Philadelphians prevent deportation of Honduran immigrant through church sanctuary, United States, 2014-15

**Time period notes:** November 2014 to January 2015, Navarro was actually living in the church for 58 days, but the campaign started before and ended after November 2014 - January 2015

2014
2015

**Country:** United States

**Location City/State/Province:** Philadelphia, PA

**Location Description:** West Kensington Ministry

**Goals:**
goal of specific campaign: grant legal status for Angela Navarro

**Methods**

**Methods in 1st segment:**

- 002. Letters of opposition or support › Bob Brady (US representative), Philadelphia City Council, and a state senator

**Methods in 2nd segment:**

- 003. Declarations by organizations and institutions › see allies

**Methods in 3rd segment:**

- 004. Signed public statements › 6,100 signatures in support of granting legal status to Angela Navarro by community

**Methods in 4th segment:**

- 139. Noncooperation with conscription and deportation › Angela Navarro hid and avoided her final deportation for 10 years, and then received help from the new sanctuary movement to further non cooperate with her deportation

**Methods in 5th segment:**

- 068. Sanctuary › West Kensington ministry in Philadelphia

**Methods in 6th segment:**
Classifications

Classification:
Change
Cluster:
Democracy
Human Rights
Group characterization:

- immigrants
- local citizens
- religious congregations

Leaders, partners, allies, elites

Leaders:
not known
Partners:
Pennsylvania United for Immigration Reform
External allies:
The Allen Hilles Foundation, Arch Street United Methodist Church, Bread and Roses Latino Organizing, Calvary united Methodist Church, Central Baptist Church of Wayne, Douty Foundation, Fels Fund Internship Grant, Patricia Kind Family Foundation, One Perfect Fund, Foundation Phoebeus Criminal Justice Fund, Samuel S. Fels Fund, St. Vincent de Paul R.C. Church, Tabernacle United Church, Union Benevolent Association, Unitarian Universalist Funding Program, and Visitation BVM Church
Involvement of social elites:
Bob Brady (US representative for Philadelphia and democrat), state senators, Philadelphia City Council

Joining/exiting order of social groups

Groups in 1st Segment:

- Bob Brady US representative
- Philadelphia City Council
- state senator

Groups in 2nd Segment:

- Arch Street United Methodist Church
- Bread and Roses Latino Organizing
- Calvary united Methodist Church
- Central Baptist Church of Wayne
- Douty Foundation
- Fels Fund Internship Grant
- One Perf
- Patricia Kind Family Foundation
- The Allen Hilles Foundation
Groups in 3rd Segment:

- Philadelphia community and other communities

Groups in 4th Segment:

- Angela Navarro

Groups in 5th Segment:

- West Kensington Ministry in Philadelphia and the New Sanctuary Movement

Groups in 6th Segment:

Segment Length: 58 days / 6 segments = 10 days per segment

Opponent, Opponent Responses, and Violence

Opponents:
Secure Communities and other groups that aim to terrorize immigrant communities

Nonviolent responses of opponent:
not applicable

Campaigner violence:
one

Repressive Violence:
one

Success Outcome

Success in achieving specific demands/goals:
6 points out of 6 points
Survival:
1 point out of 1 points
Growth:
2 points out of 3 points

Notes on outcomes:
Achieved goal of granting Angela Navarro legal status and inducing President Obama to issue an executive order that granted legal status to those who arrived in the US as minors or who have American children.

The New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) was established to build a community that does not discriminate based on faith, ethnicity, class, and to end injustices against immigrants regardless of their legal or illegal status. They are a national movement of civil disobedience trying to pressure President Obama to reform immigration laws. Their movement goals include pushing Obama to end all deportations, regardless of “origin, status, criminal convictions, sexual or gender identity, socioeconomic status, marital status, or previous deportation order” (New Sanctuary Movement). This includes addressing the availability and ease with which a legal status can be obtained and the unfair
exploitation of immigrant workers. According to statistics by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in 2013 the U.S. government executed 438,000 deportations, 240,000 non-criminals, and 198,000 non-criminals. Numbers as high as these have been seen since 2010, with slight alterations in numbers, but totaling around 400,000 deportations annually. Conversely, 580,946 young illegal immigrants have received help and work permits through a policy underway since 2012 called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

NSM conducted grassroots organizing work, giving youth opportunities to speak out, educating the community through immigration 101 workshops, and leading storytelling circles. The organization’s accompaniment program pairs immigrants who are facing deportation threats with various congregations to help them with emotional and spiritual support and provide them with legal counsel, health care services, employment opportunities, as well as taking them to hearings, deportation centers, and various rallies. Through this movement, nine campaigns for specific immigrants have started throughout the country with support from organizations and congregations including: The Allen Hilles Foundation, Arch Street United Methodist Church, Bread and Roses Latino Organizing, Calvary United Methodist Church, Central Baptist Church of Wayne, and more than ten other congregations. Their wide support gives them the credibility to offer a real challenge to deportation procedures, and change legislature, laws, and minds.

Angela Navarro, 28 years old, was born in Honduras and was caught by US officials trying to cross the US southern border to join her parents when she was seventeen. The US government granted Navarro’s parents citizenship after a devastating hurricane in Honduras, Hurricane Mitch. She disobeyed her final deportation order for more than ten years, working as a cook. She married a US citizen and had two children with him, Mariana and Arturo. Hiding became too hard on Navarro, so she moved herself and her family into West Kensington ministry in Philadelphia on 18 November 2014 as a part of the “New Sanctuary Movement”. Her husband continued to work as a truck driver, and her children still attended school while she hid inside the church. The Navarro family moved into the church for safety while they worked to gain legal status for her. Federal guidelines prohibited arrests that take place in sensitive areas (religious facilities), unless there was some threat to public safety or national security.

Besides the West Kensington church, the New Sanctuary Movement includes two dozen other congregations across the United States, who protect immigrants in danger. In 2014, eight illegal immigrants lived in churches, Navarro being the ninth to take part in the movement.

Navarro received a large amount of support from her Philadelphia community, of which she was a very active member. Bob Brady, a Philadelphia US representative and democrat, sent a letter of support
for Navarro to the Obama administration. She also had support from 11 members of the Philadelphia city council, a state senator, and 6,100 signatures of support from local community members in the form of petitions sent to Obama. All this upheaval for the campaign got the President’s attention, and shortly after Angela started living in the church, he issued an executive action that granted legal status to those who arrived in the US as minors or who have American children.

On January 14th, 2015, after 58 days living in a room the size of a closet, Navarro won a two-year reprieve, which pardoned her of all charges and restored all her rights as a US citizen. US Immigration and Custom Enforcement confirmed the reprieve, but it was the Department of Homeland Security that granted her request. Her case was fought by Attorney Patricia Camuzzi Luber. The reprieve allows her to obtain a work permit, temporary social security card, and the ability to apply for a green card.

Research Notes

Influences:
immigration reform movement

Sources:


Name of researcher, and date dd/mm/yyyy:
Clare Perez, 2/11/2015
Registered users can login to the website.

Source URL (retrieved on 03/25/2016 - 14:08): http://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/philadelphians-prevent-deportation-honduran-immigrant-through-church-sanctuary-2014-15

Links: