

AFSC Midwest Digest - July 2, 2018

Highlights of work from around the region



Umaymah helped organize this Solidarity Iftar dinner in Indy.

Get to know Umaymah Mohammad

AFSC's work across the region is bolstered by a number of remarkable young people, including Umaymah Mohammad in Indiana. She works with AFSC's [Communities Against Islamophobia](#) project and the [Muslim Youth Collective](#). In this [interview](#), Umaymah describes how she's made the "connection between medicine and social justice and issues of injustice. I hope to enter an M.D./Ph.D. program to study what physicians can do for people facing mass systems of oppression like colonialism and racial injustice."



At a packed Congressional briefing in June 2018, Jihad Abusalim discussed the impacts of Palestinian child detention. (photo: Carl Roose)

Packed DC briefing on Israeli detention of Palestinian children

Jennifer Bing reports that the No Way to Treat a Child Briefing on June 25 had 58 Congressional offices present (a new record for the campaign) and a full room of over 100 people. Read [more](#) about the briefing and how you can talk to your Representative about co-sponsoring [HR 4391](#). Check out the new Gaza Unlocked [blog](#) and get involved with AFSC's [Gaza Strawberry Survey](#)

at a farmer's market near you. Stay tuned for "Palestine: Now and Then," a new podcast starting next week featuring Jihad Abusalim of the AFSC Chicago office.



Dr. Rosaire Ifedi opens the meeting of the New African Immigrants Commission meeting in Dayton. (Photo: AFSC Dayton)

Dayton Hosts the New African Immigrants Commission Meeting

In the spirit of [Welcome Dayton](#), immigrant advocates and public officials recently hosted African Commissioners for a listening tour. Migwe Kimemia [writes](#): "The commissioners were well received, and most non-profit agency representatives expressed keen interest in partnering with the commission to meet the basic human needs of African immigrants and refugees in the Greater Dayton Area. The AFSC's Ohio Immigrant Voice Program works to create a welcoming environment that fosters immigrant justice and zero tolerance for xenophobia in Ohio."



Iowans stand up for families.

Iowans step up resistance to anti-immigrant attacks

Even in these dark times for immigrants, you know you're making progress when the most conservative (and most popular) TV station in your area gives you coverage like [this](#). AFSC

Iowa has been leading the way in helping communities [respond](#) to and [prepare](#) for anti-immigrant raids. We mourn the death of [Manuel](#), a former Dreamer who was killed in Mexico, and vow to continue the work to keep families together and to abolish ICE.

Check out these photos of a recent [Jericho Walk](#), this past weekend's Families Belong Together [rally](#), Erica Johnson [speaking](#) with the Interfaith Alliance, and a Poor People's Campaign [event](#). You can hear Sandra Sanchez' interview on the June 25 [Fallon Forum](#) (starting at the 28:25 mark).



#NoCopAcademy youth in Chicago

Help them reach the mountain top

This is the last day to [help](#) the young people involved in the [#NoCopAcademy](#) struggle in Chicago attend intensive organizing training this summer at the Highlander Center in Tennessee. Learn more about the intersectionality of this work by checking out Debbie Southorn's [interview](#) with the BTGNC Collective.



Resist the Muslim Travel Ban

Stay active in resisting the racist, Islamophobic travel ban by checking out AFSC's recent [media release](#) and [toolkit](#). "We will not stand for policies that target and criminalize Muslims," said Mary Zerkel, coordinator of AFSC's [Communities Against Islamophobia](#) project. "We're calling

on people across the country to join AFSC and the [#NoMuslimBanEver](#) coalition of more than 100 community groups and thousands of individuals across the country to say we will never accept a Muslim ban.”

AFSC at Yearly Meetings

Joshua Saleem and [Brant Rosen](#) provided a keynote [address](#) on “AFSC and the Call to Racial Justice and Justice for the Poor” at the recent Illinois Yearly Meeting. Sharon Goens-Bradley attended Northern Yearly Meeting over Memorial Day weekend and said people really appreciated AFSC’s presence there. She led a well-received workshop on reparations and restorative justice. Jon Krieg shares these [photos](#) from Great Plains YM. Among other staff and volunteers, Midwest EC member Tom Roberts from Indiana will be attending *three* YMs this summer. Please keep an eye out for your AFSC reps at your YM!



Hundreds rally at the Capitol in Des Moines to Keep Families Together and #AbolishICE.

Bits and Peaces

Offices in St. Paul and [St. Louis](#) successfully completed their recent summer AFSC Freedom Schools....Learn more about why we should [abolish ICE](#) and help our [petition](#) reach 10,000 signatures; here’s a handy [toolkit](#)....Brant Rosen [joined](#) other AFSC leaders in committing civil disobedience in DC as part of the Poor People’s Campaign....Brant also [interviewed](#) Jihad as part of the Jewish Fast for Gaza.

Thanks as always for your support

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