



Coordinated by The New York Immigration Coalition (212) 627-2227

MEDIA ADVISORY

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STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS PROTEST IMMINENT DEPORTATION OF THEIR FRIENDS AND URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE DREAM ACT

- WHAT:** Immigrant youth, religious leaders and educators will hold a rally and press conference to protest the deportation of Marie Gonzales and Kamal. Due to lack of immigration status, Marie was forced to quit college and her entire family faces deportation on July 5. Kamal and his two younger brothers are also in deportation proceedings because of lack of immigration status. Dozens of youth participating in the rally will call on immigration authorities to stop the deportation of Marie and Kamal and call on President Bush and Congress to pass the DREAM Act and comprehensive immigration reform. If enacted, the DREAM Act would prevent deportation of young students like Marie and Kamal by granting them legal status.
- WHEN:** Thursday, June 30, 2005, noon
- WHERE:** Thomas Paine Park, Manhattan,
Corner of Worth and Lafayette, behind 26 Federal Plaza and across from US Supreme Court
- WHO:** Kamal, law student in deportation proceedings
Chung-Wha Hong, Deputy Director, The New York Immigration Coalition
Barbara Bowen, President, Professional Staff Congress
Jennifer Gordon, Associate Professor of Law at Fordham Law School
Father Brian Jordan, St. Francis Immigration Center
Immigrant students giving personal testimonies
- WHY:** Among the most tragic consequences of our dysfunctional immigration system is deportation and forced termination of higher education for talented young students. Case in point – Kamal is a student at Fordham University Law School who voluntarily complied with the Special Registration program that required males from Arab, Muslim and South Asian countries to get fingerprinted, photographed and questioned. As a result, he and his two brothers are now among the 13,000 placed into deportation proceedings. Marie Gonzalez is a high school honor student from Jefferson City, Missouri who was given a deportation order because her family's undocumented status was discovered by the Homeland Security Department. Marie and Kamal have become national leaders in fighting for equal access to higher education by immigrant students and represent sixty five thousand undocumented immigrant students who are graduated from U.S. high schools this year, and who live in constant fear of being deported. More detailed profiles of Marie and Kamal will be available at the event and other student speakers will tell their personal stories and describe how their future hinges on the passage of the DREAM Act and comprehensive immigration reform.
- VISUALS:** Participants will have pickets signs with enlarged photos of Marie and Kamal, with messages “Don’t Deport Our Friend Kamal” and “Don’t Deport Our Friend Marie.” They will be wearing black T-shirts that display the message “We are Marie,” to show solidarity.

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