

## TAKE ACTION!

Help us **END** collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration officials.

Volunteer-led efforts across Oregon are bringing the record-high level of deportations to light. Programs like Secure Communities can result in devastating impacts for families and communities—and without the work of human dignity advocates these impacts are often invisible to the majority.

1. **Educate yourself on the issue.** The Safe Communities Project are available to send you information about ICE programs in general, as well as research data for your county. In some cases, we may be able to schedule a visit to your community. Contact [amanda@rop.org](mailto:amanda@rop.org).
2. **Build a coalition.** Often, knowledge about the problems and potential solutions run deep in our communities; it's just up to us to ask the right questions. Make a map of churches, organizations or community leaders in your town that might know more about deportations, and meet with them. Keep an open mind, you might be surprised to learn what your group can contribute!
3. **Document, document, document.** Even when collected anonymously, first-hand stories of racial profiling, fear, or abuse by law enforcement and ICE are powerful tools for making our case. Be sure that you have full permission to document and use a story, and that you are not exposing anybody to unwanted risk!
4. **Meet with power-holders.** A small group of advocates can often have a large impact by meeting with your local sheriff, police chief, or county commissioner. Bringing issues to light and requiring accountability of our public leaders can go a long way.

### TO GET INVOLVED HERE IN OREGON:

**Rural Organizing Project:** <http://www.rop.org/>

**Portland Central America Solidarity Committee:** <http://www.pcasc.net>

**CAUSA:** <http://www.causaoregon.org>

**Oregon New Sanctuary Movement:** <http://www.oregonsanctuary.org>

**VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project:** <http://portlandvoz.org>

# GET OREGON OUT OF THE DEPORTATION BUSINESS!

You've heard about the unconstitutional racial profiling law in Arizona, but...



Did you know that collaboration between local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is threatening our communities, right here in Oregon?



Partnerships that **blur the line** between local policing and federal immigration enforcement further **criminalize people of color** and **hurt public safety** – without fixing our broken immigration system.



THAT'S WHY OREGONIANS ARE FIGHTING BACK.

## “SECURE COMMUNITIES” PROGRAM IN OREGON

Here in Oregon, state and local law enforcement have partnered with ICE to allow a direct presence in some of our county jails.

**In 2011 a dangerous new ICE program called Secure Communities was implemented statewide. It is now causing hardship and driving a wedge between immigrants and community safety efforts in every county in Oregon**

**Secure Communities** (S-COMM) allows instant information-sharing between local jails and ICE to identify immigrants in jails who may be legally deportable.

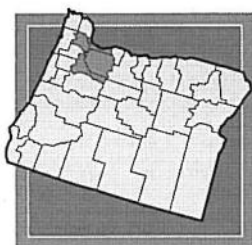
During the booking process, the fingerprints of people who get arrested at participating jails are checked against databases of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ICE is automatically notified when the fingerprints match a record in the DHS database. This would occur for any individual who has ever had contact with DHS, including individuals who have undergone the process to become naturalized U.S. citizens and those who have applied and/or received visas in the past.

Generally, a match results in ICE requesting that an immigration hold be placed on the individual. After the criminal matter is resolved, regardless of the outcome, individuals with an ICE hold are transferred into ICE custody. In almost all cases here in Multnomah County, this results in transfer to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington.

Through this process, the S-COMM program acts as an immigration dragnet — allowing police to screen a resident’s immigration status **before that person is convicted of any crimes**. Local law enforcement share the fingerprints of arrested individuals with ICE regardless of

OREGON



April 6, 2010

Clackamas

May 4, 2010

Marion

May 18, 2010

Multnomah

August 31, 2010

Washington



with ICE regardless of guilt or innocence, how or why they were arrested, and whether or not their arrests were based on racial or ethnic profiling or a pretext for checking immigration status. Even if charges are dropped or ruled unlawful, or if the arrested individual is found to be innocent, that person can still be deported.

## S-COMM HURTS OUR COMMUNITIES

**It destroys local families by deporting valuable members of our communities.**

Although ICE has told local police departments that the program focuses on “high threat” criminal immigrants, ICE’s data shows that most people impacted by Secure Communities have committed relatively minor offenses or have no criminal record:

- More than a quarter (28 percent) of the people transferred to ICE custody through the program since its inception have been non-criminals.
- The vast majority (79 percent) of the people deported due to Secure Communities are either non-criminals or were picked up for relatively lower level offenses, including driving without a license, other traffic offenses, trespassing, vandalism, shoplifting, or petty juvenile mischief.

**It makes the public less safe by eroding trust between local law enforcement and immigrant communities.**

When people in immigrant communities fear that contact with local law enforcement officials can lead to detention or deportation, community members are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. For example, a victim of domestic violence may choose not to call the police for help out of fear that she could be accidentally arrested, swept into the Secure Communities program, and turned over to ICE. All of us are less safe when police cannot do their job as well because they are perceived to be immigration agents.

**It opens the door even wider to racial profiling.**

There is a concern that some police working in areas where Secure Communities is in their local jails may make arrests based on race or ethnicity, or pretextual arrests of people they believe to be in violation of immigration laws, knowing that the individuals’ fingerprints will be run through immigration databases even if they were wrongfully arrested and are never convicted. ICE’s data shows that, in many counties, well over 50 percent of people deported through Secure Communities are not criminals. In fact, in Travis, Texas, a stunning 82 percent of S-Comm deportations have been of non-criminals.

**It wastes scarce public resources that should be used to make our communities safer.**

The Secure Communities program imposes significant costs and demands on local law enforcement agencies, which must bear the financial and administrative burdens of delays in booking and processing arrestees, increased communications with ICE, and processing and enforcing immigration hold. Localities also expose themselves to the risk of civil liability if officers conduct illegal arrests or hold individuals on immigration holds longer than the law authorizes. In general, forcing local communities to assume the burden of federal immigration enforcement leaves fewer resources available for traditional crime fighting.