

PPEP FARMWORKER COUNCIL #1088 "LULAC'S Largest Council"

John David Arnold, Ph.D., President / Founder





WHEREAS, the League of United Latin American Citizens is this nation's oldest and largest Latino organization, founded in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 24, 1929; and

WHEREAS, LULAC throughout its history has committed itself to the principle that Latino have equal access to opportunities in employment, education, housing, and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, LULAC has supported the principles of equal opportunities for economic development, political influence, civil rights and the general welfare for all Latinos in the United States.

WHEREAS, the Volunteer Armed Militia (VAM) has established themselves as a private vigilante group in Southern Arizona's Border Region; and

WHEREAS, the VAM has used armed force upon unarmed migrants crossing the border and detaining them against their will; and

WHEREAS, members of the VAM have detained migrants and humiliated them by photographing them holding t-shirts stating "all I got for grabbing a migrant was a "T" shirt." Demonstrating the VAM true aim which is a publicity stunt for their own personal gain (see attached article); and

WHEREAS, the VAM is taking the law into their own hands and creating fear and intimidation of local residents and migrants; and

WHEREAS, the VAM motives appear to be racially motivated and serve no purpose, but to disrupt the efforts of legitimate law enforcement and immigration staff that now must be concerned about the intervention of activities of the VAM.

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THEREFORE

- We are demanding the VAM leave the area and not further intervene in the legitimate and trained law enforcement and immigration officials.
- That the VAM be exposed for what it is a racist, publicity seeking, armed vigilante. mob praying on the misfortune of migrants and other area minority residents.
- That the VAM take their three ring circus and leave the area as reported in the Arizona Daily Star newspaper.
- That the Cochise County Attorney office investigate the "T" shirt publicity stunt conducted by Bryan Barton congressional candidate from S.D. California.
- That the activities of VAM organized by Chris Simox and James Gilchrist be closely monitored for violations of unauthorized trespessing on state and private property.
- Investigate violations of the civil rights of Hispanic Americans residents being haressed, as well as, violations of international law on the migrants.
 - That President Bush address the border issues raised by LULAC and other Border Area Civil Rights organizations such as the Border Action Network.
 - That President Bush administration work with border area organizations to find a solution to chronic issues on the border.
 - The Bush Administration put on the fast track immigration reform that fully addresses the issues of both Mexico and the United States.
 - The Congress of the United States stop stalling in the immigration reform and put it on the same level of priority as the life support issue in Florida (Terri Schlavo's case).
 - Request that the attorney General of Arizona and the US Attorney General investigate the backgrounds and financial sources behind the so called armed militia group
 - Initiate legal action and criminal proceedings be taken against the illegal acts undertaken by the armed militia.
 - A National Forum to be held in Tucson, Arizona regarding the Armed Militia. immigration, and critical border issues.

John David Arnold, Ph.D. President Council #1088

"Sí Se Pudo!"