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Media Alert:

Chicago activist that heads grassroots faith-based coalition will be arrested at immigration rally, "Camino Americano: March for Dignity and Respect" today

WHAT: A long time Chicago activist, Juan F. Soto is one of roughly 200 protesters that will be arrested in civil disobedience action outside the nation's capitol in a rally for immigration reform today as part of "**Camino Americano: March for Dignity and Respect.**"

WHY: To demand the House Republican leadership pass comprehensive immigration reform.

WHERE: Program begins at National Mall; following with a march to U.S. Capitol

WHEN: Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

WHO: Los Tigres del Norte and Lila Downs Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) who will be joined by 30 members of Congress, civil rights leader Julian Bond, AFT President Randi Weingarten and national labor union officers, immigration reform and faith leaders.

DETAILS: Juan F. Soto is the director of Gamaliel of Metro Chicago, (GMC), a grassroots network of non-partisan, faith-based organizations in 17 U.S. states. He is also the head of the Pilsen Neighbors Community Council (PNCC) and Gamaliel's Civil Rights of Immigrants campaign.

Soto has for 20 years directed PNCC, a 60 year old non-for-profit grassroots organization in one of U.S' most historic Mexican-American communities: Pilsen. PNCC's mission is to establish policies and practices to bring justice and equity by investing in the development of community leaders through leadership training and action. There, Soto also oversees Fiesta del Sol, the largest Latino festival in the Midwest drawing over 1.3 million people annually.

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Gamaliel of Metro Chicago (GMC) is a partnership alliance between the Southwest Cluster (Pilsen Neighbors Community Council and Midway area schools) African-American Organizing Table Cluster, the University Round Table Cluster and the South Suburban Cluster (South Suburban Action Conference). GMC is part of Gamaliel, a grassroots network of non-partisan, faith-based organizations in 17 U.S. states, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Gamaliel organizes to empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives.

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