

Hatred of Immigrants Will Sink Us!

by Gretchen Small

A “tsunami” of Mexicans being deported from the United States is now hitting Mexico, which, may reach 1 million in 2007 alone, members of the Advisory Council of the Mexican Government’s Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME), charged in a Nov. 16 press conference, at the conclusion of a two-day closed-door meeting on the immigrant crisis, held at Mexico’s Foreign Relations Ministry.

Hugo Loyo, Economic Coordinator for the advisory council, spoke of a climate of “hatred” being whipped up against Mexicans in the United States, whether legal or undocumented. Since Bush’s immigration reform bill collapsed a few months ago, some 170 anti-immigrant laws have been passed locally, he said. He and other members of the advisory council warned that increasing anti-immigrant raids of workplaces and homes across the United States are creating a “truly critical” situation for Mexico, which must find jobs, housing, food, education, and health care for hundreds of thousands of people being dumped over the border, penniless, and often far from any family who could offer support.

Two weeks earlier, on Nov. 2, the president of the Migratory and Border Affairs Committee of Mexico’s Congress, José Nicolás Morales Ramos, charged that 400,000 Mexican workers had been sent back from the United States *in the recent period*, leaving nearly 100,000 children behind. Often, the workers were not even able to advise their children of why they would not be coming home, he said, even though many had worked in the United States for years, and their children are U.S. citizens.

These are stunning figures. Although such numbers are not reflected in U.S. statistics—yet—leaders of the U.S. Hispanic community, and local newspapers from across the country, tell the same story as these reports from Mexico: stepped-up immigration raids, even during the night; local sheriffs put under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), deputized as Federal immigration officials; anti-immigrant vigilantes forming to take the law into their own hands; families going into hiding for fear of being split apart, or deported back to a country where there is no work.

Whatever the numbers, it is an economic, social, and political fact, that more and more people are being rounded up and shipped out, in a climate of awful, spreading, racism against Hispanics.

The *policy* of fomenting of hatred against our closest neighbor to the South, is a danger to the United States republic itself. Nearly 10% of the Mexican population has migrated to

the United States—some 13 million Mexicans—at an accelerating rate, since the 1994 North American Free Trade Accord (NAFTA) crushed Mexico's own industry and agriculture. Come January 2008, another 2.2 million Mexican farmers will be thrown into bankruptcy, when all protection on corn and bean imports ends, under the next phase of NAFTA.

Any fool can see that driving millions of Mexicans (and other Ibero-Americans) out of the United States under these conditions, will set off a vast explosion south of the border, and inside the United States itself.

How Low We Have Sunk

Consulted on the Mexican reports of a phase change in the rate of deportations, a Washington-based Hispanic leader told *EIR* on Nov. 29 that she frequently travels around the country to meet with the Hispanic community, and she has never seen people so shocked as they are today. People are dazed by what is happening, she said. Every day, there are more and more raids. Not just at workplaces, but officials are going door-to-door to homes, claiming they must follow up "crime reports." In Maryland and Virginia, people are getting knocks on their doors at 3 and 4 a.m., and everyone caught at home is rounded up, children included, and their documents seized.

This labor leader reported, as did the Mexicans, that people are being picked up, whether they are undocumented, legal permanent residents, or, in some cases, even U.S. citizens. It is like the Great Depression, when trainloads of "brown" people were sent back to Mexico—only now they are being shipped out by planeloads, she said.

With the FBI reporting that hate crimes against Hispanics are up 25%, a siege mentality is developing, she added.

A study titled "Paying the Price: The Impact of Immigration Raids on America's Children," issued on Oct. 31, 2007 by the National Council of La Raza and the Urban Institute, likewise paints the human side of the intensifying raids. The Urban Institute researchers, studying the aftermath of immigration raids within the past year on three manufacturing plants in different parts of the country, found that children whose parents had been detained or deported, had been or were being cared for by other family members; the less fortunate are changing from baby-sitter to baby-sitter, or moving from home to home of friends or family. Entire families of those related to deportees are hiding out in basements or closets for days or weeks on end, for fear of being split apart.

There are approximately 5 million children in the United States with at least one undocumented parent, according to the study, and 3.1 million of those children are U.S. citizens. On average, one child is likely to be affected for every two workers arrested, the study found. A large majority of those children are under the age of five.

The study concluded what any sane human being knows: "After the arrest or disappearance of their parents, children experienced feelings of abandonment, and showed symptoms of emotional trauma, psychological duress, and mental health

problems.... The combination of fear, isolation, and economic hardship induced mental health problems such as depression, separation anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidal thoughts."

Halliburton and Blackwater Love It

Mercenaries and vigilantes are being given a larger and larger role, under this "kick 'em out and watch 'em scream" policy. Things have gotten so insane, that Texas Gov. Rick Perry gleefully announced on Nov. 19 that he's found \$3 million in Federal funding, to gear up a program in which Internet users monitor live broadcasts of images from 200 web cams set up along the U.S.-Mexican border, and advise border officials if they see something suspicious! In a month-long trial of the program in 2006, 221,562 users registered to monitor the images from the cameras, sent more than 13,000 e-mails to state officials, which helped arrest a grand total of ten illegal immigrants, according to the *Houston Chronicle*.

Nastier yet, is the policy of handing control of the U.S.-Mexican border over to the private mercenary forces proliferating, and profiteering, under the Revolution in Military Affairs policy championed by George Shultz, Felix Rohatyn, et al.

With the eight detention centers run by DHS's Office of Detention and Removal Operations filled to bursting with Mexican construction workers, dishwashers, gardeners, etc., who have been arrested for entering the United States without the right papers, the DHS has already contracted private companies to run an additional seven centers. DHS officials say that only private facilities will be expanded, and they may hand some of the detention centers they now run over to private interests.

Waiting in the wings on this one, is KBR, the subsidiary of Dick Cheney's Halliburton, which since at least 2006 has had a \$385 million contract with DHS, to provide "temporary detention and processing capabilities," should there be an "emergency influx of immigrants, or to support the rapid development of new programs," in the event of other emergencies.

The push is on to now turn policing of the border over to these private mercenary companies, as well as—were the Heritage Foundation to have its way—border patrol operations and anti-immigration actions *in the interior of the United States*. California Democratic Congressman Bob Filner has rightly warned that plans by the notorious Blackwater USA to build an 824-acre military-style training facility in the town of Potrero, eight miles from the Mexican border, signals a drive to privatize border security, generally. He told Salon.com in October, that the Minutemen vigilante group is already present on the border, and if Blackwater moves in with its operations, it will make things even worse. "You don't want armies around who will sell out to the highest bidder.... The border is a very sensitive area, and if Blackwater operates the way they do in Iraq—shoot first and ask questions later—my constituents are at risk."