

NO ONE is ILLEGAL!



No One is Illegal-Vancouver is a grassroots anti-colonial immigrant/refugee rights community collective with leadership from members of migrant and/or racialized backgrounds. We strive and struggle for a world in which no one is forced to migrate. We also strive and struggle for a world where people can move freely in order to live and flourish in justice and dignity.

We maintain that there are no illegal human beings, only inhumane and illegal laws. As a movement for self-determination that challenges the ideology inherent to immigration controls, we are in full confrontation with Canadian border policies; denouncing and taking action to combat racial profiling, detention and deportation, the national security apparatus, law enforcement brutality, and exploitative working conditions of migrants. We also prioritize building alliances and supporting indigenous sisters and brothers fighting displacement. We recognize that those colonial and capitalist forces that create war, poverty, and destruction through the global South are causing dispossession of indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.

There is a clear link between capitalist globalization worldwide and the displacement of peoples due to militarization, poverty, globalization, violence, and exploitation. Canadian immigration policies serve to consolidate the development of Fortress North America, using free trade to open borders to capital, while exploiting the people- mostly women- whose free movement it regulates through displacement, deportation, and the creation of hyper-exploitable labour on which the economy of the North is built upon. Our work also furthers an analysis that links the "War on Terror" abroad to the racist "Fortress North America" at home. In the post 911 climate, various laws and policies have led to the stereotyping and criminalization of entire communities, in particular Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities.

Our work is carried out through public awareness events, direct refugee support work, multilingual community forums, coordinating letter writing campaigns, facilitating workshops, ongoing campaigns and projects, and action to resist the ongoing injustices of this system.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP?

The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) was founded in March 2005 at a summit of the Heads of State of Canada, the US, and Mexico. SPP is not an official treaty; it is not an official law; rather, it is being presented as a vague 'dialogue based on shared values'. Therefore it has been able to escape any public scrutiny and will never be debated in the House of Commons. The North American Forum sponsored one of the various secretive meetings in Sept 2006 in Banff Springs. When asked by the media if he was in attendance, Stockwell Day refused to confirm he was there, but said that even if he was, it was a "private" meeting that he would not comment on.

Broken down, the SPP is a NAFTA-plus-Homeland-Security model. The founding premise of the SPP is that an agenda of economic free trade and national security will result in human prosperity.

We know that the so-called "prosperity" of previous free trade agreements such as NAFTA have only brought corporate prosperity, with increasing rates of poverty and displacement for the vast majority of people. For example, despite government rhetoric, the Economist Intelligence Unit (affiliated with The Economist) has reported that the implementation of NAFTA in Mexico has "failed to create even one formal job in net terms." We also know that the "War on Terror" and the beefed-up national security apparatus has exacerbated insecurity and brought terror on the lives of millions of people locally and globally through immigrant raids, border militarization, foreign troop occupations, and repression of civil liberties and resistance movements. A September 2006 report in The Independent found that the "War on Terror" has "directly killed a minimum of 62,006 people, created 4.5 million refugees, and cost the United States more than the sum needed to pay off the debts of every poor nation on earth."



Laura Carlsen of the International Relations Centre Americas Program explains, "SPP has three fundamental objectives. The Bush administration wants to create more advantageous conditions for transnational corporations and remove remaining barriers to the flow of capital and cross-border production within the framework of NAFTA. It wants to secure access to natural resources, especially oil. And it wants to create a regional security plan based on "pushing its borders out" into a security perimeter that includes Mexico and Canada." Under the SPP, the following initiatives are currently being undertaken: integration of military and police training exercises, expansion of temporary worker programs as a means of ensuring low wages and labour exploitation, adoption of coordinated border surveillance technologies, coordination of no-fly lists, expedited resource extraction particularly oil and water, development of a NAFTA Superhighway, and harmonization of health and environmental regulations to lower standards and development of a North American alternative to the Kyoto Protocol.



In Canada, the major lobby for SPP comes from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE), a CEO organization. In January 2003, CCCE launched its North American Security and Prosperity Initiative with initiatives to increase investment and capital flows, integrate security agreements and military defence, and expedited means of resource (oil, natural gas, water, forest products) extraction.

With the launch of SPP in 2005, the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC) was created. Harper appointed the Canadian membership of the NACC in June 2006:

- Dominic D'Alessandro (Manulife Financial)
- Paul Desmarais, Jr. (Power Corporation of Canada)
- David Ganong (Ganong Bros. Limited)
- Richard George (Suncor Energy Inc.)
- Hunter Harrison (CN)
- Linda Hasenfratz (Linamar Corporation)
- Michael Sabia (Bell Canada Enterprises)
- Jim Shepherd (Canfor Corporation)
- Annette Verschuren (The Home Depot)
- Rick Waugh (Scotiabank)

On August 21st 2007, the three Heads of State will meet for a third tri-national Summit to forward the SPP agreements in Montebello, Quebec. No One is Illegal Vancouver joins the calls to organize against SPP to demonstrate our indignation and resistance to this next attack on the interests of the people by those who think they are masters of our lives and destiny. We know that the real face of SPP is to further an agenda of corporate free trade, border militarization, criminalization of migration, privatization and theft of indigenous land and resources, repression in the name of national security, impoverishment and displacement, and cooperation in war and occupation. We will be launching a campaign to oppose the SPP and invite all those in resistance to the SPP to build a diverse movement to actively participate and coordinate actions, events, disruptions, teach-ins, creative resistance, and more as part of these continental days of action.

Visit us online at www.nooneisillegal.org

Email: noi-van@resist.ca
 Telephone: 604.682-3269 x 7149
 Mailing address: #714 - 207 West Hastings,
 Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7