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Date: May 25

Media Availabilities for Immigrant Rights Leaders in Arizona

NDLON reaction to President's Announcement on Troops to Border

The following is a statement by Pablo Alvarado, director of the National Day Laborer Organizing in reaction to reports of the President's plan to send National Guard troops to the Arizona border:

"We are outraged. Instead of addressing a domestic human rights crisis, the president appears to be caving into extremists who are further shattering and already broken immigration system. Any legitimate concerns about border security cannot be resolved until undocumented people are given full equality in our society. If he wants to improve security in Arizona, the first step he should take is to revoke all Department of Homeland Security agreements with local police and sheriffs which have diverted scarce resources, divided the country unnecessarily, and brought terror to the very people required to report crimes to law enforcement agents. Republicans continue to poison the immigration debate by implying that immigrant communities constitute a security threat to the country. President Obama must use his office to repudiate, not reinforce, this position. Criminalization and legalization of immigrant communities are mutually exclusive goals, and the President must make his position clear. President Obama must demonstrate leadership and moral courage to modernize immigration laws and make them consistent with cherished national values. In actions and words, he must show that he is up to the challenge. We reiterate our call on the President to use his authority to block 1070's implementation immediately."

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