



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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ADELANTE ALABAMA WORKER CENTER RESPONDS TO ICE TERRORISM

Discriminatory Employer uses ICE Raids as Retaliation to Worker Organizing

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Adelante Alabama Worker Center denounces ICE raids that took place yesterday, August 7, where nearly 700 immigrants were detained at various poultry factories in Mississippi.

These raids serve as a clear reminder of ICE’s attempt to terrorize immigrant and refugee communities that are willing to speak out against workplace abuses and violations. In 2018, Koch Foods Inc., one of the factories that was raided, settled a \$3.75 million lawsuit brought by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for racial and sexual harassment against Latino workers in their Mississippi plant. As part of the lawsuit, Koch agreed to take measures to allow employees to report discrimination, including establishing a bilingual hotline for employees to file anonymous reports.

Large scale, retaliatory raids are used to undermine worker rights and to force undocumented people into silence. Moreover, these raids leave children without parents and many families without financial support. Luciano, a Birmingham man detained on his way to work in 2018, recalls speaking to his wife on the phone from a detention center and hearing his children cry because “they were fighting over the last shred of food” they had in their home.

While there have been no factory raids reported in Alabama as of today, Adelante is helping to prepare Birmingham and surrounding communities to take action. “Although we are not in Mississippi, we feel the effects of the terrorist state in Alabama every day,” says Luis Robledo, the Economic Justice Organizer at Adelante.

“We stand in unity to defend our community against any and all kidnappings. We are preparing a regional response network to prevent this state sanctioned violence from further affecting our friends, families, and neighbors in Alabama. We will resist, and we will remain.”

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Adelante is a nonprofit organization that unites low-wage immigrant workers and their families in the Birmingham area to defend our rights, promote our dignity, and pursue justice for all. To learn more and get involved visit www.adelantealabama.org