

TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE DEPORTATION OF KIKE AND ZULLY

Kike and Zully need your solidarity! There are three steps you can take today to win their freedom and stop their deportation.

Background:

Vermont farmworker leader and Migrant Justice organizer José Enrique “Kike” Balcazar Sanchez and Migrant Justice member Zully Victoria Palacios were arrested by ICE agents on Friday, 3/17, on their way home from an organizing meeting at the Migrant Justice office in Burlington, VT. When [Miguel Alcudia](#)

was arrested by ICE back in September, ICE told Miguel that Kike would be next. Kike and Zully are the 4th and 5th Vermont farmworker rights defenders targeted by ICE. They are being targeted by ICE for leading the resistance to Trump’s mass deportation agenda and fighting for farm workers’ rights, and they need your support! Kike was gearing up to hit the road for our big “[Milk with Dignity Speaking Tour](#)” to call on Ben & Jerry’s to stop dragging its heels on its delayed commitment to stand up for the human rights of farmworkers in its dairy supply chain (featured on [DemocracyNow today](#)) the tour will continue as planned to honor Kike’s struggle for farmworkers’ rights!

On Friday, March 17, Enrique and Zully were leaving the Migrant Justice office in Burlington, when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents targeted and arrested them. They are now in detention in Strafford, New Hampshire awaiting a court date. Neither has a criminal record. Their targeting appears to be political retaliation for their effective work in defending the human rights of workers and immigrants in this country. Migrant Justice wrote Senators Leahy and Sanders on

September 23, 2016 sharing our reasons to be concerned that ICE may be targeting community leaders with the following words referring to a trend in arrests of Migrant Justice leaders.

“We are further concerned that ICE may be targeting individuals for their involvement in Migrant Justice. Both Mr. Garcia Diaz and Mr. Alcudia are public leaders of our organization, a fact that was commented upon by ICE agents during both arrests. During yesterday’s arrest, ICE agents told Mr. Alcudia that another community leader, Migrant Justice spokesperson Jose Enrique Balcazar Sanchez, would be their next arrest. There are no circumstances of Mr. Balcazar’s immigration status that would make him a priority for removal. Therefore, we are drawn to the conclusion that he would only be targeted for his involvement in the organization. This clear and direct threat against a community leader on the basis of his public activities advocating for human rights is extremely troubling.” For more information go to www.migrantjustice.net

**#FreeKike #FreeZully
#Not1More Deportation**



**Stop the attacks on VT
Human Rights Leaders!**

Below are three steps you can take right now to win the freedom of Migrant Justice leaders and stop their deportation:

[Step 1: Please sign and spread the petition](#) calling for their immediate release today!

Step 2: **[Tweet out the petition](#)** [#FreeKike](#) [#FreeZully](#) [#Not1More](#) [@MigrantJustice](#)

Step 3: Write a letter of support (see below)

Step 4: Stand by for next steps...at migrantjustice.net

If you know Kike or Zully or have been inspired or touched by them, please write a letter of support by following these directions [here](#). Check out a [sample letter here](#). Stay in touch for next steps! We are also calling for solidarity videos and have [samples here](#).

Both Kike and Zully have been exemplary leaders of Vermont farmworkers' work for immigrant rights and our Milk with Dignity campaign in Vermont and they and our movement need your solidarity! For more on their leadership in Migrant Justice's Milk with Dignity Campaign, check out this [feature story](#).

TIPS ON LETTER WRITING TO STOP THE DEPORTATION OF KIKE AND ZULLY

1) The letters SHOULD BE SIGNED, (NOTARIZED-whenever possible), SCANNED, AND SENT TO info@migrantjustice.net

***Please do not send your letters directly to ICE. We will assemble them into 1 big application and their attorney will deliver them in person.**

2) The letters should share your name and address AND be addressed (NOT SENT) to:

Executive Office for Immigration Review
JFK Federal Building
Room 320
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Immigration Judge,

3) The letters should all open with the following sentence:

IF YOU KNOW BOTH KIKE AND ZULLY:

I am writing to you in order to ask you to please grant the immediate release of and any relief requested for José Enrique Balcazar Sanchez (A# 088-387-462) and Zully Victoria Palacios Rodriguez (A# 209-248-769).

IF YOU ONLY KNOW KIKE:

I am writing to you in order to ask you to please grant the immediate release of and any relief requested for José Enrique Balcazar Sanchez (A# 088-387-462).

IF YOU ONLY KNOW ZULLY:

I am writing to you in order to ask you to please grant the immediate release of and any relief requested for Zully Victoria Palacios Rodriguez (A# 209-248-769).

IF YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER KIKE OR ZULLY:

I am writing to you in order to ask you to please grant the immediate release of and any relief requested for José Enrique Balcazar Sanchez (A# 088-387-462) and Zully Victoria Palacios Rodriguez (A# 209-248-769). *(Then describe your overall impressions of the work of Migrant Justice that both Kike and Zully are a critical part of without making it a political rant but more about defense of human rights and dignity. [Check out our website for background.](#))*

4) The letters should all end with the following sentence:

“I ask that you please grant their immediate release and any relief they request.”

5) The letters should be about your relationship, impressions, interactions, and experiences with KIKE and/OR ZULLY emphasize his character, his responsibility, his integrity, his compassion, his leadership, his multiple connections and relationships to Vermont and Vermont communities (or more broadly to a community working for human rights if you are not from Vermont).

**These letters are NOT A DEBATE about the broken immigration system or what is 'fair' or what is not "fair". We need to make the case that these folks are well known, well respected, well connected, and an outstanding person.*

6) Here are other essential tips about good letters of support from our friends at [Not1More](#):

- The letter writer's relationship to the person in removal proceedings;
- The name of the person in removal proceedings;
- How long the letter writer has known the person in removal proceedings;
- Why the letter writer has a good opinion of them/you (they should try to give examples of your good behavior) and how their/your deportation would affect them;
- How you would be impacted by their deportation
- How your community would be impacted by their deportation

7) Below is a sample letter of support for ENRIQUE AND ZULLY for guidance.

Don't forget to send your letter to info@migrantjustice.net

Brendan O'Neill
11 Baird St.
Burlington, VT 05401

March 20, 2017

Executive Office for Immigration Review
JFK Federal Building
Room 320
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Immigration Judge,

I am writing to you in order to ask you to please grant the immediate release of and any relief requested for José Enrique Balcazar Sanchez (A# 088-387-462) and Zully Victoria Palacios Rodriguez (A# 209-248-769).

I am one of the founders of Migrant Justice and I first met José Enrique Balcazar Sanchez at one of Migrant Justice's early educational events in 2011, where, as a young man, he immediately impressed me with his gentle, kind, and compassionate demeanor. Since then, Enrique has grown up and into a community leader and spokesperson for the farmworker community in the state of Vermont and across this country. Enrique has an inviting and welcoming presence--and is always excited to engage in this type of intercultural learning and dialogue. Enrique is well known for always having a smile on his face and for being a friendly and positive person and getting along with everyone he meets. It's impossible to meet Enrique and not like him immediately and the same is true of Zully. Zully has become involved in Migrant Justice's work focusing on working with women to empower them in order to know their rights as workers and as to build community under the very restrictive and difficult conditions in which Vermont dairy workers live.

It is no exaggeration to say that Enrique has shared with thousands his story in an effort to educate people about the realities of immigrant farmworkers in this country--how when first came to Vermont he was immediately struck by how tired and worn down and aged his father was and soon began to understand why--his first job paid less than federal minimum wage, had no day off, and worked upwards of 70 hours a week. He eventually found work on the farm with his father and soon after received a visit from Migrant Justice inviting him to a "farmworker community assembly" where workers gather over food to discuss shared problems and envision solutions. Enrique shared in his many public presentations that this was a turning point for him-- that he felt at home at that first assembly and began dedicating his seldom-free time to support his community and their rights here in Vermont.

Enrique joined Migrant Justice's main leadership body in 2012, "the Farmworker Coordinating Committee" and dedicated more and more of his time to conduct outreach to his community raising awareness about worker's rights to lay the foundation for Migrant Justice's Milk with Dignity campaign conducting worker to worker surveys about workplace conditions on dairy farms. Out of these surveys Enrique and farmworker leaders began developing the "Milk with Dignity Code of Conduct" in which "farmworkers defined the

human rights essential to a dignified workplace and fair housing.” After months of leading ongoing community dialogue and education Enrique helped lead Migrant Justice to Ben & Jerry’s inviting them to “respect the human rights of farmworkers in their dairy supply chain by joining the “Milk with Dignity Program”. Enrique is currently representing his community in ongoing contract negotiations with Ben & Jerry’s in order that they source their milk in compliance with a farmworker defined set of labor and human rights standards. His removal would impact the rights of hundreds of workers.

Enrique has represented migrant workers at numerous national gatherings and coalitions, including the national Food Chain Workers Alliance, the Northeast Organic Farming Association's recent convention, and in the Cosecha National Assembly in Boston. He has received an invitation to speak at Harvard University on April 1st. Enrique leads the nationally-acclaimed Milk with Dignity campaign, and is part of the Vermont Attorney General’s task force on immigration. Enrique’s infectious smile has cheered all of us who have had the fortune to interact with him.

Zully Palacios is an active member of Migrant Justice and as she got to know Enrique back in 2015-2016 she began to get involved. Zully has participated in Migrant Justice Assemblies, learning about the reality that dairy farmworkers face in Vermont. She has been an active member since 2015, leading presentations, participating in activities of an immigrant women’s group, and designing know-your-rights information for the immigrant community. Zully participated in the campaign to secure a commitment from Ben & Jerry’s to join the Milk with Dignity Program. Her work for human rights includes joining meetings and trainings about the rights of workers and immigrants at the national level. In November, Zully went to New York for the Food Chain Workers Alliance’s Justice in the Food Chain Training, and in February, Zully participated in the Cosecha National Assembly in Boston. Zully helped organize a women’s group, for farmworkers, that talks about the unique and sometimes very isolating experiences of being a woman worker in the rural state of Vermont on a dairy farm. She has taught other women about their rights and how to defend them. She is a natural leader and her kind and warm presence draws people to her.

On Friday, March 17, Enrique and Zully were leaving an organizing meeting at the Migrant Justice office in Burlington, when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents targeted and arrested them. They are now in detention awaiting a court date. Neither has a criminal record.

Vermont is a better place thanks to the remarkable work and integrity of Enrique and Zully. I ask that you please grant their immediate release and any relief they request.

Sincerely,

Brendan O’Neill