

**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD, Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.
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IMMIGRANT DETENTION WORKING GROUP

PRESS RELEASE

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**BOSTON IMMIGRANT DETENTION AND DEPORTATION POLICIES
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM**

Harmful effects of United States immigration laws and policies

Boston, June 24, 2005— In the wake of September 11th, 2001, the U.S. instituted harsher immigration detention and deportation policies to make the country “more secure.” Since 2003, the Detention Working Group of the National Lawyers Guild has studied the implementation of these policies by Boston immigration authorities, as well as the general handling of detainees as they are brought through the Boston Immigration Court. The results of this two-year study will be presented in the form of a report *Give me your tired, your poor... - Due Process Issues in the Handling of Immigrant Detainees in Boston* at a press conference:

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005, 12:00 p.m.
JFK Building (main entrance), Cambridge St.
Government Center, Boston**

With the passage of the Patriot Act in Nov. 2001, Congress granted the government almost unlimited discretion to apprehend and detain non-citizens for indefinite amounts of time.

“We at the Guild were alarmed when in Nov. 2002 the government announced the Special Registration Program under which non-citizens from 25 mostly Arab and Muslim countries were required to register with the INS”, explained Urszula Masny-Latos from the National Lawyers Guild. “Because of the treatment the registrants received and the secrecy surrounding many detentions which followed, the Guild decided to document detention proceedings at the Boston immigration court.”

John Pollock, a recent Northeastern Law School graduate, was shocked when his court observations revealed “how often detainees lack legal representation, struggle with language barriers, are dehumanized by courtroom technology, and are denied bond for no good reason.”

“As the Guild’s Report proves, U.S. detention and deportation policies have had a severe and far-reaching impact on the families of detainees and their communities,” stated Ali Noorani of the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). “Recent mass detentions and deportations have left many innocent people in despair. Thousands of families have been torn apart, left without means to survive, and without any hope of better lives.”