. Visit www.ndlon.org.

The Immigration Justice Clinic of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law was founded in 2008 to provide quality pro bono legal representation to indigent immigrants facing deportation. Under the supervision of experienced practitioners, law students in the Clinic represent individuals facing deportation and community-based organizations in public advocacy, media and litigation projects. Visit www.cardozo.yu.edu.

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