

SAVE THE DATE—NIGHT OF 1,000 CONVERSATIONS SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Thousands of Americans To Participate in the Rights Working Group's Campaign to Hold the Department of Homeland Security Accountable

Grassroots advocacy targets DHS' violations of Human Rights and Civil Liberties

Washington, D.C. – On September 25, 2008 the Rights Working Group will convene a "Night of 1,000 Conversations," a public education activity of its campaign to hold the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) accountable. The *Hold DHS Accountable Campaign* spotlights and seeks to rectify the violations of human rights and civil liberties which are happening everyday as result of DHS policies. In the name of national security, DHS has targeted people living in the U.S. including citizens, legal residents, and immigrants in a variety of disturbing ways. DHS is increasingly conducting immigration raids that lock up people without due process denying them access to a lawyer or even a phone call. Individuals detained by DHS including asylum seekers, the elderly, infirm and other vulnerable people— many of whom have no criminal record – are being held in inhumane conditions. And as we approach the presidential elections, DHS policies will result in the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands this November who are still waiting to become citizens but have seen their applications delayed by extra security checks based on their race or religion.

The Night of 1,000 Conversations will raise awareness and mobilize action about DHS policies that violate basic rights. The goal is to create an educated constituency for the November 2008 presidential and congressional elections who are concerned about these issues. Thousands of people from across the country will gather in community centers, homes, offices, coffee shops and places of worship to discuss how to work together to ensure that the government restores these basic human rights.

The Rights Working Group Campaign asks DHS to take the following actions: 1) End immigration raids that lock up people without due process. 2) Ensure humane detention conditions and end arbitrary imprisonment. 3) Provide fair and efficient mechanisms to end the backlog in processing citizenship applications. The September 25th Night of 1,000 Conversations builds upon the success of the June 19th Night of 1,000 Conversations that involved more than 3,000 people in 28 states and launched the Hold DHS Accountable Campaign.

- What:** Night of 1,000 Conversations
- Who:** thousands of people across the U.S.
- When:** Thursday, September 25, 2008
- Where:** throughout the U.S.

rights★working★group

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Why: To Hold DHS Accountable for Human Rights and Civil Liberties Violations

The Rights Working Group is a national coalition of more than 250 community-based groups and national organizations dedicated to ensuring that the American commitment to liberty and justice for all is fulfilled. For more information visit www.nightof1000conversations.org or rightsworkinggroup.org.

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