

MIGRANT JUSTICE: Turn the Tide from Discrimination to Human Rights

www.migrantjustice.org; 802-658-6770; info@migrantjustice.net

We cannot allow these letters to go unchallenged! Help us turn the tide from discrimination and criminalization to dignity and human rights!

Check out the next page for good examples!

Times Argus 6/23/2012

Who's behind the 'new pioneers'?

On the news this morning, June 15, it was stated that the millions of illegal immigrants in this country all want driver's licenses and the right to vote in this country because they are the new "pioneers" of America. Aha.

The night before, President Obama and Michelle Obama attended an extravagant gala fundraising event with high society of the entertainment world when the rest of the country is in a distressed state. Not a pretty picture in my eyes. Perhaps it was to celebrate all the "pioneer" votes that he will get. Aha.

Wonder if the underground network of enablers, Migrant Justice, was doing the job of "community organizing" that Barack Obama was so good at, to get all these immigrants shuttled around in this country. At the Vermont Senate hearing I attended, it was stated that the 1,500 to 2,000 illegal immigrants in Vermont want driver's licenses for "their community." Aha.

By the way, the Vermont Senate will vote whether to allow Vermont driver's licenses to our very own illegal immigrant "pioneers" on Jan. 15, 2013.

U.S. Attorney General Holder is now suing the state of Florida for trying to purge illegal immigrants from its voter lists after discovering that they have been voting already. I suspect this lawsuit is with the approval of the president. Aha.

Muriel Potter

Times Argus. 6/30/2012 RE: Strat Douthat and William Kromer

Someone is sleeping if they do not know that there is a bill ready to be voted on in the Vermont Senate to issue Vermont Driver's Licenses to illegal immigrants! These same sleepers think the issues are simply that they will be driving 200 mph, taking over our homes or businesses, or hurrying to register to vote. It would seem that some of these sleepers are poking fun at other opinions that apparently strike a nerve.

If it is no big deal to you that millions of non-U.S. citizens walk across our borders and set up housekeeping here, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill for their housing, health care and sustenance, it leads me to wonder why you dismiss our laws on their behalf, especially the legal way to enter this country of freedom that you are enjoying. Of course, those who pay no taxes have no skin in the game. By the way, the freedom in this country has come on the backs of our ancestors who fought, bled and died for it! Were you sleeping during that class too?

My confidence in the governance of this country is shaken enough without these dismissive statements being made that our laws mean nothing. That world is not here yet, and I am not sure that the other countries on this planet are ready for this idea of no borders either. Why don't you go find out for us? Muriel Potter, Lyndonville

Caledonia Record 6/7/2012

What about the rights of legal citizens?

So now, the illegal immigrants in this state and country, with the aid of "Social Justice" (their underground-network enablers), are starting to stage public protests based on their "human" right. Folks, I do believe they are telling us that they are not an underground network anymore.

They are right out in the open and in our faces now, and demanding their rights.

Wow, just because they are "human" (aren't we all?) they now expect all the rights that we have here! There is a problem with this line of thinking though. The rights that we have here are based on the LAWS in this state and this country. Our Veterans have served this country honorably to protect it and it's citizens from other people who would take it and our freedom from us. Now, it seems, in the blink of an eye, our governments have allowed people from other lands to overrun this country. These illegal immigrants have broken our laws! They have come under the pretense of doing the farm jobs that no others will do, but in reality they are squatters and here illegally, and are now at the beginning stages of flexing their muscle.

What has happened to the "human" rights of the legal citizens of this land who have trusted its government to keep us safe and free from invaders at our borders?

Another question: What other country in this world has allowed millions of people to invade their country illegally, like they have here in the United States of America? I can not think of one, can you? Oddly, it seems more important for our government to fight Sketchers footwear for not giving us properly toned legs and tush! (Caledonian-Record May 17, 2012 World Briefs)

-Muriel Potter

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Addison Independent

VT Farms Have Labor Crisis

by Laura O'Brien

It's relatively easy to drive down the U.S. 7 corridor between Charlotte and Rutland and forget that Vermont's dairy industry is in crisis. It's a beautiful drive with open fields and working farms. Unfortunately, this kind of bucolic agricultural image is underpinned by a very grim existence for some 1,500 people.

Many dairy farmers are finding it near to impossible to fill their positions for dairy workers using local labor. Add to this the absence of any federal foreign worker program to support these year-round positions and you have the current situation in Vermont's dairy industry. It is estimated by the State Department of Agriculture that approximately half of the milk produced in Vermont comes from the labor of these 1,500 undocumented migrant workers. These workers, from whose work we all benefit, end up living lives of fear and isolation. Fear of leaving the farm, an inability to leave the farm, and the resulting isolation that comes from having no life beyond your place of work. This all adds up to a complex issue of human rights, access to basic services and needed relief for Vermont's farmers.

(Read the rest of this letter at: <http://www.holsteinworld.com/story.php?id=6318>)
Laura O'Brien lives in Charlotte.

Charlotte News

Drivers Licenses for Migrant Workers

by Rev. Will Burhans

...We arrived in Room 11 of the State House, which was thankfully filled with bi-lingual people, and we spent the morning connecting with our senators and encouraging them to support S-238. It is not an immigration issue as much as it is a human rights issue, I've decided. We cannot, in good conscience, benefit from the labor of these migrant workers and turn a blind eye to the fact that our laws constrain their freedom of movement among us.

As a Christian I hear the voice of God's judgment against such policies: "I will draw near to you for judgment and will offer a swift witness against those who oppress the hired worker, against those who thrust aside the sojourner."

As an American I hear the voice of our founders saying, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." As a Charlotter, I hear the voice of my daughter asking, "Why do the farm workers have to hide from us, Dad?" They shouldn't have to hide from us, and S-238 would be an important step toward inviting them to come out of the shadows and be fellow residents among us.

(Read the rest of this letter at: <http://www.thecharlottenews.org/pages/driverslicensesformigrantworkers.html>)

Whose side are you on?

The farm families amongst my neighbors and friends are hard-working and honorable people. So too are the men and women who risk life and limb crossing the border to work for and with them. I fail to see the wisdom in their prosecution as they toil to keep our fragile farm economy afloat. I am unimpressed with the indignant fanning of the flames of intolerance and inhospitality towards those who make it possible for our farmers to milk their cows and secure their crops.

From my perspective our agri-business centered agricultural policy is responsible for much of the demise of our family farms. It is also agri-business serving "free-trade" policies that caused the Mexican farms of many of our now Vermont farm-workers to have failed. That they should now be persecuted a second time for their willingness to help maintain our own besieged farms seems a foolish, cruel and ironic injustice. It is surely a higher calling to stand with our farmers both native and from afar than to profess blind obedience to legal statutes that no longer serve us or our communities.--Robin Cappuccino, West Wheelock, Vermont (submitted to Caledonia Record)

Why write letters?

We want to show public support for access to driver's licenses and human rights of all our communities. We want to turn the tide from criminalization and discrimination and scapegoating towards our shared humanity, our common cause, our inherent dignity and rights as human beings.

Letter Writing Tips:

- Remember to: Tell your story; Explain your vision; Bring it back to the issue/Tie it into the campaign
- Visit the Migrant Justice Website (<http://migrantjustice.net>) for:
 - List of local newspapers and links
 - Immigration Myths and Realities
 - Talking Points to bring up in your letter