

## ***Washtenaw County Interfaith Coalition for Immigration Rights***

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Dear Mr. Ricardo Wong, and Mr. Vincent J. Clausen,

Last night, 3/17/08, the Washtenaw County Interfaith Coalition for Immigration Rights called an emergency community meeting in response to a series of raids by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) of particularly Latin American immigrants in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti community. We know of numerous raids where ICE has unlawfully and aggressively entered private residences, used violence and threats in detaining people, terrorized young children by attacking their parents in front of them, separated families, yelled at and verbally abused people, stolen identification, ransacked peoples' private property, used excessive intimidation, etc. We are outraged and will not accept or tolerate inhumane treatment of anyone in our community!

Last night approximately 50 of us came together within 12 hours of being informed of these horrific raids. We are a largely-networked, morally-conscious group of people, and many of us are people of faith from a multitude of area churches and organizations. We believe these raids are morally unjust and a clear violation of human rights. We are deeply disturbed that this is going on in our community and will respond to these violations publicly and passionately. We are motivated to action by the God-given rights of all people to live in a safe and just society.

We are sending a group of people to your office of Immigration in Detroit today to post bond for a member of our community who was attacked and detained on Sunday, 3/16/08. We request that this man be released and allowed to rejoin his family to make plans that address his status and protect his family from further harm.

Thank you for your attention to this very urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Laura Sanders, Margaret Harner, and the members of the Interfaith Coalition for Immigration Rights from the following organizations:

The First Congregational Church of Christ in Ypsilanti      Latinos Unidos of Michigan  
The Ann Arbor Friends Quaker Meeting      The American Friends Service Committee  
The First Methodist Church of Ypsilanti      The Washtenaw County Worker's Center  
The First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor      The Washtenaw Faith Action Coalition  
St. Mary's Catholic Student Parish      The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice  
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor      LASED, Inc.  
St. Francis Catholic Church of Ann Arbor      Webster United Church of Christ  
Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development, Inc.  
Pineview Church of Ypsilanti  
Faculty and students of the University of Michigan School of Social Work