



August 7, 2019

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## **STATEMENT ON THE IMMIGRATION RAIDS AT MISSISSIPPI FOOD PROCESSING COMPANIES**

Farmworker Justice condemned the heartless immigration raids at food processing plants in Mississippi, where federal agents reportedly arrested 680 individuals, separating many of them from their children who were at school.

"It is no secret that this country has taken advantage of the willingness of foreign citizens to come to this country to work, many of them on farms and in food processing companies, while a broken immigration system allowed their employment but denied them a lawful immigration status. If the Trump Administration were to arrest and deport any significant number of undocumented immigrants in the agriculture sector, it would collapse," said Bruce Goldstein, President of Farmworker Justice, a national advocacy organization in Washington, D.C.

The responsible, humane, economically sensible solution is immigration reform that grants undocumented immigrants an opportunity for immigration status and a path to citizenship.

Americans depend on farmworkers for abundant, safe, healthy, and affordable food. Yet, the status quo for agricultural workers and their employers is untenable. "With a large portion of agricultural workers in the U.S. lacking immigration status, and families living under the threat of arrest and deportation, Congress must reform our broken immigration system. The opportunity for legal immigration status is crucial to enabling agricultural workers to live and work productively without fear and to seek improvements to their working and living conditions," he added.

The Administration's heartless breaking up of families in the name of immigration enforcement should end. ###