

Mexico criticizes Arizona immigrant legislation

Written by

Wednesday, 28 April 2010 14:36

In reference to Arizona state legislature's "Immigration; Law Enforcement; Safe Neighborhoods" (SB1070) bill, which was signed into law this week by the Governor of Arizona, Janice K. Brewer, the Government of México said it tried to communicate its concerns about the impact of such legislation, but did not receive favorable responses from Arizona.

"The Government of Mexico regrets that, despite the efforts made by Mexican federal and state authorities, the legislators that approved this bill and the Governor of Arizona did not take into account the valuable contributions of immigrants to the economy, society and culture of Arizona and the United States. The Mexican Government carried out several actions to communicate to the Government of Arizona its concerns about the possible adoption of the Law, but did not receive a favorable response.

The Mexican Government recognizes the sovereign right of States to decide which public policies will apply in their territory. However, when a law like SB1070 has a potential impact upon the human rights of thousand of Mexican nationals, it cannot remain indifferent.

Criminalization is not the way to solve the phenomenon of undocumented migration. The existence of cross-border labor markets requires comprehensive, long-term solutions. Joint responsibility, trust and mutual respect should be the basis to address common challenges in North America.

The violence we have experienced along our common border, and that originates in both countries, is an issue of great concern. It is imperative to recognize that we face a common and transnational challenge. As Mexican authorities maintain an unwavering commitment to fight organized crime, authorities in the United States should continue to strengthen their actions to curve the demand for drugs and to control the illegal traffic of weapons, bulk cash and chemical precursors. These provide transnational criminal organizations with the means to generate violence and challenge the authorities.

The illegal transit of products is far from being a part of the immigration phenomenon. It is important to consider the huge contribution made by immigrants to Arizona's economy and society.

The bill signed by Governor Janice K, Brewer has an impact in the relationship between Arizona and Mexico, and leads the Mexican Government to analyze the viability and usefulness of the cooperation schemes that have been developed with Arizona. The law will enter into force 90 days after the regular state legislative session ends.

The Mexican government will use all the means at its disposal to defend the rights and dignity of Mexican nationals in Arizona. As the legislative process of SB1070 advances, the Embassy of Mexico and the five Mexican Consulates in Arizona will reinforce their actions in the areas of consular assistance and protection, and legal counseling.

The Mexican government will continue safeguarding the interests of all Mexicans living abroad, regardless of their immigration status."