FROM LAND OF OPPORTUNITY TO LAND OF TERROR: THE HISPANIC/LATINX EXPERIENCE

A Presentation by Alma Rosa Alvarez
November 2, 2025

THE LABOR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MEXICO

- The Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 and the curtailment of Japanese laborers in 1907
- World War I
- World War II and the Bracero Program 1942-1964
- U.S. Grower Needs—Undocumented Laborers
  - From Uneasy Neighbors: A Brief History of Mexican-U.S. Migration, *Harvard Magazine*, May 2007

MOTIVATING FACTORS FOR MIGRATION TO OREGON

- 1855-1856: MULE PACKERS DURING ROGUE RIVER WARS
- EARLY 1900S-1930S: RAILROAD
- 1920S-PRESENT: AGRICULTURE (STOOP LABOR)
- 1980S-PRESENT: REFORESTATION (PINEROS)
- PRESENT: WILD LAND FIRE FIGHTERS
- PRESENT: HOSPITALITY SECTOR
- MIGRATION PATTERNS
- FAMILY REUNIFICATION
    - “Latinos in Oregon” by Jerry Garcia

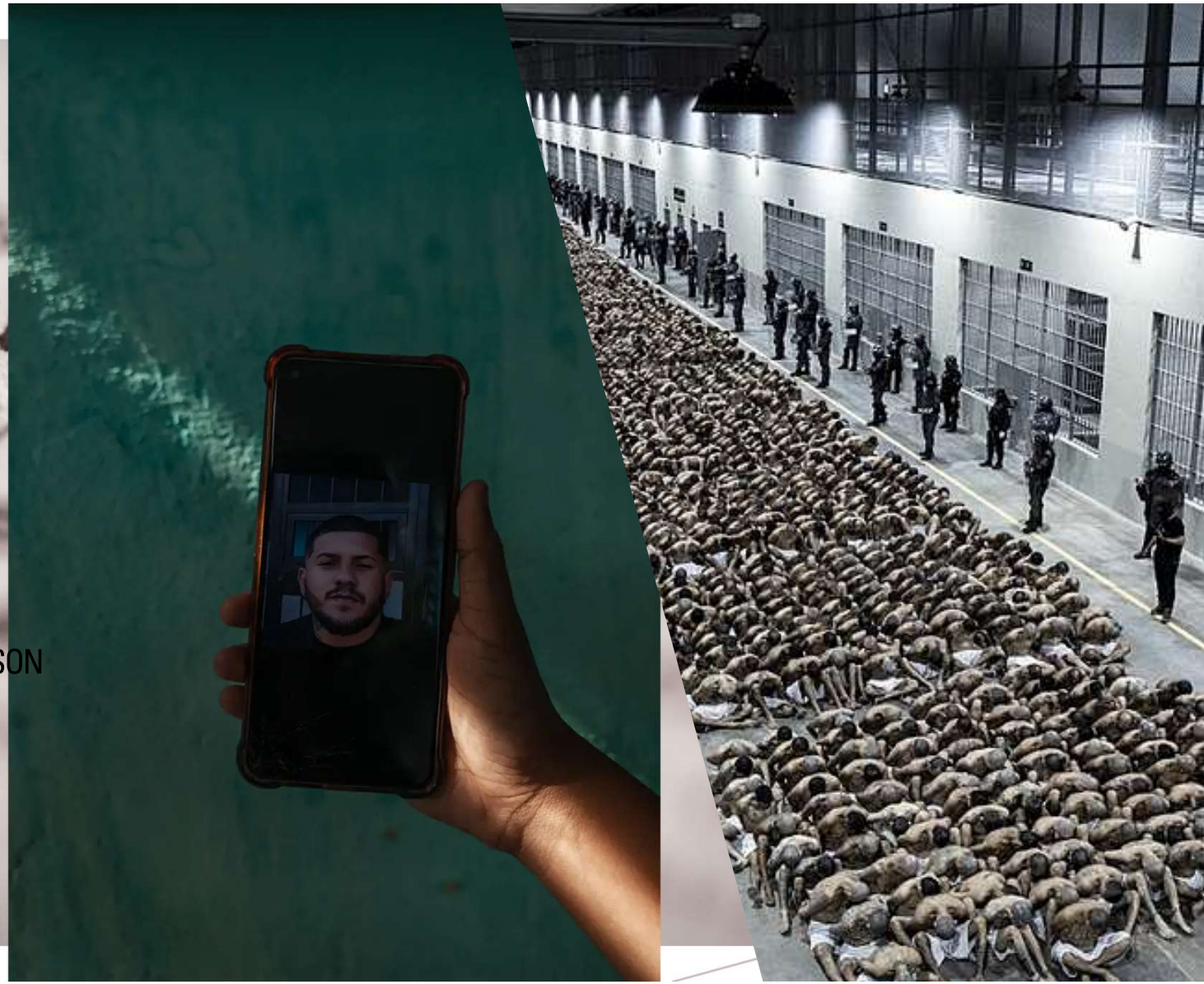
POLICY AND STRATEGY CHANGES

- End sensitive locations policy
- 100-mile border zone
- Expansion of expedited removal
- Passage of Laken Riley Law (expansion of crimes)
- Mandatory Detention (immigration courts denying bond determination hearings)
    - Sending folks to Washington State
    - 51% of people detained are not criminals
- Targeting of Democratically Run Cities
    - Mass deportations
    - Operation Midway Blitz

JOSE MANUEL BASTIDES:

DISAPPEARED IN CECOT PRISON

MARCH 15, 2025



People in the shadows…

even folks you would not expect

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- If you speak Spanish, follow news on *Univision, Televisa* , or other Spanish language media outlets
- Invite neighbors in and get to know them
- Ask neighbors “are you okay?” or “do you want to share?”
- Actively listen to neighbors so you can hear their needs
- Exchange contact information if neighbors desire this
- For neighbors that are U.S. Citizens, suggest purchase of passport card ($65-$30) or suggest to keep photo of naturalization certificate
- Provide neighbors with groceries and/or meals
- Help neighbors with locating counselors or paying counseling costs
- Help neighbors with immigration costs
- Help neighbors assemble family plans
  - Scanning materials
  - Ordering materials
- Contact person delegated for temporary custody of children to pick up children and avoid DHS while permanent person shows up
- If you are a teacher, supervisor, or boss, be understanding when individuals are afraid to show up to school or work

- Watch for unmarked vehicles in the neighborhood and alert neighbors to possible ICE encounters
- Do not interfere with an arrest
  - Escalation could result in collateral arrests
  - Escalation could potentially result in harsher treatment of person being arrested
- If you witness an ICE detention, ask the person being detained for their name and share it with UNETE (see the second to last slide for contact information)
- You can document encounters
  - Officer's clothing/vehicles
  - Statements from officer, persons arrested, and witnesses
- Report ICE activity to the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) hotline: 1-888-622-1510
- Call Oregon Sanctuary Promise Hotline at 1-844-924-7829 to report suspected violations of Oregon's sanctuary laws

SOME LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS YOU CAN SUPPORT

Unete

info@uneteoregon.org

607 W Main St Medford OR 97501

541-245-1625

Northwest Seasonal Workers Association

203 N Oakdale Ave, Medford, OR 97501

541-773-6811

OHRA

2350 Ashland St, Ashland, OR 97520

541-631-2235

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Our Lady of the Mountain Ashland Conference

P.O. Box 215

Ashland, OR 97520

(541) 708-5650

THANK YOU!

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