



105 CHAUNCY STREET
9TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02111
VOICE: 617.350.5480
FAX: 617.350.5499
WWW.MIRACOALITION.ORG

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TO: Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation
FROM: Ali Noorani, Executive Director
RE: U.S. I.C.E. Raids in New Bedford, MA

On behalf of the organizations working to assist the immigrant community of New Bedford following the March 6, 2007 devastating raids conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, thank you for spending time with the victims today. Your leadership is absolutely critical to make sure the families impacted by this raid are served and protected.

I also must add that the initiative of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick in mobilizing the Commonwealth's Health and Human Services agencies to secure the safety and health of the child victims of this raid has been inspirational and critical. We thank him for his leadership at this key moment.

When you return to your offices in Washington DC, we respectfully request your assistance on the following matters:

1. Immediate introduction of a fair, just comprehensive immigration reform package
2. Immediately secure the release of the mothers whose children are ill
3. Force ICE to provide the New Bedford community information on where detainees are being held and ensure the access of immigration attorneys to identified facilities
4. Secure release without bond of mothers and fathers whose children (regardless of age) remain in New Bedford, and all those without outstanding orders of removal
5. Legislation to require ICE to make available to families the location of a detainee within 24 hours of arrest and prohibit ICE from transporting a detainee across state lines within 7 days of arrest
6. A federal investigation of the March 6, 2007 raids, highlighting the legality of the interrogations, the treatment of detainees - especially pregnant women and minors - during the raid, during transport, and at detention centers.
7. Secure federal funding to support the increased resources spent by the state to assist victims of these raids
8. Call for a federal investigation of wage and hour, and other worksite related violations committed against all workers by Michael Bianco, Inc.