

For Immediate Release
February 18, 2009

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PUEBLO Joins Organizations from Across the Country to Protest Arpaio
Valley Groups to Denounce the Racism and Hatred Infesting Arizona

Phoenix, AZ. – PUEBLO, Center for Legal and Human Rights joins valley organizations as we openly denounce the racism in Arizona, through a protest scheduled to take place on February 28, 2009.

All individuals and organizations interested in human rights are invited to come to Phoenix during the weekend of February 27-March 1st. We urge all people to join local efforts in protesting a State so vicious that many refer to it as the Alabama of the Civil Rights Movement.

<u>What:</u>	Protest / March
<u>Date:</u>	Saturday February 28, 2009
<u>Time:</u>	9 AM
<u>Location:</u>	Indian Steele Park
<u>Route:</u>	TBA

“Our local Sheriff and State Legislature are out of control. Their “official” antics flame the fires of the local anti-immigrant sentiment and lead to widespread abuses in every area of life,” said Ray Ybarra, an organizer and one of the co-founders of PUEBLO. PUEBLO, the organization designed to mobilize young people to fight against the racism and xenophobia directed towards the immigrant community and people of color, also notes that they have seen a drastic increase in workers who are not being paid by their employers. “The abuse of power by government officials results in employers believing that they too can openly exploit working people. Every time you turn on the news, read the newspaper, or listen to talk radio, you see someone following the governments lead and scapegoating immigrants for all of society’s problems.”

PUEBLO joins other valley groups in calling for an immediate stop to Sheriff Arpaio and his band of goons, including a stop to the raids and a severing of his 287(g) agreement. PUEBLO also supports an investigation into Arpaio by the Federal Government and International Organizations and Bodies that are not already an accomplice to his reign of terror.

“The company I worked for went out of business and refuses to pay myself and at least 20 other workers. In total he owes us over \$100,000, and when we told him we were going to protest, he said he was going to call the Sheriff,” said Miguel Sanchez, a former employee of Jostes Concrete. “I encourage everyone to come to Arizona, to learn about the Sheriff who spreads fear through the community and makes people afraid to go onto the streets, to learn about how employers are not paying workers and then laughing at us, and to see first-hand how oppressive this state really is.”

PUEBLO will be handing out flyers at local high schools the week leading up to the protest encouraging youth to participate.

For more information about the organization you can visit the website, www.puebloaz.org.

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