

# *U.S. President Barack Obama Faces Mounting Criticism over Deportation Policy*

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Since his inauguration as President of the United States in January 2009, Barack Obama has already broken the record established by his predecessor, George W. Bush: Obama has successfully raised the bar on the number of daily deportations from the United States.

With thousands of deportations every day, and a total already approaching two million in five years, President Obama has almost reached the total deportations racked up by President Bush in Obama's own eight year term.

No small amount of criticism has been leveled against the current resident of the White House. He has been identified as "Deportator in Chief" by Janet Murguia, Chairman of the National Council of La Raza, who has pointed out on more than one occasion that the president of the U.S. has options, other than the outright deportation of undocumented immigrants.

Organizations defending the rights of immigrants can show that 7 out of every 10 deportees have no criminal record nor any other indication that they are a risk to national security. In fact, most of them qualified for citizenship in accordance to the plan approved by the Senate last June.

The escalating criticism has forced President Obama to announce a revision of the deportation policy, in order to convert it to what he has described as a more humane approach.

Most recently, the president made this promise in a meeting with leaders of the Hispanic Caucus in Congress, although his words were received with scepticism by those who recall that Obama was known to have used those very same words on other occasions.

Obama's promise has been interpreted as his recognition that the implementation of the current immigration law has more than one ugly aspect, not the least the forced separation of many families.

The President is currently in the political cross fire. On the one hand, the Republicans are bent on holding their position, that of inalienably hostility to immigrants. On the other hand, the Hispanic community has now directed the voice of criticism of Mr. Obama, a candidate that whom they previously backed in the Presidential elections.

Also included on the firing line are those Democratic congressional representatives and senators, who, in the forthcoming elections would like to maintain control of the Senate and recover their leadership in the House. The Hispanic vote is crucial to those goals.

President Obama continues to be incapable of fulfilling his promise of a migration reform in Congress, and the Republicans are still in disarray as to whether to support the legalization of 11 million undocumented people currently living in the United States.

In the meantime, thousands of undocumented immigrants continue to be kicked out of the United States every day. Where there are families involved, they are left with pain and, as often as not, destitution.

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