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# RESIST



## Not One More!

*A movement rallies around a simple demand...*

*By the Puente Movement*

Every Tuesday night, people with family members enmeshed in the deportation system come together at the Puente Movement office to provide each other moral support, tips for navigating the complicated immigration legal system, and to help strategize next steps in the fight to stop deportations.

One Tuesday in early February, Anselma Lopez, who cares for her son's two young children, as he has been detained and facing deportation for nearly three years, was denied adequate healthcare for lingering medical concerns from an improperly treated wound. She said "enough was enough" and announced to the room of approximately 15 adults and a handful of kids with whom she had been gathering weekly for nearly a year, that she was going to go on a hunger strike to free her son. "If he gets deported, at least I want to be able to say I did everything in my power to get him free first," she proclaimed.

Within two weeks, Anselma and four other members of the Puente Movement with loved ones in detention were camped in front of the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) offices in Central Phoenix. They, like Anselma, were willing to put their bodies on the



*A banner carried during many of the protests and actions organized by the Puente Movement in Arizona.*

line in order to reunite their families and take a stand against the system of mass detention and deportation that has grown as all forms of incarceration have reached record highs in the US. This action was part of a growing movement for "#Not1More Deportation." It grew out of one of the key local components of the campaign to call on President Obama to take administrative action to stop deportations: Uno por Uno, or One by One, a tactic that emerged out of direct community need.

About 1,100 immigrants are deported across the US every day. As more and more of our community were being swept up into the deportation dragnet, we realized the need to stop our community from hemorrhaging and to show the world that deportation is a humanitarian crisis by tackling inhumane enforcement and attrition policies that led to our suffering in the first place.

The tactic of fighting individual de-

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**INSIDE:**

## Not One More

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portation cases through a combination of legal advocacy, storytelling by those impacted by deportation, political pressure, and grassroots action and organizing has been extremely effective. We have stopped the deportations of nearly 100 people since January 2013, through the strength of our Tuesday night meetings and the community of people impacted by deportation that have formed through this space.

The #Not1More campaign started in one of our weekly general meetings, as the push for congressional immigration reform was heating up in early 2013. We asked our members, the majority of whom are undocumented or who are a part of mixed status families, what they most wanted to see in terms of policy change at a national level. Everyone in the room agreed: the thing that would make the most concrete, immediate difference in their lives was to no longer have to live in fear of deportation.

Arizona is notorious for being a laboratory for anti-migrant policies and laws, from a 1996 law requiring proof of citizenship to get a driver's license, through the current racial profiling and

ever-widening deportation dragnet of notorious Sheriff Arpaio and SB1070. We live and work and care for our families in the belly of the anti-migrant beast, which has uniquely placed us to lead the way in terms of building a creative and resilient movement for dignity and inclusion that centers those of us most directly impacted by the hate and racism we are up against. What starts in Arizona soon spreads across the country, as we have seen with the President's oversight of Arpaio-like national policies and the spreading of state anti-immigrant laws like SB1070, but also with our model of building a movement and community that is more powerful than the laws and hate directed our way.

The hunger strike in front of the Phoenix ICE Field office took many twists and turns. Our loved ones in immigrant detention stopped eating in protest as well, and were placed in solitary confinement for organizing others to hunger strike with them. Anselma was hospitalized after not eating for 12 days, facing permanent damage to her body for fighting for her son with everything she had. One of the strikers' sons was deported in the middle of the night, with no notice, as retaliation for organizing inside. At the

same time, the Phoenix police raided our encampment and destroyed all of our supplies, and unjustly arrested three community members there in support of the strikers. Even after that raid, without sleeping bags, tents, or chairs, and heartbroken by the deportation of one of the people we were fighting for, we continued a 24-hour-a-day presence in

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*"No Papers, No Fear" has been one of the powerful rallying cries of the migrant rights movement. It beautifully signifies in just four words the brave work on those on the frontlines of the movement.*

# Opening Not Just the Door, but Our Hearts

## *Resisting the Detention and Deportation Machine in Texas*

By Cristina Parker and Bob Libal

The national debate over the US immigration detention and deportation system has come into sharp focus with the response to the Central American children and families who are fleeing violence and persecution to seek asylum at the US-Mexico border. Responding to this humanitarian crisis will require relief efforts to support the women and children and organizing and advocacy against proposals to detain and deport them.

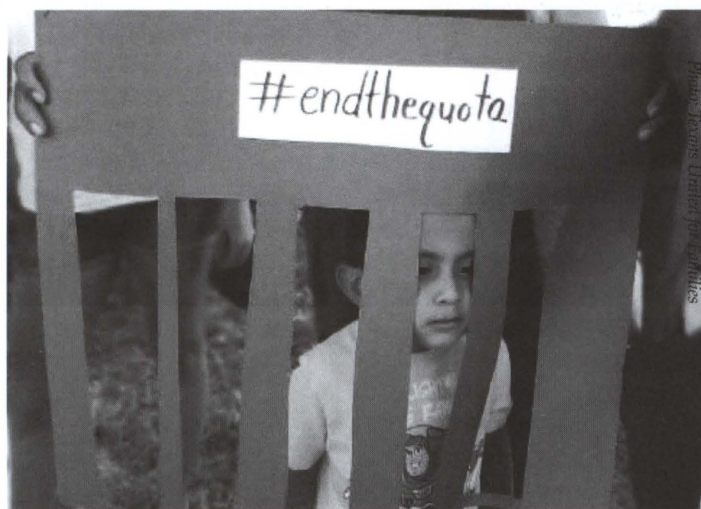
As we face this crisis, we are encouraged by the fact that there is a powerful immigrant rights movement here in Texas and beyond that is pushing for an end to detention and deportation on multiple fronts. Part of this movement has galvanized under the banner of Not One More/Ni Una Más by pushing to stop the deportations that result from local police collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

In progressive Austin, Texas, undocumented members of the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition and their allies have led a campaign to push the County Sheriff's Office to end its use of ICE detainers under the misnamed "Secure Communities" (S-Comm) program. That local grassroots campaign — called "19 Too Many/19 Demasiados" for the 19 immigrants who are deported every week from Travis County because of S-Comm — recently won a 7-0 vote in the Austin City Council to recommend ending the program and find ways to stop city funding from supporting it.

Meanwhile, immigrants in detention and their allies outside have simultaneously organized for an end the immigrant detention quota that mandates that 34,000 immigrants are locked up every single day. The quota is set by Congress and directly benefits a private prison industry that invests heavily in lobbying the

appropriations committee to keep the quota. The advocates who are fighting back against this quota include members of Texans United for Families. We have taken on this fight because we recognize that immigrant detention — which is a human rights violation in and of itself — is driving the record-breaking deportations of the last seven years.

It is in this climate of organizing and



*"Texans United for Families (TUFF) is a network of social service, legal, advocacy, student, and community groups and individuals working to end immigration detention and to demand the recognition of human rights for all, regardless of immigration status."*

advocacy against detention and deportation that we watched as communities in South Texas and beyond have launched an inspiring response to the humanitarian crisis by opening their arms to provide shelter, clothes, and resources to unaccompanied children and families seeking to resettle.

However, we have to acknowledge that the obstacles we face are real. President Barack Obama, Texas Governor Rick Perry, and others have irresponsibly called the influx of those seeking asylum at the border an issue of failed immigration reform. But this obscures the truth about the families who are coming to the border. The fact is these asylum-seekers are fleeing violence and terror in their home countries that has often been driven by US policy abroad.

Making things worse, the Obama

administration has just requested an additional \$3.7 billion that would mostly be spent on border enforcement, detention, and deportation. The request comes despite the fact that federal spending on immigration enforcement already surpasses all other federal law enforcement activities combined. A call for the swift deportation of immigrant children has been embraced by some members of both parties. Shamefully this includes Texans Senator John Cornyn and Representative Henry Cuellar who introduced the "Humane Act," a misnomer for legislation that would expedite the deportation of children by gutting a 2008 law meant to protect victims of human trafficking.

Furthermore, included in the administration's supplemental spending request is \$897 million to detain and deport asylum-seeking families. Reports have emerged from DC that the administration may be considering more than 6,000 new family detention beds, a whopping increase from only 80 beds for families. The administration has already begun sending asylum-seeking refugee families to be housed at a Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico. On July 14, the administration callously announced the deportation from that facility of 38 mothers and children to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, the city with the world's highest murder rate.

We were disheartened in Texas to learn that family detention would not be confined to New Mexico and that the policy would be returning to our state. ICE announced on July 18 that the Karnes County Civil Detention Center, southeast of San Antonio, would be used to detain women and children as soon as August.

The detention of families at Artesia and Karnes are major setbacks in the fight against detention. Apparently, the

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# Victory!\*

*\*But the struggle against deportations continues*

By *Olneyville Neighborhood Association*

It is with overwhelming joy that we share the news that on July 17th, 2014, Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee signed an order directing our state's prisons and jails to end their practice of holding immigrant detainees for additional time in order to transfer them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The previous policy of accepting "ICE hold" resulted in unknown hundreds of our community members being unfairly held by Rhode Island authorities, sent to ICE, and deported, often separating them from family members in Rhode Island.

Following the order, Olneyville Neighborhood Associa-

tion (ONA) member Antonio Mejia was released after nearly seven months of detention on \$300 bail for the charge of driving without a license. Toño was arrested in Central Falls, Rhode Island, in December and sent to Rhode Island's state jail, where ICE placed a hold on him. Had Toño paid bail, he would have been sent to ICE and likely deported. Instead of accepting this fate, Toño made the courageous choice to stay and fight, organizing from behind bars to pressure Governor Chafee to end this unjust practice. This victory is a testament to Toño's courage, sacrifice, and faith in the power of organized communities to defend their rights and win justice.

with ICE holds if elected. The policy also comes out in the midst of a lawsuit: Ada Morales, a US citizen, has sued the State and ICE for twice being detained on an ICE hold. We celebrate this tremendous victory and the impact it will have on our communities; however, we also believe that for the hundreds who have been held and deported because of ICE holds, and for the tens of thousands who have had to live in fear for years that a routine traffic stop could lead to their deportation, that justice delayed is justice denied. Up until the night before the policy was issued, ICE was in our jail picking up members of our community.

Governor Chafee bears responsibility for maintaining the holds policy for years after this issue was brought to his



*Toño and supporters, leaving jail, free after seven months with an ICE hold.*

With the signing of this order, Rhode Island has implemented the strongest statewide policy in the country limiting collaboration with ICE. This policy comes on the heels of years of organizing against ICE holds by a strong coalition of organizations. After numerous meetings with the Governor and other state officials, delegations, forums, press conferences, marches, rallies, and call-ins, the state has finally taken action. The policy comes a month after leading gubernatorial candidates committed to ending compliance

attention. Even now, his office tells us that the policy was issued this week in order to protect the state from liability in the ongoing lawsuit. The Governor's foot-dragging and reluctant acceptance of community demands represents a missed opportunity for moral leadership at the highest levels of state government.

Rhode Island now joins over 160 jurisdictions in 20 states rejecting ICE holds. These figures represent the victories of a growing national movement challenging the collaboration of local law enforcement in President Obama's policy of mass deportation. We celebrate our win here in Rhode Island and at the same time recommit ourselves to the fight against deportation and the separation of families. We won't rest until our communities can live free from fear of deportation.

The Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA), a RESIST grantee, organizes low-income families, immigrants communities, and people of color in Olneyville and beyond to create a diverse, community-led movement that wins economic, social, and political justice.

## Note One More!

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front of the Phoenix ICE office for four more days, until one of the strikers' sons was finally released after several months in detention.

Our hunger strike, created by a mother's profound love for her son, began a chain reaction that led to escalating actions for #Not1More here in

of supposed advocates playing political games instead of listening to our community's demands, we showed up at the President's front door, demonstrating the power we have built through organizing to defend our families and changing the conversation to not *if* the President would take administrative action for our families, but *when*.

Our experience has taught us that true change will come only when we organize,

for their loved ones, and for trying to survive within the hostility and racism all around us. To us, #Not1More literally means not one more, period. Not one more family separated, not one more mother or father or neighbor behind bars, not one more day without justice for all of us.

*Puente Human Rights Movement, a RESIST grantee, is part of the global movement for*



*The immigrants rights movement, especially Puente, has been organizing various direct actions and has increasingly put their bodies on the line. Earlier in 2014, families held a hunger strike outside of the office building of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). They stated, "how far would you go to keep your family united? Families in Phoenix, Arizona will put their bodies on the line in efforts to get their children and spouses out of detention. Families will hold a hunger strike outside of ICE demanding the release of their loved ones in detention. Join us for the commencement of the hunger strike at ICE in Phoenix, Arizona."*

Arizona and across the country. Some of our members led a 3-day march to the detention center where their loved ones were held, blasting messages of hope and love across prison walls. Others traveled to Washington DC to lead a hunger strike of people entangled in the deportation crisis from across the country in front of the White House, effectively shifting the entire immigration debate. After years

act and speak for ourselves. We continue to fight against the mass incarceration of our community, the Obama Administration's record high deportations, and the web of police and ICE collaboration here in Arizona that entangles us in this crisis to begin with. Families still gather in our office every Tuesday night, many of whom have been called criminal for crossing borders, for working to provide

*migrant justice and human rights. As a grassroots community-based group Puente promotes justice, non-violence, interdependence and human dignity. We aim to develop, educate, and empower migrant communities to enhance their quality of life. Puente works to empower the community and build bridges by working collaboratively with various organizations and individuals.*

# Documenting the Undocumented

## *Blurring the lines between artist and activist*

By Maggie McManus

A group of people stand motionless, gazing forlornly through the metal bars surrounding the White House. No one acknowledges them, save the guard moving through them through the milling crowd. In one swift movement he lifts the little group up and into the nearby trashcan, pushing down the cardboard cutouts until they fit into the dark, dank space. These “people” were just as ignored and thrown away as the actual people they represent.

Undocumented immigrants often find themselves underrepresented in terms of positive and empowering messages. Often times the only information the general public receives about these individuals portrays them in the negative light of the mainstream media. Their humanity is lost amongst the cries for border protection and increased deportations. Though it seems unlikely when looking through the lens of the war on immigration, there are people in this country seeking change. Outside of policy reform, there is a need to call attention to the dehumanization of those seeking shelter on our soil.

Thankfully, many are attempting to break through utilizing the power of visual art. Ramiro Gomez is an Los Angeles based artist who focuses on infusing scenes of American culture with images of faceless human cutouts representative of the unrepresented undocumented. Favianna Rodriguez, the subject of the YouTube docuseries *Immigration is Beautiful*, creates images with the recurring motif of the butterfly, symbolic of migration as natural and beautiful. Both artists seek to illuminate the human rights issues inherent in immigration that are so often ignored by the general population.

Ramiro Gomez creates life-size cardboard cutouts and positions them in highly trafficked areas such as the Bel Air, California, intersection which was described in Brian de los Santos’ article for NPR on the young artist. Therein, Gomez describes his work as “documenting the undocumented” by

placing his art in affluent communities, places where these workers are often invisible.” In February, Gomez took his talents to Washington, DC where he installed his cutouts in such locations as the White House and the Capitol’s East Lawn. Of the idea behind his art, Gomez says “Think about this: when someone comes to work for you, that person has humanity.”

“Art can spark the imagination like nothing else can,” says Favianna Rodriguez in an interview with Katherine Brooks of The Huffington Post, “and yet I think that progressives do not fully understand the powerful role that artists can play in social change.” Her docuseries *Immigration is Beautiful* spotlights artists working towards social change through their art. Filmed last year, the series focuses on putting pressure on politicians and raising awareness in the general public of issues faced by immigrants. The movement took on the

symbol of the monarch butterfly, described by Rodriguez as “[representing] the beauty of migration and the right that living beings have to freely move.”

Both artists use a visual medium to call attention to often ignored issues faced by immigrants in



Artwork: Ramiro Gomez

America. While Rodriguez demands social change and action, Gomez seeks simply to show the general population that these people exist and face real hardships every day. Compared with more traditional activist efforts, art is an alternative form of resistance. As stated by Rodriguez, “Art is always reflective of an experience and a world view. Politics is so often the most grotesque form of humans trying to shape their human existence. Art is also about us shaping our human experience, but through beauty, form, reflection, and critical analysis. Artists have a unique responsibility to recognize the power and impact of what we can create, not only can we expose and critique, we can also be visionary.”

Maggie McManus is a student at Randolph College and is a summer 2014 RESIST intern.

## Opening the Door and Our Hearts

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administration has forgotten the shameful history of family detention in the US that spans from the Japanese internment to the T. Don Hutto detention center in Taylor, Texas. Families were detained at Hutto — a privately operated prison located just outside Austin — from 2006 to 2009. During that time, reports quickly emerged that children as young as eight months old wore prison uniforms, lived in locked prison cells with open-toilets, were subjected to highly restricted movement, and threatened with alarming disciplinary tactics, including threats of separation from their parents if they cried too much or played too loudly. Medical treatment was inadequate and children as young as one lost weight.

The facility quickly became the nation's most controversial immigration detention facility. In 2006, Texans United for Families organized the first vigil outside of Hutto to draw media attention to conditions faced by children at the detention center. The facility was sued by the ACLU and University of Texas Immigration Law Clinic. Ultimately, following an organizing campaign that included 100

actions in the first 100 days of the new administration, Obama announced in 2009 that he would end the practice of detaining families at Hutto.

Since 2009, families have largely been allowed to fight their immigration cases while living in communities under alternatives to detention programs. When family detention at Hutto was ended in 2009 and no plans for new centers were announced, it was a victory for human rights and dignity.

The history of Hutto makes the Obama administration's current request for hundreds of millions of dollars to ramp up detention and deportation of refugee families and children all the more shameful.

Fortunately, the outcry to recent proposals was immediate. Refugee, faith, and legal organizations all uniformly opposed expanding family detention, arguing that community support programs and relief efforts are much more appropriate for asylum-seeking children and their families. More than 100 organizations signed a letter organized by Grassroots Leadership and the Women's Refugee Commission. It's not too late for the administration and Congress to change course and demand an end — not

an expansion — to family detention.

When asylum-seeking families and children show up at our doorstep, we are obligated to open not just the door but our hearts. Detention is not appropriate for any immigrant, much less a family or child fleeing persecution and violence. If all the Obama administration has to offer these families is a faster track to lock-up and a ticket back to a violent country, it will go down as one of the more shameful responses to a humanitarian crisis in US history. The way to stop this disgraceful act is through multi-pronged organizing across the country.

We are ready to be part of that organizing. Our efforts will be focused on fighting the horror that is family detention. Though the obstacles are great, we have years of deeply rooted local organizing against detention and deportation to draw on. We look forward to the day we can write about the victory against the return of family detention.

*Cristina Parker is Immigration Projects Coordinator and Bob Libal is Executive Director at Grassroots Leadership in Austin, Texas. Both are members of Texans United for Families, a RESIST grantee.*

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#NotOneMore!!!



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RESIST awards grants to hundreds of the most critical activist organizations across the United States. They are on the frontlines of the various movements for social justice.

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Below are five recent grant recipients.

### Family Farm Defenders

Madison, WI  
[www.familyfarmers.org](http://www.familyfarmers.org)

Family Farm Defenders is a grassroots, farmer-controlled and consumer-oriented organization that works to reconstruct the contemporary food system upon the principles of respect, local empowerment,

environmental sustainability, and social justice.

### Peoples' Justice for Community Control and Police Accountability

New York City, NY  
[www.peoplesjustice.org](http://www.peoplesjustice.org)

Peoples' Justice for Community Control and Police Accountability is a coalition of grassroots organizations working in Black, Latino/a and Asian communities in New York City who have come together to fight against discriminatory policing practices and police violence towards their constituents.

### Queer Detainee Empowerment Project

Brooklyn, NY  
[www.qdep.org](http://www.qdep.org)

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project works with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, transsexual, and gender non-conforming (LGBTQ+TSGNC) and HIV positive detainees and their families

currently in immigration detention centers and those who are recently released from detention centers and who are seeking status in the US.

### Youth Art and Self-Empowerment Project

Philadelphia, PA  
[www.yasproject.com](http://www.yasproject.com)

Youth Art and Self-Empowerment Project is a multi-year grantee that empowers young people incarcerated in adult jails through artistic expression, political education, and leadership development.

### Youth Organizing Institute

Durham, NC  
[www.empoweryouthnc.org](http://www.empoweryouthnc.org)

Youth Organizing Institute is a recent Hell Yes! grantee that also received an Accessibility Grant to modify all workshops and activities to suit the needs and physical capacity of all participating students attending the "Freedom School" in July 2014.