



BORDER NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**1101 E. Yandell Dr.
El Paso, TX 79902
Office (915) 577-0724
Fax (915) 577-0370
www.bnhr.org**

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Monday June 18, 2007

For information contact:

Fernando Garcia (915) 204-0337
bordernet2001@yahoo.com

US/Mexico Border and Immigration Task Force Members Travel to Washington DC

They will meet with key members of Congress and White House officials to promote the adoption of a more humane, comprehensive immigration reform

El Paso, TX. – June 2007 Members of the US/Mexico Border and Immigration Task Force will travel to Washington DC to advocate for the inclusion of several initiatives in the immigration reform bill that will be discussed by members of Congress in the next few weeks.

Included among the 20 members of the Task Force that will be traveling to Washington on June 19, are public officials, law enforcement representatives, academics, and immigrant activists from Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

The US-Mexico Border and Immigration Task Force decided to make this second trip to Washington after realizing that the immigration bill, once thought dead in Congress, may be debated on the Senate floor as early as Wednesday.

On June 20th and 21st, delegates of the Task Force will participate in series of public and private meetings with members of Congress, the White House and the Department of Homeland Security, including a Congressional briefing. The purpose of these meetings is to advocate for the adoption of a new vision in the current debate over immigration reform; a vision that includes the views and experiences of US-Mexico border residents.

Some of the topics that will be discussed are:

- The need for an immigration reform that includes family reunification, labor protection, a new workers program, and legalization for the undocumented immigrants in the US.
- Training and accountability issues related to federal agents enforcing immigration laws.
- The negative economic and social impact of a fencing program in border communities.
- Discussions about the role of local law enforcement agencies with regards to the application of the Federal immigration laws.
- The connection between border enforcement operations and the deaths of migrants.

The members of the US/Mexico Border Task Force delegation will meet, among others, with the Chair of the House Committee on the Judiciary, John Conyers, Jr., House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and Congressmen Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) and Raúl Grijalba (D-AZ).

###