



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR:
May 24, 2010

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Detailing plans at 11 a.m. Monday, May 24 news conference

Busloads of L.A. labor leaders will travel to Arizona without IDs the day law takes effect and tell cops: ‘We Challenge Arizona to Arrest Us’

Los Angeles, Calif.—Leaving all identification documents (“papers”) behind, hundreds of elected union leaders plus faith and community activists from across Los Angeles County will travel on five chartered buses to Arizona on July 29, challenging local authorities to arrest them for violating the state’s racial profiling law on the day it takes effect. The buses will leave L.A. at dawn and return within 24 hours. **Many of these L.A. leaders will announce and detail their plans at an 11 a.m. news conference on Monday, May 24, at the headquarters of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.**

“We will let the authorities in Arizona know we are coming,” says Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the county labor federation. Many in the large L.A. contingent are members of minority groups. “We will say, arrest us for being brown or black. Arrest us for being ‘suspicious.’ Arrest us for not having papers. Arrest us for believing that America is a fair, decent and just place.”

WHAT: News conference by L.A. labor leaders and others announcing they will travel on five buses to Arizona without their “papers” to challenge the state’s racial profiling law on July 29, 2010, the day it goes into effect.

WHEN: Monday, May 24, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, 2130 West James M. Wood Blvd., Los Angeles 90006.

WHO: Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer, L.A. County Federation of Labor; Connie Leyva, president, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1428; Mike Garcia, president, SEIU-United Service Workers West; Dave Campbell, secretary-treasurer, United Steelworkers Local 675; Cristina Vazquez, executive vice president and regional manager for the Western U.S., Workers United; Bob Smith, vice president, L.A. County Federation of Labor and International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36; Marco Frausto, president, Ironworkers Local 416; Ron Herrera, secretary-treasurer, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 396; Art Frias, Utility Workers Union of America Local 132; Humberto Gomez, executive director, Laborers International Union of North America; Alice Goff, president, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District 36; Russ Nordstedt, president, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 80; Angelica Salas, executive director, CHIRLA; Juan Jose Gutierrez, director, Full Rights for Immigrants Coalition; Fr. Richard Estrada, La Placita Catholic Church; Marcos Perez, community college student

VISUALS: Union leaders standing in front of a banner featuring Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez and Nelson Mandela sporting the words “We Challenge Arizona to Arrest Us.”

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