

FULL AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, HUMANE IMMIGRATION REFORM NOW

May 1, 2009

On May 1st, International Workers Day, Filipinos for Affirmative Action (FAA) marches in solidarity with thousands of immigrants and immigrant advocates from faith, labor and grassroots community organizations. We also congratulate the immigrant community for re-invigorating in the U.S., a day that celebrates the contributions of workers all over the world.

With the possibility of immigration reform legislation in the 111th Congress, we call upon Congress to:

- Strengthen and ensure labor law protections for all workers regardless of immigration or citizenship status.
- Legalize the undocumented.
- End the criminalization of immigrants by repealing employer sanctions.
- Stop the raids, detention and deportation of immigrants, and the militarization of the border.
- Preserve family reunification as the cornerstone of immigration law.
- Clear the backlog of family reunification visas, green cards, and citizenship applications.
- Restore and ensure civil, human, worker and due process rights for all persons regardless of immigration or citizenship status.
- End temporary worker programs which have long been documented as inherently abusive, exploitative and unworkable by reports like “Near Slavery” from the Southern Poverty Law Center.
- Ensure that U.S. trade, economic and other foreign policies are built upon principles of fair and just diplomatic engagement, and support sustainable development programs, job creation, and fair trade.
- Sign the UN Convention for the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the international standard of human rights protections for all migrants.

Like other immigrant communities, Asian immigrants suffer from oppressive immigration policies. Since 2002 approximately 700 Filipinos are deported annually. Filipinos also face the some of the longest wait times for family reunification visas and have been harassed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents at homecare facilities.

A widespread misperception exists that API communities are unaffected by unjust immigration policies and are passive in the movement for Immigrant Rights. Let's debunk this myth, strengthen our work, and unify on May 1st to stand for Immigrant Rights!
