

## **Free clinic deciphers new INS regulations;**

## **SOME HAVE TO REGISTER WITH AGENCY**

San Jose Mercury News (California)

January 5, 2003 SundayCorrection Appended

Copyright 2003 San Jose Mercury News All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 528 words

**Byline:** By Putsata Reang; Mercury News

### **Body**

---

Organizers of a **free clinic in** San Francisco on Saturday said they believe fear probably kept some immigrants away from the session.

About 75 immigrants, worried that they might be required to **register** with the Immigration and Naturalization Service under a controversial **new** national security policy, attended the **free clinic**. Organizers had hoped to attract about 300 people.

"People who are afraid to come send their brothers or sisters or other family members who are citizens," said Khalil Kaid, an organizer with Service Employees International Union Local 1877. "A lot of people are scared and nervous."

Members of SEIU Local 1877 hastily organized the afternoon session at the group's Tenderloin headquarters as the deadline for **registering** approaches and fear surrounding the policy intensifies among immigrants.

About 400 of the union's 3,500 members **in** San Francisco are of Arab descent, and many are worried that they'll be targeted under the government's **new** law, which requires men from many Middle Eastern, African and Asian countries to **register** with the **INS**.

"There's so much confusion about who needs to **register**," said Heba Nimr, an attorney at La Raza Centro Legal who is involved with a program that specifically monitors **INS** activity. "People who are citizens from Yemen think they have to **register**."

But that's not the case. Widespread confusion about the policy prompted Nimr and about 20 other attorneys to volunteer their time Saturday to clarify the law and help immigrants determine whether they should **register**.

Under the program, only men and boys age 16 and older from countries including Morocco, Lebanon, Eritrea, North Korea and Afghanistan who entered the United States as non-immigrants on or before Sept. 30, 2002, and plan to stay **in** the country at least until Jan. 10 must **register**.

Those who attended the legal **clinic** were provided packets outlining the policy and possible consequences they face if they decide to **register**. Each person received a 15-minute consultation with an attorney.

Attorneys who helped out Saturday said they are well-versed about the policy's guidelines. What's less certain is how the **INS** will use information obtained during the registration process.

"We really do not know the final consequences of failing to **register**," said Nancy Hormachea, a Berkeley immigration attorney and member of the National Lawyer's Guild.

## Free clinic deciphers new INS regulations;SOME HAVE TO REGISTER WITH AGENCY

Hormachea warned those who attended that if they currently carry expired visas or face other immigration violations they are likely to face deportation and should think hard before deciding whether to register or not. She implored others to consider their own specific circumstances before registering.

Already, the INS has detained hundreds of Middle Eastern men -- including at least two dozen in the Bay Area -- following the first registration deadline last month. The next deadline is Jan. 10.

Kaid said the union has no other legal clinics planned but would consider hosting more if necessary. A rally in protest of the new policy is planned for 1 p.m. Friday at the INS office in San Francisco.

Contact Putsata Reang at [preang@sjmercury.com](mailto:preang@sjmercury.com)

## Correction

---

An article Sunday in the local section about a new anti-terrorism policy included a quote from an attorney who mischaracterized a group concerned about registering with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Heba Nimr said she intended to say, "People who are U.S. citizens from Yemen think they have to register." Immigrants who have become U.S. citizens do not have to register under the new policy.

January 5, 2003 CLINIC DECIPHERS INS RULES

**Correction-Date:** January 9, 2003 Thursday

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (92%); LAWYERS (87%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (78%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); SERVICE WORKERS (77%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (77%); PUBLIC POLICY (77%); MEN (76%); LABOR UNIONS (74%); NATIONAL SECURITY (72%); VOLUNTEERS (72%)

**Company:** SICOME SA (66%)

**Organization:** SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (83%)

**Industry:** LAWYERS (87%)

**Geographic:** SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA (92%); SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA, USA (58%); CALIFORNIA, USA (91%); MIDDLE EAST (91%); ERITREA (79%); LEBANON (79%); MOROCCO (79%); KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF (79%); UNITED STATES (79%); EASTERN AFRICA (79%); ASIA (79%); AFGHANISTAN (70%)

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2003