ICE activity mapping app  
project plan

February 19, 2018

This project will create a mapping application to track ICE activity, community responses, and other information. The data will be collected by WAISN and exposed on our web site, some publicly, some privately, by the app. This is a first draft of what such a project might look like.

# Goal

The main purposes of such an app would be in correlating:

* In real time, the locations of available verifiers and rapid-response teams who might be able to respond, and the location of a given event
* Over time, as the number of cases tracked grows, areas where more verifiers and responders are needed, given the location patterns of ICE events
* In the long term, an historical and geographical record of the effects of ICE enforcement on immigrants in WA, the responses of the movement, and outcomes for immigrants affected

# Data

Some of the kinds of information such an app might track over time include:

* Location of ICE activity
* Details about enforcement practices and legalities of the activity, e.g., kind of warrant
* Details about people affected and outcomes for them
* Details of calls to hotline
* Location of WAISN verifiers
* Location of WAISN rapid-response teams
* Location and nature of WAISN and other responses
* Media coverage of these events
* What other significant parameters?

The leadership of WAISN should prioritize the kinds of information collected and its uses, and consider the benefits and risks of the data types and the technologies involved.

Some of this would be important information to publicize to reveal the nature and effects of ICE enforcement efforts.

Other data would need to be kept confidential, and used internally to help us improve our monitoring and responses.

This could be a critical part of one of the most visible initiatives of WAISN, the hotline, text messaging, and rapid response. It would enable us to create a big picture of the effects of ICE in Washington state, evaluate our work, and adapt it to evolving circumstances.

We might also be able to feed the information collected into national efforts to track and record the effects of immigration enforcement and resistance.

# First steps

1. Find out if anyone else around the country has done something similar. If so, adapt as much as possible from their work.
2. Recruit local software developers who have experience with mapping and related applications.

# Possible elements

## Name

ICE-T (for tracking. Too cute?)

## Output

The need to expose some information to the public, but keep some confidential within WAISN, points to at least two web pages, each exposing different information on the mapping application.

* An external map, prominent on the home page, that displays the public information
* An internal map, on the private, pass-word protected part of the site (or accessible through VPNs) that WAISN teams can use for our own purposes

## Input

Simplest to begin with would be the Google Docs spreadsheet, which could become a front end for a database. Better would be a simple web front end for a database exposed on a private, password-protected area of our web.

Some work has already been done on entering information on verifiers (or rapid response groups?) in some repository (Victoria).

## Mapping

Two technology platforms to investigate have been identified, and it may be worth looking at others.

### Ushahidi

Alx, Youlian and Pedro evaluated this for WAISN. It was used in emergency response after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.  
<https://www.ushahidi.com>

Write-up of Ushahidi in practice:  
<https://irevolutions.org/2010/02/20/sms-disaster-response/>

Manual on "verification" in disaster response:  
<http://verificationhandbook.com/>

### Google Maps

This platform provides overlays and APIs that mapping applications can use.  
<https://developers.google.com/maps>  
<https://enterprise.google.com/maps/products/mapsapi.html>

## Storage

Data repository to store information. On our website, which runs on WordPress hosted on Linux, this would probably be a MySQL database residing locally and connected to the web site with PHP code. To begin with, it could be a spreadsheet on Google Docs.

For the schema of the database storing the information, it would be best to find a national effort that has already established and standardized this. If one does not already exist, we should try to involve sister organizations nationally and in other states to collaborate on this, so that we can establish a national standard and share this information more easily in the future.

## Security

The information would mostly be publicly available, but we would need to use proven best practices to prevent hackers or authorities from disrupting, corrupting, or spoofing the app, or stealing confidential data (they would already have most of the public data).

As to the locations and identities of rapid-response teams and other data that might require more confidentiality, we would have to be very careful and methodical about shielding these. We should recruit volunteers, member group staff, or software-industry allies with expertise on these issues.

# Stakeholders

Veronique – Rapid Response Team

Gerhard – Rapid Response Team

Phil Neff – Rapid Response Team

(Other people from the Rapid Response Team?)

Alx – Policy Team (?) – Already has done investigation into Ushahidi.

Jordan – Tech Team Lead

Victoria – Colectiva Legal del Pueblo - Already has had someone entering data for this.

Ingrid – WAISN Organizer

Monse – WAISN Coordinator

(Who else should be involved?)