



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Thursday, October 04, 2007**

**CONTACT: George Tzamaras**  
**202-216-2410**  
[gtzamaras@aila.org](mailto:gtzamaras@aila.org)

## **RESPECT RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW, STOP INDISCRIMINATE RAIDS!**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) strongly condemns recent ICE and local law enforcement actions that have indiscriminately trampled on individuals' legal, civil and human rights, and that have instilled fear in law-abiding communities.

AILA supports legitimate law enforcement measures. Carefully targeted arrests, based on substantiated evidence and probable cause, are legitimate means of immigration law enforcement. But indiscriminate “raids” and wholesale sweeps in immigrant communities, and random queries of those on the street or on the doorstep of their home have no place in a free society and are a misguided attempt by the government to “enforce” its way out of a dysfunctional immigration system. AILA strongly opposes enforcement actions that violate fundamental protections embedded in the U.S. Constitution.

Recent reports of “raids” in California, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, and elsewhere across the country have included substantiated reports of mistaken arrests of U.S. citizens, of warrantless entries into homes and businesses, of repeated failure to advise individuals of their rights, and of denial of access to counsel. In a completely outrageous perversion of the need to assure that children are not deprived of the care of their parents, recent reports have indicated that armed government agents have taken parents to headstart classrooms to identify and pick up children who are then detained with the parent. In some communities, parents are withdrawing their children from public schools out of fear that law enforcement officials may come to take away their children.

AILA repeats its oft-made demands that ICE enforcement actions be carried out with the utmost respect for guarantees of due process, that warrants be obtained for any search or seizure, that individuals be afforded the utmost respect for their dignity and safety, that children not be left unattended, and that each and every detainee be assured meaningful access to counsel and information about their legal rights and options.

Immigrant communities across the United States are literally under siege as immigration raids and enforcement actions increase by the day. AILA pledges itself to increased efforts to assist immigrants in understanding and protecting the rights guaranteed to them by the U.S. Constitution. AILA also pledges itself to join with others to seek every legal remedy available to stop illegal and excessive enforcement actions that violate basic constitutional protections.

###

*The American Immigration Lawyers Association is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members.*

*For more information call George Tzamaras at 202-216-2410.*