How Does Ending Criminalization Help Stop Deportations?

Three principles for advocates and organizers & actions to support across the country

1. The Deportation System is a Pipeline and Policing is the Gateway

Many of our people who end up deported have had some interaction with law enforcement. Data and surveillance from local police, arrests, and convictions are a deportation dragnet, for documented and undocumented folks. Protecting immigrants means ending the way people are targeted and funneled toward deportation: through criminalization. Black people and brown people are impacted the most by criminalizing practices AND by deportations. It’s not a coincidence. We need a HOLISTIC approach.

2. Immigrants are Carted from the Sheriff or Warden, into ICE’s Hands

In many places, people who are released from prisons and jails are directly transferred to ICE detention centers. That’s why it is important to demand that local officials decarcerate jails and prisons, and also demand that they stop coordinating with ICE on how to move someone from cage to cage. People who do end up fully released also need resources, protective equipment, and a place to safely quarantine without fear of being rearrested or stigmatized because they just got out. Link up with groups providing mutual aid and rapid response to get folks the support they need.

Donate to the Etowah Freedom Fund
Support bail & bond & contribute to commissary so people can buy phone calls, hand sanitizer & supplies

Sign the Petition
Demand that Governor Cuomo protect people from Coronavirus in prisons, jails, *and* detention centers & stop increased punishment as a pandemic response

Call on San Mateo Cty Sheriff Bolanos to #StopCOVIDinMCJails and #StopICETransfers
The criminal and immigration systems have not been supporting anyone, including people who need deeper transformative and restorative justice. Now is the time to dig deeper, dream bigger, and fight for everyone’s common humanity regardless of what they’ve done in the past. The harms and violence of the immigration system, which deprives tens of thousands of liberty each day, are systematic and inherent. The roots are rotten. Dismantling this fundamentally unjust system doesn’t mean leaving it intact for some of us.

**Free Them All, and We Mean All**

Interested in hearing more? Listen in on our conversation with members of IJN’s advisory board about these three principles and more.

Call Dodge and McHenry County Sheriffs
Tell them to end contracts with ICE and to push for people’s release

Share this op-ed
Calling for a halt to the machinery of prosecution and incarceration in Texas — for all, regardless of their record

The Immigrant Justice Network is a partnership of the Immigrant Defense Project, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Just Futures Law, and the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG)