



Sheriff Joe Arpaio, “America’s Worst Sheriff,” has been on trial for the last two weeks, accused of racially profiling immigrants and Latinos in his jurisdiction. The case wrapped up today, and the ruling is expected in mid-August.

Because of this trial, examples of rampant and systematic racial profiling by Sheriff Joe and his officers are now a matter of public record. These records could be the cornerstone of future Supreme Court challenges to Arizona’s “Show Me Your Papers” Law.^[1]

But you and I must remember that we would not have reached this point if courageous people hadn’t stood up and demanded justice.

[Will you join me in saying “thank you” to the heroes in Arizona who brought Sheriff Joe to trial?](#)

One of the most egregious examples of racial profiling came from a young Latina witness named Lorena Escamilla.

On her way home from a Phoenix valley university three years ago, Lorena was pulled over by one of Sheriff Joe’s deputies.

“I asked him what I was being pulled over for,” Lorena testified. “There was no response, he just walked away.”

When the deputy returned, he asked to search her car. Lorena refused and the deputy slammed her against the side of her car and put her in the back of his patrol car. She was five months pregnant.^[2]

What happened to Lorena is completely un-American -- but this kind of racial profiling is central to Arizona’s approach to immigration.

[Will you join me in thanking the brave people in Arizona who are taking a stand against racial profiling?](#)

This isn’t the last trial Sheriff Joe is going to face -- and he’s certainly not the only law enforcement officer engaging in these tactics.

But one thing is clear -- whether you're one of the DREAMers standing on the steps of the Maricopa County courthouse^[3] or a witness in the trial against Sheriff Joe, **our movement is built on the courage and bravery of those willing to take a stand.**

-Adam Luna
America’s Voice Education Fund

Footnotes

1. "Joe Arpaio Trial: Plaintiffs Rest In Racial Profiling Case Against Arizona Sheriff" www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/31/joe-arpaio-trial_n_1726349.html?utm_hp_ref=politics
2. "Deputy Chief Speaks of 'Disconnect' Between Arpaio's Words & Action" <http://www.courthousenews.com/2012/07/27/48747.htm>
3. "Breaking : Undocumented Arizonans Risk Arrest Outside Sheriff Joe's Trial" <http://vivirlatino.com/2012/07/24/breaking-undocumented-arizonans-risk-arrest-outside-sheriff-joes-trial.php>