

## **Migrant Migration News**

On September 2, Felipe Calderón, President of Mexico, decried the policy of the United States, namely to crackdown on the presence of illegal immigrants from that country. While Calderón was calling for, quote, “An energetic protest against the unilateral measures taken by the Congress and the United States government that exacerbate the persecution and the vexing treatment against undocumented Mexican workers.”<sup>1</sup>

This, he said in his annual address to the nation of Mexico and the audience in attendance gave him a standing ovation; these comments in regard to those same immigrants who were sending home to their families approximately \$20 billion a year, relieving Mexico from the burden of supporting their own people or seeing to their welfare and lifting their own corrupt government from responsibility of helping those largely poor and uneducated migrants.

Meanwhile, it seems that American farmers, fed up with the battle over immigration and farm workers are contemplating moving their operations to Mexico.

“Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, displayed a map on the Senate floor in July locating more than 46,000 acres that American growers were cultivating in just two Mexican states, Guanajuato and Baja California...’Farmers are renting land in Mexico,’ Ms. Feinstein said. ‘They don’t want us to know that.’”<sup>2</sup>

And what of the migrants, themselves? With the announced crackdowns (momentarily stopped by the temporary court injunction in California) they are seeking a way out. In the states where pressure has been applied, they are being squeezed out, state-by-state. Several examples are:

In Virginia, Prince William County Delegate, Jeffrey M. Frederick is trying to get passed legislation that would cut state funding to local governments that do not check on immigration status or residents who receive public assistance. Del. Frederick’s mother is from Colombia.

The Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act that was passed in 2006, took effect on July 1, 2007. It bars illegal immigrants from obtaining social services and prohibit government contractors from hiring undocumented workers and requires random audits of every business in the state. Of the law, one observer reports:

“The immigrant community is very fearful and anxious,” says Jerry Gonzalez, executive director of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials. “People are selling their homes, liquidating their assets and emptying their bank accounts to ensure that they will be able to move on a moment’s notice.”<sup>3</sup>

In the Midwest:

The Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007 calls for more local enforcement of immigration laws, further restricts state issuance of identification and benefits and aims to crack down on harboring and hiring illegal aliens, among other restrictions.<sup>4</sup>

In a bold statement, Oklahoma State Republican Randy Terrill said, "I hope we export every illegal alien to surrounding states, if their state legislators don't have the backbone to fill the void left by the federal government."<sup>5</sup>

It is reported that tens of thousands are leaving Oklahoma at the present time.

In Arizona, illegal immigrants are starting to leave Arizona months in advance of a new state law that will require employers to verify the employment eligibility of their workers, to the tune by some estimates of one-hundred people per day.

Reports as to where they are going? Some say they are floating to nearby states, some report families returned to Mexico. One report however is catching the eye of many. It is this report from Windsor, Canada about a website that mistakenly offered 'refuge forms,' which the immigrants have mistakenly thought offered amnesty. They are piling into Windsor now, overloading the social services there. Since the mix-up, the site has been re-posted, with the message that the refugee form does not assure the illegal migrants any status in Canada.

Come back for further updated postings on this subject.

<sup>1</sup>James C. McKinley, Jr., "Mexican President Assails U.S. Measures on Migrants," NYTimes.com, September 3, 2007.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/03/world/americas/03mexico.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/03/world/americas/03mexico.html?_r=1&oref=slogin).  
(accessed 9-23-07.)

<sup>2</sup> Julia Preston, "Short on Labor, Farmers in U.S. Shift to Mexico," NYTimes.com, September 5, 2007.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/05/us/05export.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/05/us/05export.html?_r=1&oref=slogin). (accessed 9/23/07.)

<sup>3</sup> Alyssa Abkowitz and Alejandro Leal, "Clamping down, Georgia's immigration law takes effect in July, but its ripples are already being felt," Creative Loading.com, May 9, 2007.  
<http://atlanta.creativeloading.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A241607>. (accessed 9/23/07.)

<sup>4</sup>Laura Kellams, "Oklahoma Immigration Law puts new focus on immigration," NWAnews.com -Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Northwest Arkansas Edition, September 2, 2007.  
<http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/200252/>. (accessed 9/23/07.)

<sup>5</sup>Kellams, Ibid.