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TAHIRIH STATEMENT ON MASS ICE ARRESTS

The Tahirih Justice Center is deeply concerned by the mass arrests of individuals with final deportation orders, including survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and related trauma. The impact of these actions is detrimental to immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, who may be deported before their humanitarian claims are resolved. For example, survivors of human trafficking will be unable to receive legal protection in the U.S. if they are not present within the country and immigrants who have helped law enforcement by reporting violent crimes and cooperating with investigations may return to life-threatening situations.

The Administration is using mass deportations to discourage migrants from crossing the southern border, but this tactic has historically been unsuccessful.

“Between 2015 and 2016, the previous Administration also conducted mass raids targeting the same undocumented individuals as now, families and children, as a tool to stem migration. It was unsuccessful and did not achieve the government’s desired deterrent effect. What the raids did do was discourage undocumented survivors of violence from seeking help, making our communities less safe,” commented Rená E. Cutlip-Mason, Tahirih Chief of Programs and former government official.

Over the last few years, Tahirih has witnessed a growing climate of fear among immigrant survivors, in which threats of deportation and other recent policy changes discourage survivors from seeking help. In [a survey recently released](#) by a coalition of advocates, including Tahirih, 52% of advocates have worked with immigrant survivors who decided to drop civil or criminal cases because they were fearful to continue with their cases. Moreover, 76% of surveyed advocates reported that immigrant survivors have shared concerns about contacting police.

These deportation measures increase the barriers that immigrant survivors of violence already face in pursuing safety and dignity and make our communities less secure.

Rená E. Cutlip-Mason is available for comment on this topic. Please contact dhajjar@mrss.com to arrange an interview.

About the Tahirih Justice Center

The Tahirih Justice Center is the largest national direct service and policy advocacy organization focused on assisting immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. The organization has five offices across the country and is headquartered in the Washington DC area. Tahirih monitors policy shifts that impact women and girls fleeing violence and advocate for the United States to honor its legal obligations to protect those fleeing human rights abuses.

Tahirih Justice Center is a national non-profit that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence through free legal and social services, public policy advocacy, and training and education. Visit www.tahirih.org for more information.