Immigration Raids Are Justified Because Lawbreakers Are Criminals

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Despite some of the rhetoric to the contrary, law-abiding people of Hispanic background in America have nothing to fear from immigration agents. Illegal immigrants, residing in America against the law, are criminals and should be treated as such. In recent years the nation’s immigration laws have not been adequately enforced, although there are some promising signs of attrition through enforcement when the laws have been enforced. The borders must be secured and existing immigration law must be enforced in order to eliminate the problem of illegal immigration, which brings along with it costs to society by draining public resources and increasing crime.

The Associated Press [AP] reported on August 28, 2008. “Hispanics should not have to live in fear of raids by immigration agents, Michelle Obama told a Hispanic caucus to the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday [August 27, 2008]. . . . ‘We would have an immigration policy that brings 12 million people out of the shadows,’ she told cheering caucus members who shouted ‘Yes we can’ in Spanish.”

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ITEM: Federal officials, reported *The New York Times* on August 27, [2008], “revised upward to 595 the number of suspected illegal immigrants arrested this week in a raid on a Laurel, Miss., [electronics] factory, making it the largest immigration crackdown on a United States workplace in recent years.”

ITEM: The AP, in an article headlined “Fear grips immigrants after Miss., plant raid,” cited a youth pastor at Iglesia Cristiana Peniel, where up to 40 percent of the parishioners “were caught in the raid” at the factory in southern Mississippi. The youth pastor was quoted saying: “We have kids without dads and pregnant mothers who got their husbands taken away. It was like a horror story. They got handled like they were criminals.”

Illegal Immigrants Are Criminals

correction: If you don’t break the law, you have no reason to be afraid of immigration agents. Does the fear-mongering Michelle Obama really think that all American citizens with a Hispanic background are permanently terror-riven, unnerved that they will be rounded up and deported? Of course not. However, seeking more votes from those who support illegal aliens, she pretends that is the case.

Meanwhile, the above youth pastor—as well as the headline writer who typically left off the meaningful word “illegal” in front of “immigrants”—conveniently omitted the most pertinent fact: lawbreakers are criminals.

Moreover, about 100 of those detained were quickly released, according to the Justice Department [DOJ]. Many of these were mothers who were fitted with electronic monitoring devices and permitted to return home to their children. There’s no doubt that having a parent arrested isn’t the best thing to happen to a family, but law enforcement is bound to inconvenience those who flout the laws, whether those statutes have to do with stealing from a gas station or stealing someone’s identity.