

California Police and Undocumented Immigrants

ORANGE COUNTY - It's the *federal government's* job to *enforce* immigration laws. But police in Orange County, California are trying something new this year. They're sending about 200 police officers to learn how to enforce immigration laws. Soon, the police in Orange County will be *deporting undocumented* immigrants.



The Orange County police department is the first in the country to send police officers to the federal government. They say they will not try to deport all undocumented immigrants. They will only check on people they *arrest*, they say. Many other police departments want to do the same thing.

The police department in Los Angeles strongly disagrees. They say the police are too busy to enforce immigration laws. Why deport undocumented immigrants when so many people are breaking the law?

The Los Angeles police department also says they don't want to enforce immigration laws. Many *victims* and *witnesses* of crime are undocumented immigrants. Sometimes, these people are afraid to go to the police because they don't want to be deported.

Some people are happy with Orange County. One happy group is the Minutemen. They want to deport all undocumented immigrants, and stop them from coming into the US.

Other people disagree. Paty Madueno, a leader of a group of churches in Orange County, said the police department made people feel "fear, *panic* and hate... I know there are a lot of families that are very worried."

Vocabulary

1. *federal government* – The government for the whole United States. "The governor is the head of the state government, and the President is the head of the federal government."
2. *enforce* – verb – To make you obey the law. "The police enforce the speed limit."
3. *deport* – verb – To make an immigrant go back to their country. "ICE deports hundreds of people a day."
4. *undocumented* – adjective – No papers or visa. "Many of my co-workers are undocumented."
5. *arrest* – verb – When the police stop you because they think you broke the law. "I saw the cops arrest someone on my street today."
6. *victim* – noun – A person something bad things happen to. "I was a victim of a robbery."
7. *witness* – noun – Someone who sees something important or bad. "My cousin witnessed a terrible fire last year."
8. *panic* – noun – When you feel very afraid, like you have to run away. "The fire made hundreds of people panic and run away."

Vocabulary Practice

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| 1. <u>D</u> <i>federal government</i> | A. When you have to go back to your country. |
| 2. ___ <i>enforce</i> | B. When you get a visa or green card. |
| 3. ___ <i>deport</i> | C. Someone who sees something important or bad. |
| 4. ___ <i>undocumented</i> | D. The government for the whole United States. |
| 5. ___ <i>arrest</i> | E. To make you obey the law. |
| 6. ___ <i>victim</i> | F. When the police take you to jail. |
| 7. ___ <i>witness</i> | G. No papers, visa, etc. |
| 8. ___ <i>panic</i> | H. A person something bad things happen to. |
| | I. When you feel very afraid. |

Questions

1. Do you agree with the police department in Orange County or Los Angeles? Why?
2. Is it possible to deport all undocumented immigrants?
3. What would happen to US citizens if there were no more undocumented immigrants?

Writing practice

1. Please make a complete sentence with “federal government.”
2. Please make a complete sentence with “undocumented immigrant.”
3. Please make a complete sentence with “victim.”