

MARU MUST STAY! – Protest at the US embassy in London

Part of international actions

A spirited picket took place outside the US embassy in London (5 February) as part of international actions protesting a deportation order against Maru Mora Villalpando, a US-based immigration rights campaigner. It was called by the All African Women's Group, Women of Colour/ Global Women's Strike and Payday men's network, demanding that US immigration authorities withdraw the order and grant Ms Mora-Villalpando the right to stay.



Maru has lived in the US for over 20 years with her daughter. She has spearheaded campaigns against the detention and deportation at the Northwest Detention Centre, Tacoma, Washington. Some demonstrators who had been in detention themselves or fought and won against deportation threats, chanted "Maru Must Stay".

Speakers talked about:

- Ø What the campaigns led by Maru have won such as a Bill against detention, and a law suit against \$1/day for work done by detainees.
- Ø How many other outspoken, undocumented organisers are being targeted by the Trump administration as a way to attack immigrant communities.
- Ø The secrecy and illegality surrounding Maru's and other deportation threats he repression, sexual harassment and exploitation in detention centres, run by profiteering private firms in the UK and internationally. * The horrifying deaths of thounds of people who drown every year trying to reach Europe.
- Ø Calling out NGOs and voluntary groups which make deals behind the backs of undocumented people and detainees (which Maru's organisation had stood against)
- Ø The wealth stolen from the Global South (£7 trillion owed to Africa alone by the UK) which has been stockpiled in Western countries and which we as immigrants have come to collect.



It was a very international event: an organiser in Texas USA who knows Maru had asked a friend from New Zealand to come and bring support to the London picket. Women and men from Cameroon, Congo, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Quebec, Trinidad, Uganda, Zimbabwe, the US and other countries participated, attracting passers-bys with over 150 flyers distributed.



Sign the [Petition](#)

Donate to Maru's [Defense Fund](#)



US embassy, Mexico.



At North West Detention Centre, USA
STOP PRESS: Detainees started a new [hunger and work strike](#)



Valencia, Spain.

Update on Maru's campaign: [NWDC Resistance](#) - Payday at [refusingtokill.net](#)

