

Puente Press Advisory

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Good Step, More Action Needed! US Department of Justice Files Lawsuit Against SB1070

Reactions from Human Rights Leaders in Arizona

The **Puente Movement** who recently organized a 100,000-person march in resistance to SB1070 responded to the US Department of Justice filing suit against SB1070 by recognizing that the Obama administration has taken a step in the right direction, but can take more decisive action to alleviate the human rights crisis in Arizona.

In addition to a legal challenge, the federal government must unequivocally assert that immigration enforcement is the sole responsibility of the federal government. The Puente Movement and communities in Arizona demand that the administration cancel all ICE ACCESS programs such as 287(g), Secure Communities and CAP until the lawsuit is settled. The federal outsourcing of immigration enforcement paved the way for draconian and misguided laws like SB1070 and take responsibility and action to terminate the programs.

Salvador Reza, Community Organizer, Puente:

“The Obama Administration can end SB1070 immediately by canceling the ICE ACCESS federal enforcement programs in the state of Arizona. By deciding not to collaborate with this law, the Federal Government can end this terror. The only way this law can racially profile and discriminate our community is with the help of the Federal Government.”

Carlos Garcia, Community Organizer, Puente:

“We have learned through experience that the federal government's contradictions lead to dangerous consequences. While the President tells the American public that immigration is the responsibility of the federal government, not the states, his administration simultaneously outsources immigration enforcement to cities and states. While the

Department of Justice investigates Sheriff Arpaio for grave civil rights abuses, the Department of Homeland Security collaborates and colludes with him to continue to terrorize communities. We cannot allow the same to happen with SB 1070. The administration must decide to challenge the law in the courts but also administratively cancel their federal enforcement programs in the state.”

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