Georgia immigrant Leaders to Hold News Conference With Civil Rights and Refugee Groups In Response To Pres. Trump's Immigration Executive Orders

Atlanta, GA, January 26, 2017 — On Thursday, January 26, a diverse coalition of Georgia’s civil rights, immigration and refugee organizations plan to hold a news conference in response to executive orders expected to be signed by President Donald Trump restricting immigration from Syria and six other Middle Eastern and African countries.

President Trump is also expected to temporarily bar most refugees from entry to the United States. Yet another order will block visas from being issued to citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

The orders will be the actual implementation of what then-candidate Trump said would be a complete ban on Muslims entering the United States.

Trump has also already directed federal funds towards the construction of a wall along the southern border while promising stepped-up deportations of undocumented families.

Among the many organizations co-hosting the press conference are the Georgia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-GA), Project South, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (Advancing Justice - Atlanta), the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR), and Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP).

The groups plan to discuss how they hope to defend civil rights, protect refugees, or support legal immigration in the wake of Trump’s executive orders.

“These unnecessary and bigoted executive orders will not make America safer. They will make our nation less welcoming and more fearful,” said Edward Ahmed Mitchell, executive director of CAIR-GA. “If President Trump truly wants to protect us from extremism, he should leave immigrant families alone and instead fire the radicals he has appointed to top White House positions, including white nationalist Steven Bannon and anti-Muslim bigot Michael Flynn.”

“In light of these racist, Islamophobic, and xenophobic policy announcements and the accompanying rhetoric from the federal level, it is incumbent upon the City of Atlanta to immediately declare itself a sanctuary city and ensure that our immigrant, refugee, and Muslim communities feel safe and their human rights are protected,” said Azadeh Shahshahani, Legal & Advocacy Director, Project South.

“Asian Americans have long been the targets of this type of hateful policy. We have weathered the blanket exclusion of Chinese-Americans from immigration and citizenship, the forced internment of Japanese-Americans, and the discriminatory, mandatory registration of American Muslims. We stand in solidarity with all immigrants and refugees to condemn and stand-up against policies that exclude, criminalize, and demonize our communities,” said Stephanie Cho, executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta.

Reuters: Trump Expected to Sign Executive Orders on Immigration.
WHAT: News Conference in Reaction to Executive Orders.
WHEN: Thursday, January 26, 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: Central Presbyterian Church. 201 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303.

**About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit [www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org](http://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org).