



Media Articles Highlighting the Detrimental Impact of Secure Communities on Immigrant Victims of Violence

The following is a sample of some of the stories that have come out in the media demonstrating the detrimental impact on immigrant survivors of “Secure Communities” and other ICE enforcement programs that have resulted in greater entanglement with local law enforcement. These articles demonstrate how such programs are undermining trust in local law enforcement to protect public safety when the local police are viewed more as an arm of federal immigration enforcement.

➤ **Call for help leads to possible deportation for Hyattsville mother**

By Shankar Vedantam, Washington Post Staff Writer, Monday, November 1, 2010

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/01/AR2010110103073.html>

- This article tells the story of Maria Bolanos, who called the police because of a domestic dispute with her partner. Those charges were not pursued. However, months later she found a warrant for her arrest on charges of selling telephone calling cards without a license. This was based on the observations of a police officer when he went to into her home, responding to the domestic dispute, and saw some calling cards on her table. Ultimately, those charges against her were dropped, but once she had been booked and her fingerprints had been scanned, she had been identified to ICE and was detained for deportation.

➤ **Deported Mexicans leave two small kids in Lodi** By Stephen Magagnini, Sacramento Bee, Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/11/02/3151148/deported-mexicans-leave-two-small.html#ixzz1bhQ60yBL>

- This article relates the story of a woman whose sister called the police after seeing scratches and bruises on her her caused by beatings from her boyfriend. The police arrested him, but when he said he also had scratches and marks caused by her, the police arrested the woman as well. Both were charged with felonies and their arrest resulted in ICE notification of their immigration status. She was deported within two days, without any information about her rights and the possibilities of qualifying for a U-visa as an immigrant victim of violence, leaving behind two young children.

- **Noncriminals swept up in federal deportation program**, By Lee Romney and Paloma Esquivel, Los Angeles Times, April 25, 2011

<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/apr/25/local/la-me-secure-communities-20110425>

- Family violence victim swept up by Secure Communities, now in removal. Norma faces deportation and separation from her 3-year-old son as a result of reporting her domestic abuser to the authorities. When police arrived, she was herself incarcerated. She has been placed on an immigration hold and must wear an ankle monitor.

- **Protecting illegal immigrants to catch criminals**, By Paul McEnroe, Star Tribune, October 27, 2011

<http://www.startribune.com/local/132387733.html>

- This article discusses the effects of Secure Communities in Minnesota's Mower County through the story of Patricia Sanchez, a survivor of domestic abuse who was imprisoned because of her immigration status. After Sanchez looked to the police for safety from the abuser, the authorities discovered her to be an undocumented worker (when they saw an employee of the month plaque hanging on her wall with her picture and a different name), and she was sent to jail. The Sanchez case and other cases in Mower County ultimately spurred a new policy decision to give immunity to victims and witnesses of violent crimes when the police began to realize how imprisoning victims can undermine community policing efforts.