



# Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### FINAL DAY

## “WE NEED IMMIGRATION REFORM, *FAST!*”

### After Going 174 Hours without Food, Students End Week-Long Fast with Ceremony

**What:** **Students and youth** participated in a **week-long fast** aimed at urging the California congressional delegation to move forward immigration reform that includes legal residency and a path to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of undocumented youth. Participants will be **ending their fast** on Monday in a ceremony highlighting the emotional and physical sacrifices that these young adults are willing to make in order to achieve justice for their families. They will also report on responses from Congress, as well as share their own stories and reasons for participating in the fast.

**When &** **DAY 8 – July 9<sup>th</sup> – Final Day of Fasting:**

**Where:** **12:00 p.m. - Ceremony**

Location:

**Civic Center Plaza**

99 Grove Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

(across from City Hall)

**Who:** Several students, parents, as well as education and immigration advocates. **Twenty-four participants** were fasting for a full week. They will be joined today by **representatives of Congress Member Mike Honda and Speaker Nancy Pelosi**, as well as by **faith leaders** who will preside over the ceremony to end the fast.

**Why:** Student fasters will be ending a week-long fast aimed at highlighting the urgent need for immigration reform, which has been stalled again in Congress. The fasters ate no food for over 170 hours. In spite of significant health risks, the participants stood united in an effort to urge Congressional leaders to fix our broken immigration system.

Across California, thousands of talented, undocumented youth graduate from high school and college each year with little hope of attaining higher education or a job once out of school. With the Senate recently failing to move forward a viable immigration reform bill, their dreams remain out of reach and hang on a string. Now their hopes move to the House of Representatives where Congressional leaders still have an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership by finding just, humane and workable immigration reform solutions.

These brave youth have garnered media attention from the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, MSNBC Bakersfield affiliate KGET, Radio Campesina 92.5 FM, KPFK 90.7 FM, the Chinese Daily News, La Opinion, the San Jose Mercury News, KSCI 18, CNN en Español, KMEX 34, Singtao Daily, the China Press, KERO 23, KRCA 62, KAZA 54, KTTV 11, FOX News, Hoy Newspapers, Metro Networks, Mexico's El Universal, and many more.

**Visuals:** Students will break the fast by symbolically “breaking bread,” and ease back into a regular diet. Many students will be wearing caps & gowns.

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*The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) was formed in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles, promote harmonious multi-ethnic and multi-racial human relations and through coalition-building, advocacy, community education and organizing, empower immigrants and their allies to build a more just society.*