

Rights Group Accuses U.S. of Failing to Protect Latinos

The New York Times

December 19, 2008 Friday, The New York Times on the Web

Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company

Section: Section ; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg.

Length: 333 words

Byline: By ANNE BARNARD

Body

A civil rights legal advocacy group, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, filed an unusual international petition Thursday accusing the United States of failing to adequately protect Latinos living within its borders, regardless of citizenship.

The claim was filed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an organ of the Organization of American States, of which the United States is a founding member. It charges that the United States is failing to live up to the group's declaration on human rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.

It cites violence against Latinos, including the murders over the past five months of three immigrants: Jose Sucuzhanay in Brooklyn last week, Marcelo Lucero in the Long Island town of Patchogue on Nov. 8, and Luis Ramirez in Shenandoah, Pa., on July 14. In all three cases, prosecutors say the assailants used anti-Latino slurs. Hate-crime attacks on Latinos rose 40 percent between 2003 and 2007, the petition says, citing the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The complaint also cites the rising use of agreements that allow local communities to deputize their police forces to carry out immigration law. They were created after Sept. 11, 2001, to increase cooperation between local police departments and federal immigration authorities.

The group argues that deputization leads the police to treat all Latinos as suspects of immigration violations, engenders mistrust of the police among Latinos, divides communities and promotes a belief that Latinos can be attacked with impunity. The complaint notes that such an ordinance was adopted in Shenandoah and was under consideration in Suffolk County, where Patchogue is situated.

The United States has not recognized the commission's decisions as binding, but has sometimes responded to them in the diplomatic arena, lawyers at LatinoJustice say. In order for the petition to go forward, the commission must determine that the plaintiffs have exhausted all domestic legal remedies.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Rights Group Accuses U.S. of Failing to Protect Latinos

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); CIVIL **RIGHTS** (90%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); POLICE FORCES (90%); HUMAN **RIGHTS** & CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW (90%); PETITIONS (90%); HUMAN **RIGHTS** (78%); ORDINANCES (78%); HUMAN **RIGHTS** ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (77%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (75%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (75%); LAWYERS (75%); INVESTIGATIONS (75%); IMMIGRATION LAW (74%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (73%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (73%); HATE CRIME (71%)

Organization: ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (58%); INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN **RIGHTS** (58%); FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (56%); LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY (56%)

Industry: LAWYERS (75%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); **UNITED STATES** (96%)

Load-Date: December 19, 2008

End of Document