UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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March & Rally Tomorrow to Defend DACA, Make UofM a Sanctuary Campus for All Immigrants- Trump Must Go!

Kate Stenvig <kstenvig@umich.edu> Wed, Feb 26, 2020 at 6:14 PM
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RALLY & MARCH: Thursday, February 27th - U of M, Ann Arbor 12pm on the Diag

Make the University of Michigan a Sanctuary Campus for All Immigrants

TRUMP MUST GO, DACA MUST STAY

By Any Means Necessary

Build Community Defense to Stop I.C.E. Raids and Deportations: Take Action to Defend your Neighbors, Friends, Family, Classmates and Co-workers from I.C.E. terror

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Make the University of Michigan a Sanctuary Campus for Immigrants

DACA Must Stay, Trump Must Go By Any Means Necessary

RALLY & MARCH: Thursday, February 27th, 12pm - Diag

Build Community Defense to Stop I.C.E. Raids and Deportations: take action to defend your neighbors, friends, family, classmates and co-workers from I.C.E. terror.

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019 the United States Supreme Court heard Donald Trump's lawyers argue that Trump has the right and exclusive power to end DACA (Deferred Action for

Childhood Arrivals). They also heard from lawyers who support DACA. The pro-DACA lawyers can make brilliant arguments against the unilateral right of Trump to end DACA but as things stand now, the Supreme Court will rule that Trump has the right to end DACA whenever he wants. Whether DACA is saved or ended will not be determined by what the Supreme Court rules. It will be decided by who has more power, our immigrant rights movement committed to bringing Trump down and saving DACA, or Trump and his rabid racist anti-immigrant supporters.

Our movement is bigger and has more popular support, but desperately needs leaders who are fighting to win. Students at Western International High School in Detroit have been leading the way with their continued walkouts and marches to save DACA and remove Trump. Our campus must join them and set an example for campuses across the nation. The University of Michigan has a long proud history as a leading center of struggle for civil rights, the anti-war movement, the defense of integration and affirmative action. We must be that again now in the fight to defend immigrant rights and democracy from Trump's racist, tyrannical attacks. That means becoming a sanctuary campus for immigrants, in words and in action. The community of Ann Arbor has already been strong in organizing against ICE raids and deportations, blocking ICE when they have tried to enter businesses, mobilizing to win the freedom of our community members from detention. Trump's escalated attacks on sanctuary cities must be met with a more organized Resistance. Our campus can be an organizing hub for the whole community and a model for all of Michigan.

The mass, militant, independent youth-led civil rights/immigrant rights movement is the only force that can stop Trump

"The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."
- Frederick Douglass, 1857

Immigrant-bashing is the only real strength of the Trump regime, the true source of the fanatical devotion of his followers. But it is also Trump's greatest weakness. It is the only issue that can tear him down just as quickly as it built him up. All over the world, the struggle and bold leadership of immigrants and refugees who are breaking down national boundaries every day, are bringing millions of people into the struggle for immigrant rights. That movement is the most dynamic force in the fight against Trump and the only thing standing in his way of being a dictator.

The Republican and Democratic Party politicians have allowed Trump to carry out a quiet coup. In acquitting Trump, the Republican Party has completely subordinated themselves to him; they have signed onto the position that Trump has the legal right under the Constitution to absolute power.

The House impeachment hearings were well-conducted, the witnesses were absolutely compelling and confirmed Trump's guilt. *But compelling arguments will never be enough to defeat a tyrant.* The Senate Republicans could not allow a real trial to go forward because they could not defend Trump on the basis of the facts, but only by signing onto an authoritarian presidency.

The question has never been *"Is Donald Trump guilty of impeachable acts, high crimes or misdemeanors, etc."* The only relevant question has been and remains *"WHO IS GOING TO STOP HIM?"* That question can only be answered in action by our movement.

The impeachment trials should have been focused on the issues that matter most to the anti-Trump movement - his racist attacks on immigrant youth and communities, the crimes against humanity at the border, separating children from their families and holding them in cages. They should have used the opportunity of the hearings to call for mass demonstrations to converge on Washington D.C. and shut down business-as-usual in cities across the nation until Trump is out. But the Democrats are more afraid of our movement than they are of Trump. They are afraid of dealing with the question of racism, immigrant rights, inequality, because they are fundamentally afraid of building up the *only* force that can defeat both Trump and his racist movement: a mass movement led by black, Latina/o, immigrant, Muslim communities and youth. While there is disagreement among the political elite about Trump, the fear of our movement they have in common.

Luckily, those in powerful positions are not the only people who can make and change history. We have a force far greater. We already know we have the power to defeat Trump. Immediately after Trump's inauguration, millions of people across the globe filled the streets in a massive outcry of humanity against a racist tyrant and for a future of freedom and equality. And when Trump initiated his racist anti-immigrant Muslim travel ban a few weeks later, we took over airports and defeated Trump's first anti-immigrant racist attack against our communities.

It's time we recognize our own power and stop putting our faith in so-called leaders who are afraid of us. We cannot allow ourselves to be held back by their fear of our anger, our fight for dignity and equality, and our power. Everything they are afraid of is everything we want and deserve.

We need now for every section of the anti-Trump resistance to come out. We need all the boldness and creativity and energy of young people coming into struggle for the first time, combined with the strengths of seasoned fighters of the movement. We have the power, if we choose to use it, to remove Trump from office NOW, and to keep our families, friends and our whole community safe from the terror of I.C.E. raids and deportations. We have the power to stop the deportations of refugees and asylum seekers who face torture and death if they are returned to their countries. We have the power to free the tens of thousands of people, the young children and babies held in cages in Trump's immigrant concentration camps at the border. We can open our borders, eliminate ICE, and stop the deadly mass attacks of white nationalists on our schools, synagogues, mosques etc. If we fight we can preserve American democracy and prevent our nation from becoming a dictatorship. We hold the key to the future of this nation; it is time for us to act. If we lead, we will find a vast outpouring of humanity eager to join us.