



South Bay Sanctuary Covenant Newsletter November 2017

Trump's Twelve Enforcement Actions that Threaten Immigrants

Richard Hobbs is the executive director of Human Agenda and an immigration attorney with CLARO, its immigration legal services collective. He spoke at SBSC's April event, and wrote the following article for this newsletter. --Ed.

The Trump administration has unleashed a wave of unprecedented enforcement actions that not only create fear in the immigrant community, but also bode poorly for 2018 and beyond.

While immigrants and their supporters are shocked at the boldness of the anti-immigrant rhetoric as if terrorism, rape, and crime characterize immigrant behavior instead of a strong work ethic and family values, the sad inconvenient truth is that both Republicans and Democrats have undercut avenues for healthy immigrant communities historically. Immigrants and their allies need a bold value-based vision to assure healthy communities.

Enforcement Actions

1. **Elimination of DACA.** The policy to defer the deportation of contributing young people with good moral character has now been abandoned, despite the rhetoric that DACA recipients are not an enforcement priority. Without Congressional action, protection from deportation could end as early as March, 2018.
2. **Muslim Ban.** President Trump's executive orders have temporarily banned all refugees, as well as people from many majority-Muslim countries, from entering the United States.
3. **Wall.** With Mexico contributing \$50 million for the deportation defense of immigrants but not the wall, Americans will be stuck with the bill, and the folly. The Trump budgets seeks a huge budget increase for the wall.
4. **Enforcement Priorities.** The Trump administration has radically enlarged the scope of potential deportees under the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP). Under the Obama administration, the scope was limited essentially to persons with an unlawful entry after December 31, 2013, security risks, prior deportees, and persons with serious crimes. It is

estimated that 1.4 million of the 11 million undocumented immigrants were at risk under this policy. Under the Trump administration, any criminal conviction, charge, or *act believed to be chargeable* are now included, in addition to abuse of public benefits, fraud, and deportation. These expanded and new categories could cover all 11 million undocumented immigrants.

5. **Prosecutorial Discretion (PD).** Those who were not considered priorities of enforcement under the PEP program of President Obama were eligible to suspend their deportations. Since Jan. 20, this option is gone, despite the official position of the Dept. of Homeland Security.
6. **Secure Communities.** Secure communities, the policy under Obama that deported hundreds of thousands of immigrants only because they were arrested (and finger-printed) without committing any crime—is back.
7. **287(g) Agreements.** Currently 32 local law enforcement agencies in 16 states participate in these agreements to turn local law enforcement into ICE agents. The Trump Administration seeks a country-wide blanketing of the United States with these agreements—and the withdrawal of funds for specified programs from those counter jurisdictions (sanctuaries) like Santa Clara County who disagree.
8. **15,000 More Deportation Agents.** The goal of hiring 10,000 more Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agents and 5,000 more Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents has not been approved in the federal budget—yet.



Richard Hobbs at SBSC's April event

9. **Fast Track Deportations.** The Trump Administration has announced a plan to radically expand the immediate removal of those inside the United States for less than 14 days within 100 miles of the border to those inside the U.S. for *less than 2 years and anywhere in the U.S.*

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November Delegation Underway!

Celebrating COO's 25th Anniversary

2017 is a special year in our partner community Comunidad Octavio Ortiz (COO), because it has been 25 years since its founding in 1992. Following the Peace Accords at the end of the civil war, many of the current residents or their forbears were relocated from refugee camps in Honduras and were granted land. Starting with few resources, residents have drawn on their strength and resilience to build a stable community, organized to address the many challenges it faces. Time to celebrate! SBSC delegates Arlene Schaupp, Anne Fillin and Ellen Hartog (first time in El Salvador!) will be guests of honor to mark 25 years of accompaniment and Solidarity by SBSC and Voices On The Border. The delegates also have a busy itinerary to observe important work by the youth groups in Morazan, by educators in Suchitoto, and much more!

Look for blogs at <https://voiceselsalvador.wordpress.com> and <https://sbscdelegation.wordpress.com>

Chris Nilson

March Delegation Visits COO and Partners in Morazán

A Native Salvadoran Returns

Among the benefits of delegations to El Salvador is the chance they offer natives of returning there after long absences. This year, Gabriela Quintanilla, who left for the US when she was 13, returned with Anne Fillin, Arlene Schaupp and Karen Skold. She describes her experience in a video available at <https://sbscdelegation.wordpress.com>, including both its joy and mixed emotions. Delegations are important for learning, accompaniment and supporting partners, and this one had a



Delegation Leader Kristi Van Norstran, Anne Fillin, Karen Skold, Gabriela Quintanilla, Arlene Schaupp with families in COO

full schedule, learning about the work of youth and women's groups in COO and in the Department of Morazán, and about



nutrition & food sovereignty efforts in the Bajo Lempa region. The group also visited with several organizations in San Salvador, including CRISPAZ, Christians for Peace in El Salvador, and RUMES (In English, the Joining Hand Network)

October Event: Action And A Call to Love Like The Samaritan



SBSC's October event: (clockwise from upper left) Ebony Pleasants briefs on Voices On the Border's projects and plans in El Salvador; Daniel Pinell from The Interfaith Movement For Human Integrity describes growing up undocumented in the US; Dancers and singers performing

DID YOU KNOW that SBSC began partnering this year with The Interfaith Movement For Human Integrity (<http://www.im4humanintegrity.org>) on their efforts to provide legal counsel for DACA youth and young adults, as well as gather support for law-abiding adults without papers who are being torn from their families?

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS

\$3250 Healthy Food and Sanitation in Comunidad Octavio Ortiz: COO's Board of Directors aims to work with kids from pre-kindergarten through elementary school, as well as adults, to promote better eating and improving health through nutrition education and better waste management. A series of educational events and community cleanup days will bring families into the process of maximizing nutrition per dollar, and making a healthier environment for themselves. **You can help!**

\$2,400 Safe School Transportation: Continuing gang activity has made parents fear sending kids on foot or bicycle to school in nearby Amando Lopez. This item continues funding for transport that picks up kids at their homes in 8 surrounding communities and takes them to & from school. A special focus is on middle schoolers, who are most at risk of gang interference and recruitment. **You can help!**

\$750 Refugee Support: Increased threats to their safety have forced some of our friends to flee their homes and travel to the US. SBSC is helping one refugee family cover legal expenses while they apply for asylum and build a new life here in the US. The asylum process takes up to three years. **You can help!**

\$500 Legal Assistance For DACA Applicants: 'Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals' gives temporary protection from deportation to eligible undocumented individuals brought to the US as children. Once granted, protected status must be renewed every two years at a cost of \$495. The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity assists applicants with these fees and will distribute this gift. **You can help!**

\$500 Delegation Scholarships: Helping youth and adults travel to El Salvador on delegations is one of the best ways to grow the Solidarity Movement here in the US. Many former delegates are now SBSC volunteers. You can help!

\$400 25th Anniversary Celebration of Comunidad Octavio Ortiz: COO was founded in 1992, following the peace accords that formally ended the Civil War. This event marks the many accomplishments of the community, which perseveres despite many challenges – both natural and man-made. **You can help!**

ONGOING COMMITMENTS:

\$ 900/mo. Voices on the Border. Partial salary support for VOTB Director, José Acosta, assisted by Ebony Pleasants, to ensure our donations are used effectively, to keep us informed about the needs and the people, provide training and support for Salvadorans who administer our projects, and to lead Delegations.



Please cut off the form below and mail in the enclosed envelope!

YES! Today I donate \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

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10. **Adversity at the Border.** Prior to the Trump administration, the policy regarding immigrants caught at the border was to “catch and release”, back to Mexico for example if Mexican. Now the policy is to detain and prosecute those seeking entry to the United States, radically augmenting the number of private detention facilities (which Obama opposed toward the entry of his presidency).

a. Other unfavorable policies at the border include the lack of representation for immigrants, including children, at credible fear interviews (CFIs) necessary to gain entry to the U.S. and seek asylum; the turning away of asylee applicants at the border to not even allow them the opportunity of a CFI; and a proposal to remove immigrants “to the territory they came from”, meaning that Central Americans would be removed to Mexico instead of Central America, which has always been the practice.

11. **Refugee Admissions.** Then President Obama designated 110,000 as the number for refugee admissions in FY2017, ending September 30. But President Trump lowered the cap dramatically in his "travel ban" executive orders, and the new 50,000 cap went into effect on June 29. The Trump administration has now announced a cap of 45,000 refugee admission for FY2018, a drop of 59% from the FY2017 admission target.

12. **The Future of TPS.** Temporary Protected Status has been terminated for Haitians effective January 2018. The fear is that Salvadorans and Hondurans will be the next target, affecting hundreds of thousands of Central Americans as early as January or of March 2018.

Unprecedented Fear—and the Reality

As an attorney who co-authored a White Paper to improve the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), I can honestly say that I have not seen this level of fear in the immigrant community *ever* in my professional work life. Sweeps used to take place at Story and King Roads in East San Jose 25 years ago when *la migra* was located in Salinas, but now practically every undocumented immigrant—and noncitizen lawful permanent residents as well—fear a knock on the door. The reality is that about 1 in 20 persons are being collaterally arrested and the rest are persons picked up because ICE has an address and presumed knowledge that they are undocumented. *Targeted* enforcement is still the order of the day under Trump whereby ICE seeks out those with prior orders of deportation (916,000), prior offenses (820,000), or those with a combination thereof.

Nonetheless, five factors are creating extreme fear: (1) the rhetoric of the Trump administration (rapists and murderers, “radical Islam”, bad hombres), (2) the actions of the Trump

administration outlined above, especially stemming from his executive orders on the ban, the wall, and the enforcement priorities, (3) media sensationalism, that documents many of the cases that were not publicized under Obama but that sell media and newspaper advertising, (4) the increase of local and state policies in many parts of the country, either favorable or unfavorable, that create increased publicity and fear, and (5) the unprecedented response by non-profits on the ground that seek to protect immigrants but often over-state the reality of who is being sought for deportation and create well-intentioned solutions that in fact create further fear.

This reality has led to immigrants with no basis for fear of deportation staying home instead of risking the provision of services for themselves and their U.S. citizen children; canceling trips abroad by green card holders; and an overwhelming number of immigrants seeking consultations and *any* immigrant remedy possible. Immigration legal services and consultations have approximately doubled since January 20.

A simultaneous reality is that with targeted enforcement actions, there are actually fewer ICE actions under Trump in 2017 than under Obama in 2016, and significantly fewer ICE actions than during the first year of the Obama administration, who at that time was dubbed the deporter in chief. There are no raids, sweeps, or roundups like one might imagine—yet.

Most immigrants are unaware that they have due process rights as long as they don’t sign voluntary departure, and that with 543,000 cases in immigration courts and a lack of judges, the typical case for a person seeking relief lasts 3-4 years in Northern California and 5-6 years in Southern California. By the time most immigrants put into removal proceedings now have their final hearing, Trump will be gone, and policies will change.

If the Trump administration can ramp up enforcement actions to the level of the first years of the Obama administration, this is what we can expect in a couple of years: hundreds of thousands of families will be separated, crops will rot, businesses will close, we will see labor shortages in hotels, restaurants, construction, care work, and other essential jobs; relations with other countries will deteriorate, and the social security system will take a big hit.

**Antonio, Celia and Jimena
Sanctuary Support Update**

Guided by its historic commitment to Sanctuary, South Bay Sanctuary Covenant is providing support to a family from El Salvador who fled gang violence in that country. SBSC is paying the legal costs of Antonio and Celia and their young

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daughter Jimena in their application for asylum in the U.S. In 2015 Antonio was forced to flee death threats by a gang and make a perilous journey across Mexico, before being apprehended by U.S. immigration authorities at the U.S. border. In the urgency of the moment, he had to leave his wife and child, parents and siblings, and all his other relatives and friends in the Salvadoran community in which he had spent his life. Apprehended by immigration agents while crossing the U.S. border from Mexico, Antonio was held in a detention center for months. SBSC and Voices on the Border worked with immigration attorneys to get him released. He was flown to California in July 2015 and lived with an SBSC supporter for a year and a half. During that time he applied for asylum with the immigration court in San Francisco.

After a close relative of Celia's was murdered in their Salvadoran community last year under suspicious circumstances, she and Jimena also fled to the U.S. and were reunited with Antonio. Celia and Jimena applied for asylum last summer, also with the immigration court in San Francisco. Antonio's asylum hearing will be in April 2019 and the hearing for Celia and Jimena will likely be some time after that.

The family is now renting a room in the local area. Antonio has a work permit and spent over a year working as a gardener. He is a hard worker and now works as a laborer in the construction field. Celia will be applying for her work permit soon. She hopes to eventually find work in the cosmetology field. She is a good cook and helped prepare the pupusas dinner served at the October SBSC event.

Your continued financial support of SBSC will help fund the family's quest to live here in the U.S., free from the death threats and violence that forced them to flee their native country. They are very thankful for your prayers and support.

If you are interested in helping please call Ana at (650) 400-5754 or Mark at (408) 733-3734.

Returning To Your Roots Luz Deras in El Salvador

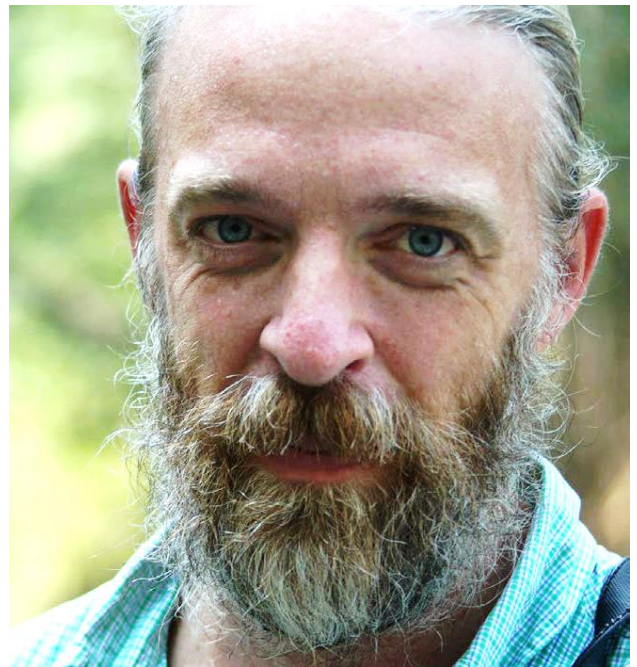
For a couple of years I had always talked about wanting to move back home to El Salvador. I loved spending summers and holidays with my family and living in a less materialistic place, even though it was only for a couple of days at a time. El Salvador is known as a country with hardworking and humble people, always willing to lend a helping hand but unfortunately over the last decade it has been featured globally for its rise in gang violence. Thus, when I made my decision to move back to Texistepeque, El Salvador, many of my American friends and family members, both in the US and here in El Salvador, could not fathom the idea. Why would I want to leave comfort, safety and the American Dream behind?

I spent the last five years working in a place that I dearly miss, but that also taught me about empowering young women to engage with their local community and to, as Mahatma Ghandi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Through my work with young, motivated students in East Palo Alto and Castilleja, I discovered my passion for working with young adults. In July 2017, I embarked on a 15 day road trip through

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Farewell Roddy

Thomas Roddy Hughes was Executive Director for the past nine years, at VOICES. He performed his work with dedication and passion, bringing energy and ideas that improved the functioning of VOICES and renewed the long-term vision. One important contribution was to improve the organization of VOICES programs and projects, achieving social impact. Another of his many contributions was to carry out research on topics of great interest to our communities and partner groups in El Salvador. Roddy regularly produced extensive analysis reports as well as opinion articles, which helped to inform our base in the United States and in El Salvador. Through his work, Roddy helped strengthen the



communities' capacities to defend their resources, culture and life. His humility, kind treatment and interest in the Salvadoran people made him a beloved and respected figure. Roddy's footprint will remain in the history of Voices on the Border.

VOTB

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Mexico, Guatemala and finally reaching Santa Ana, El Salvador with dreams of starting an afterschool program for students in my hometown of Texistepeque. The time was right for me to leave and start a new venture back home, where only 33% of children old enough for high school actually attend.

Returning to your roots means readapting to life in your home country. I have learned which neighborhoods not to go to, being a bit more self-aware of my surroundings and most importantly, cautious when speaking to people. One thing which I enjoyed the first couple of months being back home was being able to sit down every morning and read the newspaper over a cup of coffee. However, in early September I kicked that habit aside as I got disillusioned and disappointed in seeing that the front page always talked about the violence in the country. September saw 435 homicides -- almost 15 per day -- making it the country's most violent month in 2017, according to official figures. This non-war violence is one that I still cannot comprehend. How can we be killing our own brothers and sisters? This question has also pushed me to be more motivated to launch the afterschool program, Centro Esperanza because I still have hope in our Salvadoran youth and in the future.

As I get to know my neighbors and expand my network I am saddened to learn that trying to get ahead here means that you are also putting yourself at a higher risk of suffering from gang violence. I have been told of neighborhoods controlled by gangs where there is a curfew and if you accidentally enter the neighborhood you will be lucky if you get out alive. Or the ever-ongoing story of entrepreneurship to try to make ends meet. Once your business is established you MUST pay the gang members to "take care of you". I had heard these stories before moving back here as several of my family members pay that monthly protection fee to the gangs, yet they too are still not safe from all of the crime. They are still victims to extortion and always on alert for their safety.

I can no longer read about the murders that happen every day, yet I still have faith that one day rather than seeing a violent front cover in the newspaper I will see a story about a hero in a neighborhood. I moved back to El Salvador to make a difference and to give kids hope for their future and that is what I aspire to do with Centro Esperanza in early 2018. In the United States we are taught about human rights and can sometimes take them for granted when we have not experienced living in other countries. After my first couple of months here in El Salvador, I can say that my biggest hope


and a human right all citizens of the world should have is the right to feel safe in their home country.

P.S.: To learn more about the afterschool program, please visit Centro Esperanza or email me directly at centroesperanzaelsal@gmail.com



Luz Deras

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A CENTRAL AMERICAN WORKER!**



Day Worker Center
of MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Day Worker Center connects workers and employers in a safe and supportive environment. It empowers workers to improve their socio-economic condition through fair employment, education, and job skills training. It also participates in advocacy efforts that support the day laborer community.

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