

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## Asian Communities Need to Know Their Rights in Preparation of this Weekend's Immigration Raids

**New York City** – Homeland security officials revealed plans to resume a large-scale Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operation targeting up to 2,000 undocumented immigrants in at least 10 major cities across the country, including New York City. The goal of the operation, referred to as "family op" by ICE and the Department of Homeland Security, is to apprehend families with undocumented members who have received final orders of removal.

According to the New York Times, many of the targeted families crossed the border recently, may have missed court appearances, and were issued final deportation orders in February.

The raids will be carried out over the course of several days and will include "collateral" deportations, meaning that authorities may also apprehend immigrants who are not explicit targets of the raids, but who are present during a raid.

We urge New York City's Asian community to know their rights and be prepared, including putting plans in place to ensure that children are cared for in the event that their parents are detained.

A recent report by New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, <u>The Demographics of Detention</u>, revealed that Asians are heavily impacted by the federal deportation regime: of those involved in deportation proceedings, 21% are Chinese, 10% are Indian, and 8% are Bangladeshi. It is imperative that undocumented or mixed-status family be prepared in advance for any interaction with immigration enforcement agents.

There a numerous in-language resources available for organizations to help families prepare:

The <u>Immigrant Defense Project</u> has *Know Your Rights* flyers in English and a number of Asian languages:

Arabic Hindi
Bangla Korean
Chinese (Simplified) Punjabi
Chinese (Traditional) Tagalog

<u>Urdu</u> English <u>Asian American Advancing Justice - Atlanta</u> has created *Know Your* Rights cards in the following Asian languages:

<u>Arabic</u>	<u>Hindi</u>	<u>Punjabi</u>
<u>Burmese</u>	<u>Karen</u>	<u>Urdu</u>
Chinese (Simplified)	<u>Khemer</u>	<u>Vietnamese</u>
Dar/Farsi	Korean	
Gujarati	Nepali	

Additionally, the <u>Immigrant Legal Resource Center</u> has also published a Family Preparedness Plan in <u>English</u>, <u>Spanish</u>, and <u>Chinese</u> to help families create a plan for children in the event that they are separated from their undocumented parents.

To meet with an immigration legal services provider, call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday.