

United Food and Commercial Workers Union Asks Federal Court to End Illegal Immigration Raids

On September 12th, the UFCW filed a lawsuit to put a stop to illegal workplace raids that have disrupted thousands of innocent lives and devastated too many of our families and loved ones.

During recent raids at meatpacking plants across the country, innocent workers were surrounded by armed agents, handcuffed, intimidated and denied the ability to go to the bathroom, call lawyers, or contact their spouses. Meanwhile, children were left unattended and scared.



Mike Graves, Iowa Swift and Company employee

One of those workers was Mike Graves, a Swift and Company employee in Iowa. Mike was detained for eight hours.

“They held me in handcuffs. I’m a U.S. citizen, born in Iowa. My government treated me as a criminal, and I didn’t do anything wrong.”

The actions taken against Mike, and the thousands like him, were not only unfair and unjust—they were un-American! And they cannot—and should not—be allowed to continue.

Almost all Americans would agree that our nation’s immigration system is badly broken, so it’s not surprising that enforcement efforts are just as flawed. But when our immigration system is so messed up that it targets workers like Mike, we need our leaders to make fixing this problem a priority.

The UFCW believes a constructive and successful immigration system must embrace the following:

- ✓ A path to citizenship and legalization for hardworking, law-abiding individuals
- ✓ An end to worksite immigration enforcement
- ✓ Meaningful employer punishments for immigration and labor law violations
- ✓ No new guest worker or temporary worker programs
- ✓ A revision of the permanent employment-based visa system
- ✓ Improved wage and working conditions protection for all workers

The UFCW will continue to fight for reform that ensures that all working people—immigrant and native-born—are able to improve their lives and realize the American dream.