

Dear Congressman Murphy, Governor Rell, and Mayor Boughton:

On Tuesday, September 19, the city government of Danbury collaborated with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in an attack on working people. A federal agent, disguised as a contractor, lured 11 immigrant day laborers into a van with the promise of work and drove them to the Danbury police station, where federal agents awaited to whisk them away to jail in Hartford, then on to detention in Boston.

With no justification, 7 of them have since been moved to a prison in Texas, making it even more difficult for families to contact them or petition for their release.

On Wednesday, October 12, the ICE attacked again, raiding the homes of 3 immigrant workers in Danbury and arresting them. On the same day, a fourth immigrant was pulled over and arrested for not using his turn signal, and Danbury police called the ICE to take him away.

These people are not criminals. They came here to work and contribute to the wealth of our society and have committed no crime.

We view all of these arrests as audacious attacks on civil liberties, due process, workers' rights, and human dignity. No attack on immigrant workers can improve the lives of American-born workers. On the contrary, every raid that goes unchallenged is an assault on the living standards of working people, regardless of legal status, because it weakens the resolve of immigrants to stand up for themselves and makes it easier for employers to get away with paying everyone less.

We demand that all the Danbury 11 be freed immediately with charges dropped.

We demand an immediate end to the attacks on the immigrant community.

We demand that the State of Connecticut and the City of Danbury end collaboration with ICE.

Finally, we demand equal rights and legalization for all immigrants.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

Sincerely,

Leonel Villavicencio, President, Danbury Area Coalition for the Rights of Immigrants

Franklin Peña, President, Ecuadorian Civic Center of Danbury

Wilson Hernandez, Vice President, Ecuadorian Civic Center of Danbury

Pastor Juana Jourdain-Villavicencio, Hispanic United Church of Christ

Christopher Towne, Danbury Coalition for Peace

Signature

Print Name

Organization

Where you live