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The United States tightened its immigration laws after 2001 in order to prevent certain types of migrants and also reduce the nation's risk exposure to accepting illegal immigrants (Wilson 67; Johnson 198; Mauk and Oakland 67). Empirical evidence and statistics show that there is a trend towards local laws and practice that encourages harassment directed at a certain class of migrants who come to the United States, particularly migrants from Latin America (Segura and Zavella 3; Garcia 94). These are directly linked to the anti-immigration laws that have been instituted in the United States that renders these immigrants as non-existent and undocumented persons. The thesis statement for this topic is the position that: harassment of Latino immigrants by state and local law enforcement authorities is strongly linked to the anti-immigration sentiments of people in the United States and this prevents Latinos from getting any form of protection under US laws in the face of these harassments.

Casual Claims

Arizona's Safe Neighborhood Act, 1070 enacted in 2010 gave state authorities the power to arrest and detain persons they had reason to believe was an illegal immigrant (Campbell 1; Magana and Lee 103; Rothe and Kauzlarich 98). This is in contrast with the fundamental position of US law which requires the federal government to handle such issues (Romero and Romero Williams 230; Motomura 117; Ferro 76). This shows that the spate of changes in US migration and public opinion had caused the people to move beyond the powers attributed to them in the constitution (Skerry). The natural consequence of this is that it created a spillover that allowed some constituents of US law to gain power and authority to do things not authorized by the constitution to these immigrants (Gallagher and Lippard

75; Shally-Jansen 1037; OLeary 32).

There is a general increase in the trend hate crimes and negative acts targeting persons of Latin American origins (Civil Rights para 3). The statistics indicate that hate crimes against Latinos by authorities have increased by at least 100% over the past decade (Civil Rights para 1). This shows that a lot a lot of negative things have been done under the guises of new laws and other negative acts are a reflection of the wrong sentiments that are meted out against the Latino migrant population.

Research Scope

A hypothesis is a tentative statement made by a researcher at the beginning of a research that is tested for its truthfulness or falsity (Adams and Eva 593; Spielberger 229). Therefore, the casual claims can be put in order to guide the scope of the research. To this end, the following hypotheses will be made:

H1: US public opinions and sentiments against Latinos plays a role in the divestment of the law on immigration into non-constitutional acts;

H2: These non-constitutional acts and provisions against Latinos give way for harassment to be perpetrated against Latinos by authorities;

H3: Albeit illegal, these laws prevent these Latino immigrants from raising any defenses.

Research Strategy

Research strategy refers to the approach that is used to inquire into a given research topic (Creswell 79; Belk 199). This outlines the way data will be collected and analyzed in order to draw conclusions in the study in question (Piquero and Weisburd 125; Rashed-Ali and Roff 290). This study can be conducted through a critical review of literature from legal documents as

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well as reports on incidents that have occurred in the past.

Data Collection

A critical review of the US constitutional provisions that define the scope of immigration law will be conducted. The process will include the examination of the US Constitution and its subsequent amendments. This will be followed by an evaluation of cases documented in the media that relates to the harassment of Latino immigrants and the practice of state authorities and other entities identified to harass immigrants.

Data Analysis

The assessments will culminate in the documentation of important trends and issues. From there, they will be reconciled and there will be a review of whether there has been a departure from the constitutional provisions and the role played by popular opinions in this divergence. From there, important trends on how to constructively and realistically deal with these harassment cases will be deduced from the cases analyzed.

Interpretation

After the existing legal practice and constitutional provisions are examined for compatibility, an opinion will be passed on the role of public opinion in the departure from the constitution and how this limits the rights of immigrants and encourages harassment on the part of the authorities.

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