

# ILLEGAL IN A "FREE" NATION





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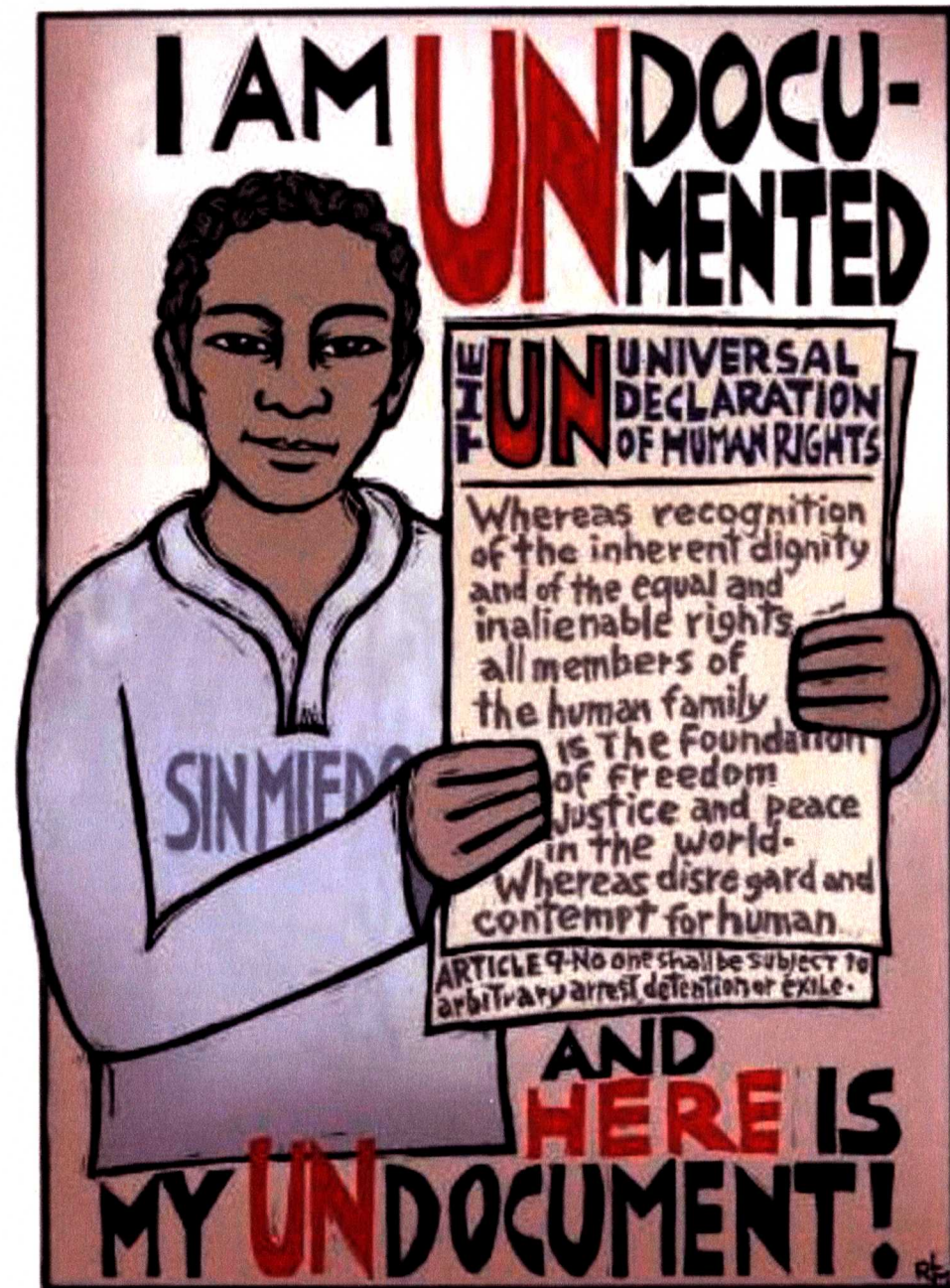


- IN THE LATE 1900S OF THE UNITED STATES, HISPANIC POPULATIONS HAD BEEN INCREASING OVER THE YEARS DUE TO "THE BLAZING PACE OF IMMIGRATION". (LOGUE P. 37) WHILE IN THE U.S., UNDOCUMENTED MEXICANS AND OTHER HISPANICS HAD BEEN FACING DISCRIMINATION, RACISM, AND DEATH. THESE INJUSTICES HAVE FOLLOWED THEM IN THEIR ATTEMPTS IN EDUCATION, WORK, AND EVEN BASIC SOCIETAL NEEDS. REGARDING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, HISPANICS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DISADVANTAGED. (LOGUE. 34) THESE DISADVANTAGES PRESENT THEMSELVES IN SCHOOL SUPPLIES, NO PARENTAL GUIDANCE, FAILING, AND MANY MORE. IN MISSISSIPPI, THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY IS EVEN MORE DISADVANTAGED PARTLY DUE TO THE LANGUAGE BARRIER OF NOT SPEAKING ENGLISH WELL OR AT ALL. (LOGUE P. 34)



- WE ASLO SEE OUR HISPANIC COMMUNITY DEPRIVED OF THEIR DECENT LABOR RIGHTS. IN THE "FIESTA CAMPESINA SOUVENIR PROGRAM" BY THE UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (UFWOC), WE LEARN OF THE CAMPESINOS. THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO "BRING FOOD TO THE AMERICAN TABLE THREE TIMES A DAY" BY WORKING IN THE FIELDS "FROM SUNRISE TILL SUNSET." (UFWOC) MEXICAN WORKERS WERE BEING HIRED UNDER THE RADAR BY THEIR WHITE EMPLOYERS FOR MEASLY WAGES AND HORRENDOUS WORKING CONDITIONS. THEY DESCRIBE THEMSELVES WORKING "UNDER THE HOT SUN OF SUMMER, IN THE FREEZING COLD OF WINTER FOR SLAVE WAGES TO SURVIVE. (UFWOC) THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY AND IN THIS CONTEXT, ILLEGAL MEXICANS, WERE BEING EXPLOITED FOR THEIR WORK, DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY, ALONG WITH PLENTY OF OTHER INJUSTICES ON A REGULAR BASIS.





RICARDO MORALES CREATED THIS DIGITAL POSTER TO REPRESENT UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ALL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. TO SAY "I AM UNDOCUMENTED AND HERE IS MY UNDOCUMENT" IS A WAY IN WHICH HE CAN CREATE SOMETHING OF "AMERICAN VALUE" FOR UNDOCUMENTED MEXICANS TO HAVE.



**IN THE UNITED STATES, THERE IS A LOT OF VALUE IN DOCUMENTS AND BILLS AND AMENDMENTS OR LAWS. RICARDO PROPOSES THIS 'UNDOCUMENT' IN WHICH IT STATES 'EQUAL AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN FAMILY.' WITH THESE WORDS, WE CAN SEE HOW HE IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH A BASIC DECENCY THAT SHOULD BE LAW REGARDING ANY HUMAN BEING. WE ARE ABLE TO INTERPRET THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO 'ILLEGAL' PERSON IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.**



**THE TERM 'ILLEGAL' WAS CREATED TO DIMINISH AND BELITTLE THE IMMIGRANTS WHO ARRIVED TO THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION. IT IS A HIGHLY DEROGATORY TERM COMMONLY USED BY WHITES TOWARDS MEXICANS. THE CORRECT TERM TO USE WHEN REFERRING TO THEM IS UNDOCUMENTED.**



**RICARDO PROPOSES THIS POSTER  
FOR THE UNDOCUMENTED  
MEXICANS IN HIS AUDIENCE AS  
WELL AS AMERICAN PEOPLE SO  
THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO HEAR  
WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO SAY.  
THEY ARE BEGGING TO BE HEARD  
AND TO BE TREATED WITH  
DECENCY. HIS TONE IS VERY  
MUCH DEFIANT AND DIRECT WITH  
A CALL TO ACTION. RICARDO IS  
LOOKING TO DEFY THE 'ILLEGAL'  
PERSPECTIVE ON ANY HUMAN  
BEING. IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT  
HE BELIEVES NO SUCH THING  
SHOULD EXIST AND THAT  
MEXICAN PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE  
SCARED. "SIN MIEDO!"**



**FEARLESS**



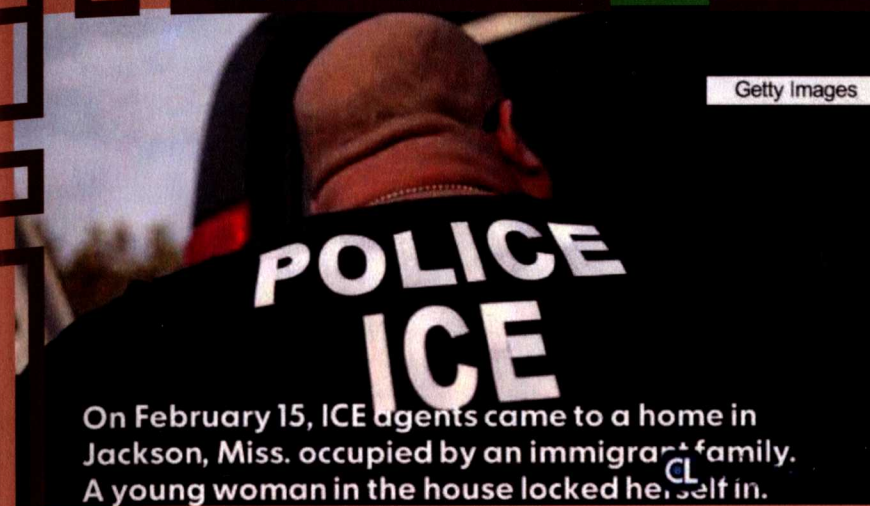


**I BELIEVE THAT RICARDO CREATED THIS POSTER FOR MANY PURPOSES, YET THE MOST IMPORTANT BEING TO SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED MEXICANS IN FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE. THEIR LIFE IN THE U.S., WORKING IN THE FIELDS, OR IN LOW-PAYING JOBS IN THE SERVICE SECTOR, WAS TO FEED AND CLOTHE THEIR CHILDREN. (UFWOC, LOGUE 36) THEY FACED (IN THE 1900S) AND CONTINUE TO FACE ACTS OF INJUSTICE AND BLATANT RACISM FOR BEING 'ILLEGAL' IN A COUNTRY WHO CALLS ITSELF THE 'LAND OF THE FREE.' MEXICANS (AND OTHER HISPANICS) WERE EXPLOITED, FIRED, AND DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THE FEW GREEDY AMERICA. (UFWOC)**





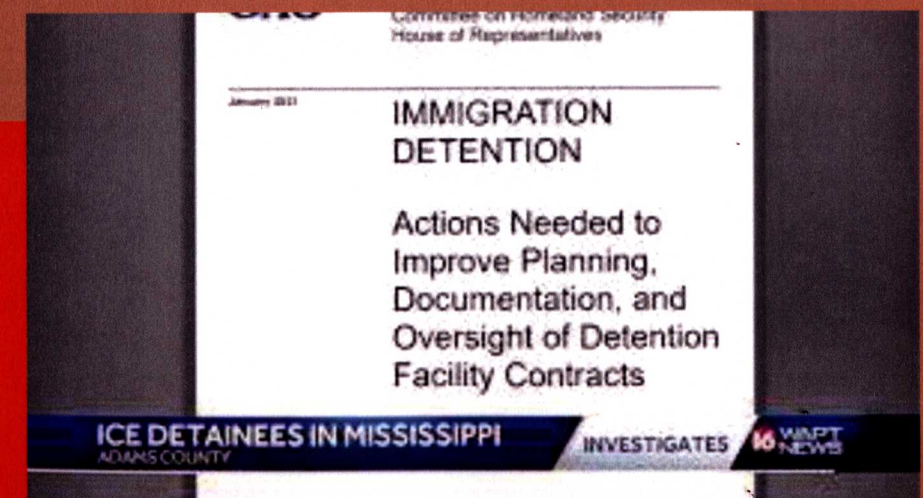




Getty Images

On February 15, ICE agents came to a home in Jackson, Miss. occupied by an immigrant family. A young woman in the house locked herself in.

Aside from ICE deporting undocumented Mexicans in the U.S., there are hundreds and thousands of normal every day-to-day citizens who take it upon themselves to report and harrass their neighbors.







**- THE U.S BORDER  
PATROL WAS FORMED IN  
1924**

**- BETWEEN 1929 AND  
1936 THERE WERE  
UPWARDS OF 2,000,000  
DEPORTATIONS.**

**- THOUSANDS OF  
FAMILIES HAVE BEEN  
SEPARATED BY THE  
U.S. GOVERNMENT DUE  
TO 'ILLEGAL'  
IMMIGRATION WITHOUT  
PROPER  
DOCUMENTATION.**





AT THE END OF APRIL THE VINES ALREADY GREEN WITH BUDS, DEATH CAME TO THE FIELD-WORKER, TO THE CAESAR OF THE GRAPES DRESSED IN BLUE, OF THE ONIONS IN WHITE PETTICOATS, OF THE APPLES IN RED VESTMENTS. SHE SAID TO HIM, "COME, CÉSARI" AND TOOK HIM FROM THE POISONED GRAPES, THE WATERMELONS, THE MELONS FULL OF ILL, THE BATTLES OF THE FURROWS, THE AMBUSHES OF THE DITCHES,

A FINES DE ABRIL LAS VIÑAS YA VERDES DE BROTONS, LLEGÓ LA MUERTE AL CAMPESINO, AL CÉSAR DE LAS UVAS VESTIDAS DE AZUL, DE LAS CEBOLLAS DE FONDOS BLANCOS, DE LAS MANZANAS DE VESTIDURAS ROJAS. LE DIJO – ¡VÉN, CÉSARI! – Y SE LO LLEVÓ DE LAS UVAS ENVENENADAS, LAS SANDÍAS, LOS MELONES LLENOS DE MAL, DE LAS BATALLAS DE LOS SURCOS, DE LAS EMBOSCADAS DE LAS ACEQUIAS,







**"SÍ SE PUEDE," HE SAID. "YOU CAN DO IT, TOO." HE BEGAN TO TEACH MARIA ALL THAT HE KNEW. "WHAT MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY?" "GOOD JOBS, AND FAIR PAY AND KNOWING YOUR CHILDREN ARE OUT OF HARM'S WAY. THIS MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY," CESAR WOULD SAY. "WHY ARE SOME PEOPLE SAD?" "THEY WORK HARD ALL DAY WITHOUT ANY REST, WITH SO LITTLE PAY, NO MONEY FOR HOUSES. THEIR KIDS HAVE NO SCHOOLS. THIS MAKES PEOPLE SAD. THERE AREN'T FAIR RULES." "WHAT MAKES PEOPLE SICK," MARIA NOW ASKED. "PLANES SPRAYING POISON ON CROPS IN THE FIELD. THE WORKERS GET SICK," CESAR REVEALED. THEN EATING THOSE FRUITS, MORE PEOPLE GET ILL. NO MONEY IS LEFT FOR THE HOSPITAL BILL.**

**"SÍ SE PUEDE! TU TAMBIÉN VAS A APRENDER!" Y LE COMENZÓ A ENSEÑAR TODO LO QUE DEBÍA HACER. ¿QUÉ HACE A LA GENTE FELIZ? "BUENOS TRABAJOS Y PAGOS JUSTOS Y SABER QUE SUS HIJOS VAN A ESTUDIAR CON GUSTO. ESO ES LO QUE A LA GENTE LE DA FELICIDAD" RESPONDIÓ CESAR, SIN VACILAR. "¿POR QUÉ ALGUNOS ESTÁN TRISTES?" "TRABAJAN DESDE QUE EL SOL APARECE HASTA QUE EL SOL SE ACUESTA POR MUY POCA PAGA Y, SIN NINGUNA SIESTA! SIN DINERO PARA GASTOS Y LOS NIÑOS SIN ZAPATOS. ESTO DEJA A LA GENTE TRISTE — LA JUSTICIA YA NO EXISTE." "QUÉ ES LO QUE ENFERMA A LA GENTE?" MARÍA VUELVE A PREGUNTAR. "AVIONES ROCIANDO VENENO EN LOS CAMPOS DE COSECHA POR ESO ENFERMA EL OBRERO. LUEGO, AL COMER ESAS FRUTAS MUCHA MÁS GENTE SE ENFERMA SIN DINERO, SIN REMEDIOS**



**- DUE TO THE UNFAIR AND HARSH ENVIRONMENTS UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN FAMILIES HAD TO LIVE IN, PARENTS HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO DEPEND ON THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN TO WORK WITH THEM OUT IN THE FIELDS.**

**- THEIR COMBINED WAGES (WITH CHILD LABOR) WERE ONLY ENOUGH FOR BARE NECESSITIES.**

**- WHITE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD HIRE THOSE WHO WORKED THE HARDEST FOR THE SMALLEST AMOUNT OF PAY. THEY RARELY MADE NOTICE OF THE CHILDREN WORKING ALONG THEIR PARENTS.**





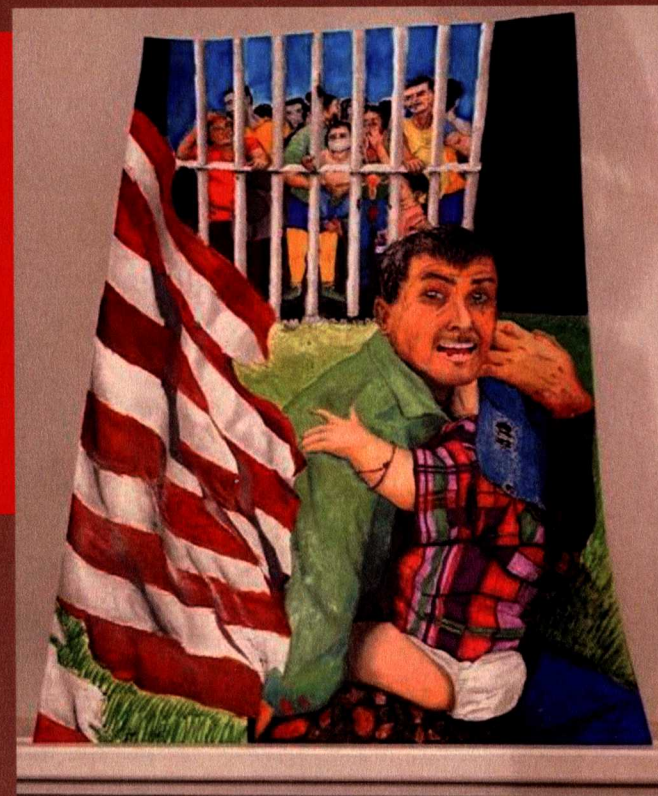


"WHAT MAKES  
PEOPLE MAD  
IS BEING  
MISTREATED  
AND NOT  
BEING  
HEARD."

"LO QUE HACE  
ENOJAR ES SI  
LA GENTE ES  
MALTRATADA  
Y NO SE  
SIENTE  
ESCUCHADA"



**"NO NEED FOR  
VIOLENCE. NO  
NEED FOR FIGHTS.  
LEARN WHAT TO  
SAY. STAND UP  
FOR YOUR  
RIGHTS."**



**"SIN USAR LA VIOLENCIA. NUNCA  
FUERON A PELEAR. APRENDIERON A  
PEDIR Y SUS DERECHOS LOGRAR."**



**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS TOPIC IS TREMENDOUS. THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT IMPACT ON MEXICAN LIVES WHO IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES. BEING UNDOCUMENTED AFFECTS THEIR EDUCATION, OCCUPATION, HEALTH, AND MANY OTHER THINGS. BEING IN A COUNTRY THAT CLAIMS "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL" SHOWS THE IRONY OF THE WAY THEY ARE TREATED.**

**UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS FACE RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, ABUSE, AND ALL TYPES OF INJUSTICES WHILE LIVING IN THIS COUNTRY. THE TERM 'ILLEGAL' USED TO DESCRIBE A HUMAN BEING CANNOT BE ANY FURTHER FROM BASIC DECENCY.**

**WE SEE MEXICAN PEOPLE BEING DEHUMANIZED AND CRIMINALIZED FOR THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN AS WELL AS THE DOCUMENTS THEY DO OR DO NOT HAVE.**

**HOW CAN THE UNITED STATES PREACH FREEDOM WHEN ALL THEY DO IS IMPRISON THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE LOOKING FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE?**

**KEEP IN MIND HOW INHUMANE IT IS TO PROMOTE CHILD LABOR AND SLAVE WAGES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT WELCOME IN THIS COUNTRY FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. MEXICAN PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED ALWAYS NEED TO BE WATCHING THEIR BACKS, HIDING FROM AUTHORITIES. THEY SUFFER WITH EXPERIENCES THAT SEEM EASY TO CITIZENS OF THE U.S.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER AND ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WHO WORK UNDER THE RADAR THAT HAVE EVERYTHING TO LOSE.**

**"SÍ SE PUEDE"**



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