



Rapid Response Networks Denounce Due Process Violations by ICE in Northern California

March 5, 2018 -- San Francisco -- On Friday afternoon, a number of rapid response networks, including the Northern California Rapid Response and Immigrant Defense Network (NCRRIDN), issued the statement below in response to last week's ICE raids in Northern California. The Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco is a NCRRIDN partner organization and houses the attorney coordinator for the network. For more information on the network, please contact Hamid Yazdan-Panah at hpanah@sfbar.org or visit www.sfbar.org/immigration

RAPID RESPONSE NETWORKS DENOUNCE DUE PROCESS VIOLATIONS BY ICE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

As members of rapid response networks, we are deeply disturbed by the deportation tactics that limit detainees' access to legal representation and collectively undermine their due process rights.

We have documented the following incidents and are continuing to investigate:

- On Wednesday February 28, 2018 ICE refused to provide attorneys who visited 630 Sansome Street with information about specific people it had detained or general updates about the ongoing deportation actions.
- ICE transferred people to detention facilities outside Northern California, posing significant barriers to access by both attorneys and family members.
- ICE arrested and then rapidly deported several people, in some cases within hours, leaving inadequate time for response by families or attorneys. One man was arrested on Wednesday morning February 28th in Napa, and was on his way out of the country by 5 pm that afternoon.
- ICE pressured detainees into waiving their rights and signing deportation documents without allowing them to consult with pro bono attorneys who were available. A man arrested in Merced county was told he would not be able to talk to his family unless he agreed to sign a voluntary departure notice.
- ICE used its Northern California headquarters at 630 Sansome Street as a processing center on Sunday, February 25th despite that it was not open to the public and attorneys were denied requests to access detainees.
- These alarming tactics escalate ICE's use of psychological intimidation. This already deeply troubled agency is further limiting transparency, opening the door to abuses, pressuring people into waiving their constitutional rights, and undermining due process.

The purpose of our local networks is to provide legal support to anyone in our communities who ICE detains. When the federal government denies vital information and access to legal representatives, that threatens civil liberties for all people. Community groups across the state have raised their voices to demand a halt to ICE's abuses of power. We further call on

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ICE to provide complete information about those arrested in our communities, return all detainees to local jurisdictions to ensure legal access and family support, and to uphold every person's due process rights.

Rapid Response Networks:

Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership
Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance
FUEL Sacramento Rapid Response Network
Marin Rapid Response Network
Monterey County Rapid Response Network
North Bay Rapid Response Network (Sonoma and Napa Counties)
Northern California Rapid Response and Immigrant Defense Network
San Francisco Rapid Response Network
San Mateo Rapid Response Network
Santa Clara County Rapid Response Network
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
Valley Watch Network
Your Allied Rapid Response (Santa Cruz)

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The Justice & Diversity Center (JDC) advances fairness and equality by providing pro bono legal services to low-income people and educational programs that foster diversity in the legal profession. JDC is the largest legal services providers in San Francisco. JDC's primary purpose is the delivery of free legal services to low-income San Franciscans, as well as the non-profits that serve them. JDC delivers free legal services through its Legal Services Programs division, which consists of the Pro Bono Legal Services Program, Homeless Advocacy Project, and the Immigration Program. JDC provides enrichment programs to diverse youth and young adults through its Diversity Educational Programs. JDC's programs serve approximately 9,500 disadvantaged San Franciscans a year, with the overarching goal of assisting the community's most vulnerable members with accessing the judicial system and strengthening their personal, professional, and economic security.