

October 18, 2006

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights wishes to express its deep concern over reports that Spanish-surnamed individuals in Orange County, California have received correspondence that seeks to intimidate them from voting on November 7, 2006 (See attachment). As you know, voter intimidation, coercion, and threats are specifically prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 1973i. Accordingly, we urge the Department of Justice to fully and vigorously investigate this matter. Moreover, given the time-sensitive nature of this issue, we urge you to take immediate steps to assure Latino voters that there is no penalty to lawful voting and to correct any misimpressions or misrepresentations of the law contained in the attached letter.

Thank you in advance for your leadership on this important issue.

Very truly yours,

GERALD A. REYNOLDS
Chairman

JENNIFER C. BRACERAS
Commissioner

PETER N. KIRSANOW
Commissioner

ASHLEY L. TAYLOR, JR
Commissioner

MICHAEL J. YAKI
Commissioner

Enclosure

Greetings Carolina Monroy,

You are being sent this letter because you were recently registered to vote. If you are a citizen of the United States, we ask that you participate in the democratic process of voting.

You are advised that if your residence in this country is illegal or you are an immigrant, voting in a federal election is a crime that could result in jail time, and you will be deported for voting without having a right to do so.

At the same time, you are advised that the government of the United States is installing a new computer system to verify the names of all new registered voters that vote in the October and November elections. Anti-immigration organizations can ask for information from this new computer system.

Unlike Mexico, here there is no incentive to vote. There is not a voter registration card in the United States. Therefore, it is useless and dangerous to vote in any election if you are not a citizen of the United States.

Do not listen to any politician that tells you the opposite. They are only looking out for their own interests. They only want to win elections without any regard to what happens to you.

Sincerely,

Sergio Ramirez



California Coalition for Immigration Reform

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ALLIANCE FOR BORDER ENFORCEMENT (Imperial Beach, CA)

AMERICAN CITIZENS TOGETHER (Alhambra, CA)

AMERICAN CIVIL RESPONSIBILITIES UNION (Anaheim, CA)

AMERICAN NATL. COUNCIL for IMMIGRATION REFORM (Washington, D.C.)

ANTI-CRIME TASK FORCE (Anaheim, CA)

ARIZONIANS for IMMIGRATION REFORM (Tucson, AZ)

ASIAN-AMERICANS for BORDER CONTROL (Daly City, CA)

BAY AREA COALITION for IMMIGRATION REFORM (San Francisco, CA)

BLACK AMERICANS for FAMILY VALUES (Huntington Beach, CA)

BORDERS (Austin, TX)

CALIFORNIANS for IMMIGRATION CONTROL (Anderson, CA)

CCIR I - VENTURA CO. (Thousand Oaks, CA)

CITIZENS for ACTION NOW (Orange County, CA)

FLA-187 COMMITTEE (Pompano Beach, FL)

FLORIDIANS for IMMIGRATION CONTROL (Daytona Beach, FL)

IMMIGRATION CONTROL ADVOCATES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (San Rafael, CA)

IMMIGRATION RFM NETWORK OF SILICON VALLEY (Los Gatos, CA)

LATINO-AMERICANS for IMMIGRATION CONTROL (Salinas, CA)

MID-CITIES IMMIGRATION REFORM ADVOCATES (Phoenix, AZ)

MONTEREY BAY ACTION COMMITTEE I (Belmont, CA)

MONTEREY BAY ACTION COMMITTEE II (Salinas, CA)

OHIO COALITION for IMMIGRATION REFORM (Columbus, OH)

PATRIOT CITIZENS (Warren, PA)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY TAXPAYERS (Alpine, CA)

TAXPAYER ACTION NETWORK (Fountain Valley, CA)

TEXANS for FAIR IMMIGRATION (Austin, TX)

TEXANS for IMMIGRATION REFORM (Houston, TX)

WE STAND READY (Huntington Beach, CA)

Nellie Diaz
11951 Candy Ln
Garden Grove CA 92840-2509



Saludos Nellie Diaz,

Se le envía esta carta debido a que recientemente ud. fue registrado para votar. Si ud. es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, se le ruega a que participe en el proceso democrático de la votación.

Se le avisa que si su residencia en este país es ilegal o si es emigrado, votar en una elección federal es un delito que podrá resultar en encarcelamiento, y si será deportado por votar sin tener derecho a ello.

De la misma manera, se le avisa que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos está instalando un nuevo sistema computarizado para verificar los nombres de todos los nuevos registrados que voten en las elecciones de octubre y noviembre. Organizaciones en contra de la emigración podrán pedir información de este nuevo sistema computarizado.

No cómo en México, aquí no se aporta ningún incentivo para votar. En los Estados Unidos no hay tarjeta de registro para votar. Por lo tanto, es inútil y peligroso votar en cualquier elección si ud. No es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.

No le haga caso a ningún político que le diga lo contrario. Éstos sólo velan por sus propios intereses. Sólo quieren ganar las elecciones, sin importarles en lo más mínimo qué le pase a ud.

Atte.

Sergio Ramirez