



Immigrant Support Network - "ISN"



In 2011, the **Immigrant Support Network-ISN** was established in Portland, Oregon with the goal of providing a legal, moral, and logistical support network for immigrants in our community who are affected by detention, imminent deportation, raids, or round-ups. The ISN was begun by the **Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice-IMIrJ** with the support and technical expertise of many interested and passionate individuals. Members of the ISN are motivated by conscience and faith to act with urgency and solidarity for the prevention of tragic family separations and to keep our community intact.

How does the ISN work?

Coordinated by IMIrJ, the ISN consists of a growing list of **committed individuals** who are willing to act with immediacy when support is needed. These individuals **receive training** in the composition of letters of support and messaging for direct action, as well as guidance in carrying out other activities for urgent action. They are willing to write, mail, call, and even appear in person at court hearings when called upon to do so. The ISN also works on the development of raid prevention and response plans. *We seek to accompany and support!*

ISN members receive "**action alerts**" from IMIrJ. "Alerts" are intended for ISN member response; *due to the sensitive nature of some information provided, sharing "action alerts" broadly to other contacts is discouraged (unless otherwise indicated).*

During 2017:

- ISN members wrote **over 350 letters of support** for community members facing deportation hearings in the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA
- ISN members placed at least **30 phone calls** to local authorities calling for the release of detained community members
- ISN members accompanied **15 people** to I.C.E. or other court hearings – all cases were successful

Nearly 10 years ago, "Ana" came to the U.S. from El Salvador and was detained by ICE, along with her Honduran husband. They were both returned to Central America. In 2016, Ana returned to the U.S. again, now accompanied by her two daughters; they were fleeing gang violence, extortion, and related economic hardship in their home country. Ana turned herself in to ICE agents at the U.S.-Mexico border and asked for asylum; they released her and she made it back to Oregon. Soon, she was called to present herself to ICE officers at the ICE office on SW Macadam in Portland, presumably to be detained and deported once again – perhaps facing a 20-year-ban.

The ISN was activated to make phone calls urging ICE to not detain and to release Ana. Thanks to the quick and powerful community response, Ana was released and is now safe...

How to "activate" the ISN for a community member facing I.C.E.

In order to activate our network for an individual, we need some basic information about the person's situation. When contacting us, please provide as much information as possible, including:

- Community member's name, age, and country of origin
- History of U.S. residence (how many years in U.S., where, with whom)
- Family ties (parents, children, cousins, etc.)
- Community ties (church participation, education, organizations, etc.)
- Work experience, hobbies, plans for the future
- Brief summary of contact with immigration authorities, detentions, and arrests (if applicable)

Contact IMIrJ - Join the ISN! info@imirj.org