

2,000-plus rally for immigration reform

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<http://www.newcommunities.org/news/articleDetail.asp?objectID=1284>

On Oct. 27, more than 2,000 people rallied alongside local community leaders, elected officials and young volunteers in solidarity for all divided families that are victims of a broken immigration system, and all urging people get out the vote.



The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and its community partners, such as NCP lead agency The Resurrection Project, South West Organizing Project, Instituto Del Progreso Latino, Mujeres Latinas en Accion, organized this event after having just finished a successful voter registration campaign, registering more than 25,000 new voters.

Those in attendance heard passionate speeches by Mayor Richard Daley, Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.), Chicago City Clerk Miguel del Valle, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and many others.

The elected officials and all participants had a unique opportunity to witness testimonies from individuals affected by the current immigration policy. Religious community leaders in attendance drove home the importance of maintaining the human dignity and justice for all, especially those isolated at detention centers.

Their message also promoted the access of religious ministry to detainees, as Catholic priests, rabbis and imams should be able to counsel those imprisoned.



During the summer ICIRF's Democracy fellows working with community partners achieved registration for more than 25,000 new voters.

During the evening everyone could hear the chanting of the motto "yes we can" in English, Spanish, Korean, Polish, Cantonese, French, and Arabic, solidifying the fact that the problem of immigration transcends race and ethnicity and it is not just a Latino issue.

A version of this story and a YouTube video of the event first appeared at <http://www.resurrectionproject.org/display.aspx?pointer=6681>

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