



# CHICANO FEDERATION

OF

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY, INC.

CENTRAL OFFICE

920 "E" STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 (714) 236-1228

527 ELM AVENUE, CARLSBAD, CA 92008 (714) 729-7955

1129 SOUTH 38th STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113 (714) 263-7777

1571 ALBANY AVENUE, CHULA VISTA, CA 92010 (714) 426-2525

June 1, 1983

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Dist. Director of Customs  
[REDACTED]  
San Diego, Ca. 92101

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I am writing on behalf of one of our clients to give you a description of an incident which took place this last weekend.

The physical and verbal harassment which this gentleman went through was totally unwarranted and uncalled for considering the situation. Our organization has had many individuals come in and complain about the treatment from your officers and we feel that it is time that you, as the person directly responsible for the actions of your officers, made some adjustments in the behavior patterns demonstrated.

Many of our people that are harassed fail to complain for various reasons. In this case, we would like to see some strong action taken to prevent further incidents. I'm sure you would also prefer to take care of this matter internally vs. having us take this and other incidents to legislators and the press.

A description of the incident and of the Officer involved follows:

Time: Sunday, May 29, 1983. At approx. 1:30 p.m.

Place: San Ysidro Checkpoint, Secondary.

Our Client: [REDACTED], Ford LTD, 1975, License # [REDACTED]  
(He can be reached c/o the Chicano Federation)

Description of the Officer: Short (about 5' 4", 195 lbs. Fair complexion, Blond Hair, wi. puffy eyelids, about 45 years old.

Description of the Incident: On the day and time indicated, our client, accompanied by his family, was referred to Secondary by the primary inspecting officer. His Daughter, even though she had a stamped copy of her birth certificate, was repeatedly questioned by the offending officer as to her country of origin. She became quite nervous and her father, [REDACTED], tried to explain to her what the officer was asking.



La Raza En Su Lucha Por Una Vida Mejor Tiene Que Unirse Para Asegurar Sus Derechos y Su Existencia

A United Way of SAN DIEGO COUNTY Agency -- Affiliated with National Council of La Raza

At this point, the Officer, who had been quite rude throughout the proceedings, took Mr. [REDACTED] some 30 feet from his car, grabbed him by the collar, and called him "fucking bastard" and "son of a bitch". This was accompanied by repeated threats to send him to jail and impound his car, threats that had been made repeatedly before the collar grabbing incident. Upon releasing Mr. [REDACTED]'s collar, he rudely took the keys to the vehicle, and the entire family's I.D.'s and took them and the family upstairs. The matter was turned over to another officer. Approximately an hour later, Mr. [REDACTED] was waiting by the counter for his name to be called. The offending officer again came over and rudely asked what he was doing by the counter, then rudely telling him to move away from the counter. These incidents were witnessed by Mr. [REDACTED]'s family; his wife [REDACTED]; his daughter [REDACTED], 18; his son [REDACTED], 15; and another son of 7 years.

The Chicano Federation sees no reason why a family should be subjected to this sort of mistreatment. Mr. [REDACTED]'s wife has been under medical care because of the incident and his daughter has also displayed negative after-effects. The physical abuse suffered by Mr. [REDACTED] and the subsequent intimidation upstairs by the same officer indicates a mentality that has no place in a public-oriented service.

I thank you for your attention to this matter. Please address any correspondence or calls on this matter to our Central Office.

Sincerely,

*Juan Castellanos*  
Juan Castellanos  
Community Services Specialist

cc: [REDACTED]

JC:tc