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News from The Cosecha Movement

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Immigration Activists Disrupt Biden Town Hall, Calling For A Moratorium On Deportations

“You Should Vote For Trump” Biden tells immigrant rights activist, when asked whether he would stop deportations through executive action. Protesters also called into question Biden’s defense of the 3 million deportations under Obama Administration.

Greenwood, S.C. — Immigrant rights activists disrupted Joe Biden during a Town Hall in Greenwood, South Carolina.

Quote at the Town Hall:

“Every day I live with the fear that ICE will separate my family,” Silvia Morreno¹, leader from immigrant rights group Dignidad Inmigrante, told Former Vice President Biden. She continued, “You defended the 3 million deportations under Obama’s administration, and that is why it is hard for me to trust you. I want to know whether you would stop deportations through executive action on your first day in office.”

Carlos Rojas, another immigrants rights activist from Movimiento Cosecha, who was translating for Silvia continued, “In 2008, I was a volunteer for Obama because I had hope and I believed in the promises that he made to the immigrant community. The fact is that over those eight years, over 3 million people were deported and separated from families.”

“Well you should vote for Trump then,” Biden responded to Carlos. To which Rojas responded: “No, no, no. I’m not gonna do that. I want to make sure immigrant families and people like Silvia aren’t afraid. You have the power, as a candidate, to actually commit to stop all deportations from day one - and we want to hear you say that.” When Biden refused, protesters in the audience began to chant “Not One More Deportation” as they walked out of the event.

After the town hall, Rojas gave the following statement: “By now, it is clear that the immigrant community cannot trust Biden. Any candidate who claims to be against Trump’s raids and family separations needs to commit to a full moratorium on deportations. We won’t accept

¹ Last name changed for her protection, due to immigration status

empty promises of immigration reform, while our families are torn apart. We cannot allow history to repeat itself.”

This action follows a wave of escalated actions demanding primary candidates distance themselves from Obama’s legacy of 3 million deportations, and commit to a moratorium on deportations on their first day in office. In early July, immigrant families [shut down Joe Biden’s headquarters in Philadelphia](#), demanding an apology for the families separated under the Obama administration. That same week, an immigrant rights activist whose brother was deported under the Obama administration [confronted Biden in New Hampshire](#) asking him to apologize and commit to ending all detention and deportation. [Immigrant rights activists in Detroit Michigan interrupted Biden](#) during the second democratic primary debate, at which point many other candidates began to distance themselves from Obama’s deportation record.

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Movimiento Cosecha is a national movement to win permanent protection, dignity and respect for all 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, with organizing hubs across the country.