

## **FORUM ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

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### **Body**

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California's Proposition 187 and immigration reform will be the topic of the first of a new series of community **forums** sponsored by the Queens Borough Public Library.

The library launches its "Queens Speaks" series next weekend at the Central Library in Jamaica. The **forum** will have as its topic: "Should undocumented **immigrants** have the same rights as American citizens?" That **forum** and ones still in the planning stages will feature well-known and outspoken proponents and opponents of current issues that have a direct impact on the lives of Queens residents, said library director Gary Strong.

The audience is invited to participate and voice their views in an open discussion, he said.

"Queens Speaks offers a wonderful opportunity for the people of Queens to be heard on issues that affect them deeply," said Strong.

At the first **forum**, Juan Jose Gutierrez, the executive director of One Stop Immigration and Education Center in California, will speak against the California law. Advocating for reform and in favor of Proposition 187 is Prof. Edward Levy.

Levy served as chairman of Zero Population Growth from 1976-80. He has been on the advisory board for the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and is a founding member and chairman of the Tri-State Immigration Moratorium Committee.

"It is our obligation as a library to offer information on all sides of the issue to allow our constituents to make informed choices," Strong said.

Last year, Gutierrez, a vocal opponent of such laws and an **immigrant** rights advocate, organized a demonstration of 150,000 people in Los Angeles against Proposition 187. The law would deny **illegal immigrants** access to public school education, welfare and health care.

"I'm committed to promoting the human rights of all people, and all people means **immigrant** people as well," said Gutierrez.

Taking the opposition, Levy said, "All American citizens have the same rights but **illegal aliens** in the United States only have the right to be treated humanely while awaiting deportation."

Amy Goodman, news director of WBAI-FM, will be the moderator of the premier **forum**, scheduled for 2 p.m. next Saturday at the Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Blvd. in Jamaica.

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