

Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights

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Ypsilanti First Congregational United Church of Christ
Immigration Project
P.O. Box 980413
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WICIR

Members from the following:

Ypsilanti First Congregational
United Church of Christ

Ann Arbor Friends Quaker Mtg
American Friends Service
Committee

Washtenaw County Workers'
Center

First Presbyterian Church of
Ann Arbor

St. Mary's Catholic Parish

Episcopal Church of the
Incarnation

Latinos Unidos of Michigan
Centro Obrero

Peaceworks

St. Francis Catholic Church of
Ann Arbor

Latin Americans for Social and
Economic Development

Pineview Church of Ypsilanti

University of Michigan
School of Social Work

University of Michigan
Law School

University of Michigan
Latino Social Work Coalition

Eastern Michigan University
Amnesty International

Eastern Michigan University
Department of Political Science

American Civil Liberties Union

Washtenaw Faith Action
Network

Interfaith Council for Peace
and Justice

MILLA, University of Michigan
Law Student Organization

MIRA, University of Michigan

Webster United Church of
Christ

Church of the Good Shepherd,
United Church of Christ

Student Advocacy Center

Spanish Healthcare Outreach
Collaborative

North Star Center

MEXA de Michigan State
University

Wesley Foundation

11/29/11

Dear John Morton, Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
and Janet Napolitano, Director of Homeland Security,

We write as representatives of the **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, with support of our county officials, to request that you stop the deportation of Lourdes Salazar Bautista (A# 075-414-900), a beloved mother and member of our community.

In June 2010, Lourdes was in the driveway of her home getting ready to drop her daughter off at school when she was surrounded by ICE officers who proceeded to arrest her. Despite having a U.S. citizen brother who had petitioned for Lourdes, she was detained and kept in custody for a month. Lourdes was issued an order of deportation and needs to present herself to ICE officials with a one-way ticket to Mexico, a country she hasn't been to in 14 years.

Lourdes came to the United States in 1997 with hopes of creating a better life for herself and her husband. Soon after her arrival, she became pregnant with the couple's first daughter. The couple now has three U.S. citizen children ages 13, 9, and 7 who need Lourdes to stay in the United States with them. Lourdes' husband was deported back to Mexico in 2010 leaving Lourdes as the sole provider and parent of these children. If she is deported, she will be separated from her 3 children and they will grow up without their mother or father.

Lourdes is an exemplary mother and member of our community. She has owned her house in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for over ten years and attends church regularly. Lourdes' three children are well-adjusted in school, but they are so traumatized by their father's deportation and possible deportation of their mother that they have needed therapy to help them cope with the difficult situation. Lourdes' 9 year old daughter suffers from ADD and needs to take medication on a regular basis. If Lourdes is deported, her daughter won't be able to receive the medical attention she needs.

In a recent announcement on August 18, 2011, the President stated that Department of Homeland Security is implementing Prosecutorial

Discretion in cases involving families like Lourdes'. Lourdes has 3 U.S. citizen children, a U.S. citizen brother who has petitioned for her, and she has lived in the United States for 14 years with no criminal violations. According to the new guidelines, Lourdes is not deemed a priority for removal by DHS and merits a favorable exercise of discretion. We ask that you immediately take action to stop the deportation of Lourdes so she can stay in the United States with her children and community.

We also ask that you ensure that DHS and ICE act according to the new guidelines President Obama announced in August for prosecutorial discretion. So far, we have seen no changes in the Detroit and surrounding area. Since March of 2008, our organization has documented 310 calls from immigrant families facing immigration issues (a minority of the families actually affected). Over 80% of these cases involve the detainment and/or deportation of more than one person resulting in hundreds of US citizen children in our community being separated from parents and relative providers. We are aware that the Department of Homeland Security's own statistics reveal that over half of the record 400,000 people deported in 2010, had no criminal history at all.

Please stop the deportation of Lourdes Salazar Bautista as she deserves prosecutorial discretion, and in addition, work to reduce these types of deportations across our nation.

We would be happy to meet with you or talk with you or your staff further about this request at your convenience.

Please see the signatures of support from our county officials.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Laura Sanders: _____

Ramiro Martinez: _____

Margaret Harner: _____

Co-founders of the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Martha Valadez, WICIR SSW Intern: _____

List of County Commissioners signatures of Support