



Women's Justice Center \* December 2011 \* Centro de Justicia para Mujeres  
PO Box 7510, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 \* Tel. (707) 575-3150 \* Vol XXXV

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## *Kindling Sparks in the Storm*

It was seeming like a by-gone era, a time when you could gently ease yourself into the day with morning headlines in one hand and a cup of joe in the other. But with the economy in rigor mortis, a comatose youth, and so many men behaving badly, one would sooner turn face to the wall, than fire-up into the day.

But can it be, there are the faint sparks of hope in the air? The youth, whatever they ultimately cook up in their encampments, is at least galvanizing themselves and others into resistance. Some very powerful and awful men are here and there being held to public account. And for the first time ever, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded solely for work on women's rights.

Whether or not it's time to hope that a phoenix is stirring in the ashes, is probably a question too early to ask. From our vantage point here at Women's Justice Center, just looking around our own backyard, the tide of people sinking into suffering shows little sign of turning.

Nowhere is the swath of injustices more immediately disturbing to us than in the immigrant community of our own county. Shock and fear from the mass deportations has taken a terrible hold on families, friends, and neighbors throughout the Latino community. And the cascade of devastating consequences to immigrant victims of violence against women remains unrecognized and without remedy.

In this issue of *Justicia* we bring you Celia's story and notes on the problem. At the same time, we salute the many exciting new voices speaking truth to power, celebrate some historic and hopeful victories for women, and promise to do our part to fan the fire in the new year.

### ***In This Issue-***



#### **ICE'D...p2**

~ A Santa Rosa Mother's Story of Domestic Violence Under ICE



#### **Law Enforcement for the Long Haul**

~Teresa Guerrero, Sonoma County Probation Officer ... p3



#### **Bittersweet Transitions...p5**

~ Adios ~ Bienvenida  
~In Memory of Jasa 'Haille' Anguillo



#### **Historic Wins for Women... p6**

~ This Time They Got it Right  
~ Jessica Gonzales Triumphs  
~ UN Women Sets Course on Justice



#### **Deportations' Cascade of Injustices...p7**

~ Obama's August 18 Adjustments  
~ The Extent of the Problem for Victims  
~ To DA Ravitch, It's Happening on Your Watch



# ICE'D

## A Santa Rosa Mother's Story of Domestic Violence under ICE.

(ICE - Immigration and Customs Enforcement)

*Secrecy, opaque operations, contradictions, and mass violations of civil rights, are the hallmarks of our new law enforcement immigration policies, especially as carried out in partnership with the federal ICE juggernaut cynically known as 'secure communities'. As difficult as it's been to unravel the process as it affects suspects and defendants, the grave harms to immigrant victims of violence against women are hidden even deeper in the shadows, under layers of fear and official abuse.*

*Last summer, with help from many of you, we put together a report outlining the dire effects of these practices on victims in our local immigrant community. The report can be seen on our website at [www.justicewomen.com/secure\\_communities.pdf](http://www.justicewomen.com/secure_communities.pdf).*

*Here, with her permission and name changes, is one woman's story, and all it reveals of the mounting barriers to victims and of our police's descent into the shadows.*

\* \* \*

In late July, 2011, one fear overtook another, and Celia called Santa Rosa Police. Her husband, Jorge, was arrested for domestic violence, but strangely was never booked into jail. A few days later, the DA rejected the case for prosecution, despite bruises visible to police.

Celia breathed the usual sigh of despair at the news. But, we said, it sounded from all she'd told us that the case likely should have been filed. Did she want us to discuss it with the deputy attorney to find out more? "NO!"

'No'? It never used to be, 'No'. Like so many immigrant women of late, Celia feared that bringing attention to her name and case could result in her or his deportations. A few years of these deportations, over 3,000 Sonoma County arrestees turned over to ICE since the program began, have paralyzed the community with fear.

There's another way we can work it, we told Celia. 'You go to the police department and get a copy of the police report, and we'll try to evaluate it from there.' (California law requires that police give domestic violence victims a copy of the report on the victim's request).

Celia did go to the station, but police wouldn't give her the report. They said she didn't have proper identification. That didn't used to happen either.

Jorge returned to the home. The outcome was predictable. Three weeks later Celia called us in a panic.

Jorge was threatening suicide, and threatening her too. We told her to call the police immediately. She did!

The officer who responded spoke only minimal Spanish. Celia asked for a telephone interpreter as was provided on her earlier report. The officer refused, and said it wasn't possible. He lied. All officers have access to interpreters by cell all the time.

The officer then asked Celia how long she'd been in the country. Six years, she told him. The officer reprimanded her, saying she should be speaking English by now. He went on lecturing her, that if he were in Mexico he'd have to speak Spanish, so why doesn't she speak English. Celia again asked for a telephone interpreter. The officer lit into her again for her failure to speak English. Defeated, Celia says she began to cry.

She called a neighbor friend to come over and help her. When her neighbor arrived, unbelievably, the officer started in on him. 'She's been in this country six years, don't you think she should be speaking English?' Celia gave up on trying to make a report. The officer left. We interviewed the neighbor who confirmed all to be true.

There have always been racist cops. But the new immigration policies have encouraged and unleashed these cops' worst behavior and institutionalized ways for them to get away with it.

About a week later, ICE agents came knocking on Celia's door. They took Jorge away and deported him. At the time, neither Celia nor we had proof it was related.

But the story doesn't end there. It never does. Just because a domestic violence abuser is deported, it doesn't stop the abuse. Without justice, punishment, and monitoring, the abusers just carry on from across the border, and worse, so many of them return.

Right away Jorge began calling Celia from Mexico, angrily making the same threats as before. But in amongst his rants, he also had this to say. He railed at Celia for calling 911. The ICE agents, he said, had told him he was deported because his wife called 911 too many times.

And there you have it, the new extra-judicial policing; no report, nothing on the books, no case goes to the DA, no protection, no due process, no justice, no victim compensation, and no court rulings for Celia and her kids to stand on, in the event her husband returns.

Police can simply call up ICE and disappear people off the street and off the record. It's not even counted in the jail deportation records. And victims are denied all protection of law. Wherever you stand on immigration issues, this should be an outrage to all! *see p7 for notes*



## Law Enforcement over the Long Haul



### BILINGUAL COMMUNITY TREASURES

Probation officers are the unheralded third pillar in the law enforcement trio of police, prosecutors, and probation officers. Yet more than any other officials in the system, probation officers want to know the full story and work on the big picture. They're on their cases for the long haul - often for years - to monitor perpetrators' behavior, maximize rehabilitation, assure accountability, while, at the same time, protecting victim and community safety. And to back it all up, they have the power of arrest.

Yet despite the unique resources and powers probation officers have to offer victims of violence against women, especially for their long term safety, many victims are unaware of how to use them. That's why we recently put together a new guide to using probation officers which you can see on our website by clicking on "What's New". It's also why we're delighted to introduce you here to Teresa Guerrero, an energetic probation officer who we've had the pleasure of working with for years.

### **Teresa Guerrero** Sonoma County Probation Officer

Teresa Guerrero is one of only a handful of Latina sworn law enforcement officers in all of Sonoma County, Amazingly, she came on the job over 20 years ago.

When colleagues tip-toe around immigration comments in her presence, Teresa has the fun of telling them she's probably more native than they are. She was born in Community Hospital (now Sutter), raised in Roseland, went to Shepherd Elementary, on to Montgomery High School, then went to SRJC, and got her bachelor's degree in criminal justice at SSU.

A pivotal turn in Teresa's life came when redistricting sent Roseland kids to Montgomery High School to be mixed in with the Bennett Valley kids. "It was culture shock", says Teresa, "As much for them, as for us". The racial slurs were unrestrained. One day a history teacher said to her, "Why do you come to class, anyway? You're either going to end up getting pregnant or going to jail." A headstrong, straight A student, Teresa decided she'd show him and quit school. That's when a Spanish teacher stepped in and met Teresa's move with just the right words, "Why let him win?"

Another pivotal turn came when for a high school career project Teresa interviewed then probation officer, Marilyn Hampton. "I was in awe of her!" says Teresa. "It was her confidence. She was so self assured."

From then on, she says, her path began to be "blessed with really good people who helped me along." She particularly credits Norm Cleaver, then head of SRJC Public Safety Training. He helped her get scholarships, and, "He taught me a lot about the criminal justice system that is still relevant in my work today."

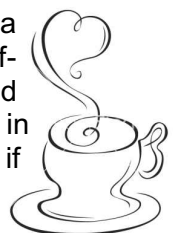
Despite being on the job for 20 years, working daily with society's underclass, Teresa is still enthusiastic about

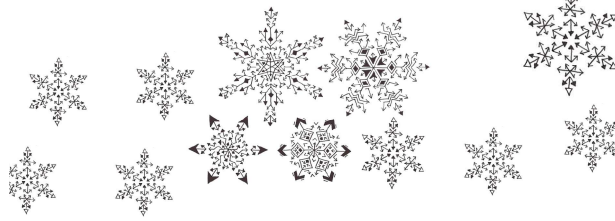


the work. She says her personal background growing up in Roseland makes it doubly rewarding. Not only does it help her connect in a more meaningful way with offenders, many of whom share her same background. It also allows her to counter stereotypes that permeate the system regarding those Latino offenders; sometimes simply by her presence, and just as often, by Teresa's ever ready willingness to speak out.

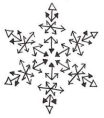
Above all, Teresa likes the variety. Indeed, probation officers have their hands in every part of the system. They're in the streets, the courts, the jail, and in investigations, working closely with a daily mix of professionals, offenders, and victims.

Always up for a new challenge, Teresa recently signed up for training as a Cognitive Life Skills facilitator, a state-of-the-art offender program being adopted around the country. "If I can light a spark in one offender, that will be my reward." And if anyone can ignite that spark, there's none more likely than Teresa.

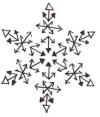




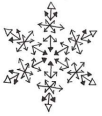
## Five Stellar Reasons To Donate to Women's Justice Center, TODAY !



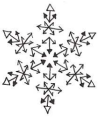
1. Because the liberation of women's energy will change the world!  
And we need your help to get there.



2. Because Women's Justice Center is an independent voice for victims of violence against women and children. Your donation keeps us free to speak truth to power!



3. Because Women's Justice Center advocates for victims free of charge,  
With special focus on the Latino community of Sonoma County.



4. Because your donation to Women's Justice Center reaches around the world, with over 2,000 people a day using our online bilingual guides,



5. Because we've made it even easier. You can now donate from any page of our website at [www.justicewomen.com](http://www.justicewomen.com) or use the envelope and response form in this newsletter.

Thank  
You



## **WJC Movie and Pizza Nite Returns**

### **Pray the Devil Back to Hell**

This is the remarkable story of Leymah Gbowee, one of this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners, as she leads an unstoppable movement of women to force an end to Liberia's 14 year civil war. An inspiring, remarkable, uplifting call to action for all of us.

You will be moved!



### **Mark Your Calendar!**

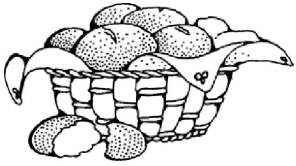
Wed, February 8

5:30 pm - no cost

Marlow Plaza Round Table Pizza  
( at the intersection of Marlow  
and Guerneville Rd, Santa Rosa)

RSVP

575-3150



# Bittersweet Transitions



## Adios ~ Bienvenida

It's bittersweet transition time into retirement for Sandra Wild who has been Women's Justice Center's web master since she first designed our website eleven years ago and has built it up every step of the way to what it is today. It may all appear quite simple as you navigate nimbly through our site. But that's only because Sandy has so skillfully engineered what is now, behind the curtain, a labyrinth of more than 400 pages, dual languages, a jumble of file types, and literally thousands of cross-referenced links.

What's more, Sandra's dedication to the cause has kept her working into many a night to rush timely material online or to untangle the kind of mind-torturing breakdowns that only the computer world can deliver. And all the while, she's nurtured the rest of the team with mothering email reminders to "Take a deep breath".

It's very sad to say 'good bye' and 'thank you' to Sandy as we wish her a future free of code and full of good health. And it's scary, too. But we do think we've found just the right person to pick up where Sandra is leaving off. Welcome aboard, Lynda Harper, a life-long feminist, creator and webmaster of a site for rural women, and a shining new light in our world.



And just in case you might be worried, rest assured. Laura Asturias, our editor, text translator, and contributor, may be thousands of miles away in Guatemala, but she is still solidly here with us every step of the way, for the long haul.

## The Crime that Never Heals

On May 22, 2005, 19-year-old Jasa 'Haille' Anguillo was murdered by her ex-boyfriend, Atticus Reynolds, just outside Cloverdale. At that time, we chronicled the staggering litany of law enforcement disregard that paved the path to Haille's murder, a story which you can read on our website.

But there was one critical event three weeks before Haille's murder that we were never able to unravel. Atticus had been arrested for a felony assault with a deadly weapon, but despite being on probation and despite his long criminal history, he was allowed to go free, placing him on the streets to murder Haille.

Because that case was still not adjudicated at the time of Haille's murder, the relevant documents were not obtainable. We never knew the nature of that assault, nor the circumstances of his being set free, nor how



it could be. On October 3, 2011, we received the following message through our website:

My name is Richard Higinbotham. I am a retired Officer of the California Highway Patrol. I am writing this in the memory of Haille Anguillo.

On April 29, 2005, I arrested Atticus Reynolds on Highway 128, in Mendocino County. He tried to run over construction workers on a highway project.

He was on probation in Sonoma County at that time.

I booked him at the Mendocino County Jail for a variety of charges, including multiple counts of assault with a deadly weapon ( he used the car he was driving as the weapon), Drug charges and violation of his terms of probation with the Sonoma County Superior Court.

In my written report, I recommended that Reynolds should not be released from the County jail.

I personally advised the Mendocino District Attorney's Office that he was going to hurt someone and that he should not be released.

I did not know of Atticus Reynolds prior to this date.

I worked in law enforcement in Mendocino County for over twenty years.

I was present during a preliminary hearing. Reynolds' court appointed defense attorney even recommended that he should not be released from custody until he underwent psychiatric evaluations.

As we all know, Atticus Reynolds was released from custody.

I am a father of two adult daughters who are close to the same age as Haille would be now.

This case has bothered me. I do not know if my comments help. I feel that this information should be known.

It has been over five years since Haille's murder. I went into law enforcement with the hope that I could make a difference. I feel that Reynolds slipped through the cracks of the system and that the warning signs were not heeded.

Richard Higinbotham





Tawakkol Karman



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



Leymah Gbowee



## This Time They Got it Right !

And they got it right in so many ways. It wasn't much mentioned in mainstream press, but just one of the outstanding things about the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize is that it's the first time ever the prize has been awarded specifically for work on women's rights.

The prize was awarded jointly to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman *"for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work"*.

This year's award pulls together and finally places center stage burgeoning currents of consensus in economics, development, and peacekeeping, that promoting women and women's rights is the key to unraveling the knot of humanity's most pressing dilemmas.

For the last five or more years, international organizations, from the World Bank, the Davos Economic Forum, the UN, the Elders, to the Clinton Initiative have all been convinced by the studies and have fostered the conclusion. But the understanding that women must be at the center of solving world problems was just never getting off the sidelines, until this year's stellar selection by the Nobel Committee.

The constellation of individuals selected is equally as illuminating, each one representing a different zenith of women's many powers; Sirleaf, the "Iron Lady" governmental leader and economist, Gbowee, the passionate grassroots organizer and strategist for peace, and Karman, the fearless journalist advocate.

And so, too, the timing of the prize is dazzling, and none too soon, as so many societies and movements are right now making momentous decisions on their governments' futures and forms, including for our own.

To be sure, there are steep mountains and dark valleys ahead, but these are three very bright new beacons to be shone above the terrain.

**P.S.** Don't forget! We'll be showing the Leymah Gbowee story, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, at our next Movie-Pizza Nite, February, 8, 2011.

Call 575-3150 to RSVP

## Jessica Gonzales Triumphs

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court, in one of its most devastating decisions against women, ruled Jessica Gonzales could not sue Castle Rock Police for their repeated failures to enforce her restraining order; even though Gonzales' three daughters were subsequently found murdered in her husband's truck, and even though Colorado had a state law mandating that police make an arrest for restraining order violations.

The Supreme Court decided that police discretion trumps even state laws, a ruling that makes all violence against women laws little more than wishful thinking.

Gonzales wasn't willing to let that stand. She filed a case against the United States government at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Last August, the Commission ruled in Gonzales' favor, stating that the U.S. violated Gonzales rights under numerous human rights treaties to which the U.S. is signatory. Specifically, that the U.S. is failing to protect women from gender based violence by failing to fulfill its 'due diligence' obligations to adequately investigate, prosecute, punish, and prevent violence against women.

Gonzales' victory adds to another half dozen such recent cases in further solidifying an international legal framework obligating law enforcement around the world to respond vigorously to violence against women.

### UN Women Sets Course on Justice for Women

In February 2011, UN Women was officially launched, consolidating previously fragmented UN sub-agencies dealing with women's issues into one super-agency given sub-secretariat status. And in July of this year, the new agency brought forth their first flagship issues report, *Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice*. In launching their efforts on this theme, UN

Women has signaled the cardinal role justice systems must play in order to secure women's freedom. And it has targeted the many barriers justice systems everywhere still present to women's access. There's much work to be done, but it's an immense leap forward to finally have international bodies setting their sights on women's justice rights.



# Deportations' Cascade of Injustices



## ~ Obama's August 18 Modifications

### ~ The Extent of the Problem for Victims

#### ~ To DA Ravitch, It's Happening on Your Watch!

Despite widespread outcry against many of the injustices of our law enforcement immigration practices, the harms being suffered by immigrant victims of violence against women have been largely hidden and unexamined. The impacts have nonetheless been devastating! Progress on gender based violence in our immigrant communities is being set back by decades.

In August, we put together a report detailing these impacts and injustices on immigrant victims. (See report at [http://www.justicewomen.com/secure\\_communities.pdf](http://www.justicewomen.com/secure_communities.pdf) )

Here, we want to give you an indication of the extent of the problem, and to report on a meeting we had on these issues with DA Jill Ravitch last July.

### Obama's August 18 Modifications

On August 18, in response to mounting protests, the Obama administration announced adjustments to the nation's law enforcement immigration programs. While these adjustments may bring some relief to a select group of persons arrested for minor offenses, such as traffic violations, they do little to resolve the problems being experienced by immigrant victims of violence against women.

So many victims and witnesses are still afraid to come forward. And if they do report, perpetrators are generally deported before completion of the justice process pertaining to the crimes for which they were arrested. They often continue their abuse from the home country beyond the reach of law. And many return to hunt the victim down. Victims are left without the justice process to keep them safe and to resolve critical family issues.

### The Staggering Extent of the Problem

Over the last couple years we've been able to give you case examples of the hidden and damaging effects of the mass deportations of suspects on victims of violence against women. But it wasn't until last July, in a chance conversation with a colleague, that we could get a handle on just how extensive the damage is.

The colleague we spoke with is Adelaida Ramos. Ramos is the only person in Sonoma County who gives the batterer intervention classes in Spanish to court ordered abusers. Since virtually all persons first time convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence are required by law to attend these classes, the number of persons in Ramos' classes is a solid indicator of how many monolingual Spanish-speaking persons have been deported prior to



completion of the justice system process.

In previous years, Ramos said she would have up to 8 classes running at a time, with an average of 14 individuals in each class, or a total of 112 convicted monolingual, Spanish-speaking domestic violence offenders. When we spoke with her this July, she had only 2 classes running of 10 persons each, or a total of 20 convicted Spanish-speaking domestic violence offenders. All other things being equal, this represents an 82% reduction in the number of monolingual Spanish-speaking persons fulfilling a sentence for misdemeanor domestic violence.

We can't say exactly how many of these missing cases are due to victims' increased fears of calling police in the first place, how many are police getting abusers deported before writing reports, and how many are due to the immediate deportations following arrest. Nor can we pinpoint how many are being deported at which point in the process.

What we can say with certainty is this: **The vast majority of these victims of non-documented abusers are being denied due justice by the current enhanced law enforcement immigration practices. It is mass denial of their constitutional 14th amendment rights to equal protection of the laws.**

### To DA Ravitch, It's Happening on Your Watch!

On July 22, we joined with three representatives of the North Bay Organizing Project to meet with District Attorney Jill Ravitch. It was our hope that in bringing to her attention the cascade of injustices afflicting our Latino community as a result of the mass deportations of arrested persons, Ravitch would take a stand and spearhead a search for remedies.

At the meeting, Ravitch assured us that the District Attorney's Office reviews and prosecutes cases without regard to suspect or victim immigration status. At the same time, Ravitch stated unequivocally that she will not get involved in the politics of immigration issues.

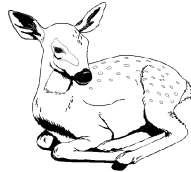
In a follow-up email on the meeting to Women's Justice Center, Ravitch reiterated her position,

"I do stand by my earlier remarks that I will not get involved in political matters, or involve the office, unless the issue is directly related to public safety. I believe the secure communities discussion goes well beyond that point. I respect your views, and will continue to keep an open mind."

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# justicia

Women's Justice Center  
Centro de Justicia para Mujeres  
PO Box 7510  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407



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('Secure Communities' referred to in Ravitch's email is the federal immigration program which, in coordination with local law enforcement, has resulted in the turning over of more than 3,000 Sonoma County arrestees to ICE in the few years since the program was installed.)

We have utmost confidence in Ravitch's competence and ethics in the courtroom. But as District Attorney her mandate to secure justice goes far beyond the courtroom. We're more than disappointed by Ravitch's unwillingness to even address such widespread injustices.

Over 25% of people in Sonoma County are now Latino, and most of them have been shocked into fear by the injustices stemming from our law enforcement immigration practices, many by the direct loss of someone dear. Even Latinos here legally often fear that their contacts with authorities may entangle friends, family, and witnesses who are not.

With our current law enforcement immigration policies making such huge segments of our community too terrified to call or cooperate with authorities, or if, when they do call, they get treated like 'Celia', what other issue could be more 'directly related to public safety' and more urgently demand the DA's attention?

If a medical doctor one day assumes the office of public health official, that doctor must look beyond individual cases to encompass the community scope of disease. So too, Ravitch must expand her call to justice.

Whether these official abuses are taking place in plain view in the DA's office, in the courtroom, at the jail, or out on the street hidden in shadowy encounters between police and victims, Ravitch must understand, these abuses are happening on her watch. As the chief law enforcement officer of Sonoma County, she must take a public stand, and act to end the injustices.



## IMAGINE!

Yes, we know, the Chihuahua can't spell. We're just so pleased to see so many joining in to find new ways to bring equality, peace, and justice to the world, that any and all imaginations are not just welcome, they're to be celebrated!

We stand in solidarity with all who are braving wind, cold, and rain to give a visible presence and resolve to the struggles. We cheer the Nobel Peace Committee for so timely elevating three such remarkable fighters for justice and for championing the key role that women must play.

And, truly, most of all, we thank all of you who for 13 years have supported Women's Justice Center, our struggles to end violence against women and children, and our fight for justice for all. You've kept our voice strong even in the most difficult times. *Thank you! Happy holidays!*

*And power to the fight for a better world!*

