

# NEWS

Central Illinois Organizing Project

Regional office: 309-827-9627

[www.ciop.org](http://www.ciop.org)

**For Release:** Tomorrow, May 17, 2007

**Contact:** Shelly Heideman

Don Carlson, CIOP Exec. Director 309-827-9627 (background)

## **Social Impact of Immigration Raids Brought to U. S. Congress During Capitol Hill Hearing**

### **CIOP Leader to Testify about Beardstown, IL Immigration Raid**

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.  
2255 Rayburn  
Washington, DC

**WHO:** **Marian Wright Edelman**, *President, Children's Defense Fund*  
**Kim Gandy**, *President, National Organization of Women*  
**Rev. Robert Edgar**, *General Secretary, National Council of Churches USA* **Hilary Shelton**, *Washington DC Bureau Chief, NAACP*  
**Randy Capps**, *Senior Researcher, Urban Institute*  
**Shelly Heideman**, *CIOP representative, Elizabeth Ann Seton Project, Springfield IL*

**WHAT:** As the immigration debate heats up with a bill expected in the U.S. Senate, immigration advocates are bringing the human impact of the callous Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids to the feet of the U. S. Congress with a Children's Hearing on May 17, 2007. Communities from across the nation are suffering the consequences of ICE raids that have terrorized communities and, in some instances, making orphans of U. S. citizen children, detaining pregnant woman and completely destroying communities.

Shelly Heideman, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Project in Springfield and Board member of CIOP will testify about her community experiences before and after the ICE raid in Beardstown, IL. Her talking points will include the following:

- Ethnic tensions have escalated and negative feelings toward the Hispanic people have increased. School children hear comments such "Go back to Mexico." "We don't want you here." "Those Mexicans have taken our good American jobs".
- Rumors continue to fly about additional raids, creating an air of tension and mistrust. A few weeks after the April 4 raid, a rumor of another ICE raid caused 70 people to leave their Cargill job in the middle of their shift. Many of them have since been fired.

The Center for Community Change (CCC) and FIRM (Fair Immigration Reform Movement), sponsors of the Congressional hearing, are calling on members of the Senate and the House to call for a moratorium on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and to hold hearings in both chambers on the impact that raids have on children and families.

CIOP is a regional faith-based community organization composed of 25 member churches and organizations representing 33,000 families in Central Illinois. CIOP has affiliates in Bloomington-Normal, Springfield, Champaign, Decatur, Danville, a family farm rural organization (Farmers Supporting Independent Agriculture), and a homeless organization in Springfield (Homeless United for Change.)