

Secretary Chertoff,

In the name of national security, DHS has adopted practices that routinely violate the basic rights of people living in this country, particularly immigrants.

- DHS regularly conducts warrantless and aggressive raids on homes and workplaces rounding up hundreds of people, including legal residents and citizens. Raid victims are often detained without access to counsel or a phone call to contact family members.
- Individuals detained by DHS — many of whom have no criminal record — are being held in inhumane conditions.

- DHS' practice of targeting people of certain nationalities for extra security checks has contributed to a huge backlog in citizenship applications. Many applicants are now waiting an average of 7-9 months longer than normal. This will result in the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of people in the November 2008 elections.

We do not want to live in a country that violates basic rights! *We the people demand that you:*

1. End immigration raids that lock up people without due process,
2. Stop inhumane detention conditions and arbitrary imprisonment without charges, and
3. Provide fair and efficient mechanisms to end the backlog in processing citizenship applications by September 2008.

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Hold the Department of Homeland Security
ACCOUNTABLE!

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