

## Legislative Actions Taken Against Immigrants Post 9/11

- **October 30, 2001** - President Bush asks Attorney General John Ashcroft to create a *Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force*, with the details spelled out in Homeland Security Presidential Directive-2 announced by the White House. The directive is titled "Combating Terrorism Through Immigration Policies."
- **November 1, 2001** - the Attorney General creates a Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force, with the assistance of the Secretary of State, the Director of Central Intelligence and other officers of the government, as appropriate. The Task Force ensures that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, Federal agencies coordinate programs to accomplish the following:
  - 1) deny entry into the United States of aliens associated with, suspected of being engaged in, or supporting terrorist activity.
  - 2) locate, detain, prosecute, or deport any such aliens already present in the United States.
- **September 18, 2000** - the INS issues a new "administrative" order expanding the time the INS may detain immigrants from 24 to 48 hours having to charge them with an immigration law violation or for any other "reasonable" period of time under in "extraordinary circumstances." Ashcroft offers INS to take into custody "aliens who have violated the law and may pose a threat to America." To date, 1200 immigrants have been arrested.
- **September 13, 2001** - President Bush signed the Executive Order for military tribunals for non-citizens, to be held in secret and with no right to attorney.
- **December 6, 2001** - the INS announces plans to compile a list of 300,000 immigrants in deportation proceeding for the LEA to utilize.

## Patriot Act

Since Sept. 11, the Bush administration with cooperation of Congress has passed laws and policies that are undermining our Constitutional rights and liberties. He significantly boosted the government's law enforcement powers while continuing a trend to cut back on the checks and balances that Americans have traditionally relied on to protect individual liberty. Under the guise of collective security, Sept. 11th has been used to create an unseen enemy, the most dangerous and convenient kind, allowing federal law enforcement to make victims of many immigrants and refugees.

### Ramifications of the Patriot Act:

- Broad definition of terrorism and what constitutes support of terror.
- INS and other Gov. officials have power to deny/deport persons suspected of terrorism.
- Limits a person's ability to get his/her day in court to challenge accusations.
- Removes barrier between foreign and domestic intelligence gatherings.
- Full implementation of Student Visa Monitoring Program (all educational institutions will be linked with law enforcement data bases to identify and detain suspects of terrorism).
- Secretary of State has the unreviewable authority to designate any foreign or domestic as a terrorist affiliation.
- Attorney General can certify an alien as a terrorist if have reasonable grounds to believe they have committed terrorism.
- INS allowed to detain suspect aliens for seven days before filing a report.
- A person with a deportation order may be held indefinitely if the Attorney General believes he/she will be a threat to national security if released.

## Racial Privacy Initiative (RPI)

*The state shall not classify any individual by race, ethnicity, color or national origin in the operation of public education, public contracting or public employment... Classifications in other state operations are prohibited unless they serve a compelling state interest and are approved by 2/3 majority of the legislature and are approved by the governor.*

The supposed goal of RPI is to create a racially blind society, but it is not only impossible nor should it ever be racially blind. Race is an important part of people's identity: it represents their culture, their heritage, and their history. Furthermore, RPI will create a schism between how government agencies view society and how society actually is.

### RPI's impact on the Community:

State and local governments can no longer gather data based on race, ethnicity or national origin. This data is crucial to delivering services to the immigrant and minority community and for enforcing our rights. RPI will be a step backward against the progress of APIs and other communities of color. It will be hard for organizations to collect information regarding the status of their community. There will be no data on student retention, health concerns, and immigrant bashing. Without this data, it will be difficult to know the scope and degree of severity of issues that organizations try to address.

- **Health** - there will be no data showing what are the major health concerns of certain ethnic communities.
- **Education** - Affirmative action will be a relic of the past, there would be no way to access the minority and ethnic population of schools.
- **Public Policy** - Pretends that there is no immigrant community and ignore the problems facing immigrant communities this leads to lack of resources for immigrants.
- **Organizations** - will be place in an inherent disadvantage, organization won't know about the community they are serving.