

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local immigrant rights groups call for real immigration reform

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Westlake Park, Seattle, WA—November 30th, 2009; 4:00 p.m.

On the anniversary of the 1999 WTO trade talks and the powerful resistance seen on Seattle's streets ten years ago, the Washington Immigrant Rights Action Coalition (WA-IRAC), in conjunction with the Seattle+10 Organizing Committee, will hold a rally at 4:00pm on Monday, November 30th at Westlake Park.

WA-IRAC and its allies will stand together on November 30th to expose and give voice to the often unheard and unseen attacks being made nationally and locally on immigrant communities, to call for real immigration reform now, and to demand a moratorium on the continuation of the current unjust and cruel policies of enforcement.

The spectacular raids of the last administration were well documented by the media and received rampant public commentary. Workplaces, families, and communities were systematically destroyed as these workers were dismissed, detained, and often deported.

While there is hope the Obama administration will change the status quo, there has only been a change in tactics. The I-9 audits, 287g agreements, e-verify programs, and other policies of enforcement, while quieter and less public are just as violent and bear the same consequences for workers and their families. These new tactics neither protect communities nor provide the necessary reforms to our broken immigration system.

The trade policies of the United States have continued to destroy economies in the Americas and elsewhere, creating waves of economic refugees crossing borders into this country. Despite their role in these migrations, the United States government continues to criminalize and terrorize these immigrant communities.

The Washington Immigrant Rights Action Coalition is a group of local labor, religious, and community organizations working together to reform the immigration policies affecting local communities and to educate the public on issues of immigration and immigration enforcement.

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