



## Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

# NEWS RELEASE

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## The Community Calls in Their Prayers

CHIRLA and Church Goers Flood White House Phone Lines with Calls in Support of Immigration Reform

**Los Angeles, CA:** In a blaze of yellow (the color of hope) almost one hundred community leaders, church members, and activists sporting T-shirts emblazoned with the message; *California Says: Reform Immigration for America*, gathered for a mass dedicated to immigration reform in response to the second postponement of reform talks in Congress. Community members took immediate action with prayers during the service at La Placita Olvera Church this morning followed by phone calls to the White House insisting that Immigration Reform move in the coming year.

“The President promised the immigrant community and the nation that he would work towards immigration reform within his first 100 days but he has not. I am disappointed and angry on behalf of all the families that are still being separated through immigration raids. The President is honor bound to fulfill his promise,” said Day Laborer and CHIRLA member Diego Cap.

Father Richard Estrada lead a moving mass emphasizing the importance of communal unity, love, tolerance, and peace and offered both a blessing and words of encouragement that the fight for immigration reform surge on.

“Today we are lifting our voices to be heard by the President. We urge the public to call the White House and to say no to the separation of families,” added Father Richard Estrada.

Following the service church goers made call after to call to the White House on their cell phones. Those who did not have cell phones borrowed phones from their fellows. The fellowship and comraderie among the congregation was strong. Phone calls were followed with the sharing of tamales and pastries and folks singing traditional songs from their respective native countries, all energized and full of hope.

“Immigrant students are ready to take leadership and ultimately lead this country out of this economic crisis. In order to do this we need immigration reform, we need the Dream Act, and we need our families together.”

– Samantha Contreras, CHIRLA Youth Organizer

“We must generate thousands of calls in favor of immigration reform. Congress and the President must reform immigration for our families, for our economy, and for our country.” –Gloria Saucedo, Hermandad Mexicana

“What we saw this morning, as we saw last week, and the weeks before that, is that people are committed to moving on Immigration Reform and are ready to take action - today and every day.”

- Antonio Bernabe, CHIRLA Day Laborer Organizer

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*The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) was formed in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles, promote harmonious multi-ethnic and multi-racial human relations and through coalition-building, advocacy, community education and organizing, empower immigrants and their allies to build a more just society.*