



**American  
Friends  
Service  
Committee**

## **AFSC West Region News – October 2023**

*Stories of work from around the region*

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region monthly newsletter. Please send feedback to [WestNews@afsc.org](mailto:WestNews@afsc.org).



photo: Adrian Alvarez

*Roots for Peace Program, Los Angeles*

### **LA youth advocate for transit justice**

All people should have access to safe and affordable transportation. But too often, high fares and the presence of police make getting to and from work or school a burden – especially for communities of color.

In Los Angeles, AFSC's Roots for Peace Program is working in coalition to change this. Over the summer, our 11-day intensive Freedom School engaged 25 youth, mostly Latinx, interested in working for social justice. Youth analyzed intersectional, systemic inequalities that affect communities in South Central LA. They chose fareless transit as their organizing project after learning about AFSC's work on transit justice from Program Director Adalberto (Beto) Rios.

[Read more.](#)



*US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego*

### **AFSC and partners respond to open-air detention sites**

The Border Patrol in San Diego is holding asylum-seeking migrants at makeshift open-air detention sites for hours, and sometimes days, in at least three areas west of the San Ysidro Port-of-Entry between a set of 30-ft border walls. Migrants are in the US but are forced to wait for Border Patrol to pick them up for processing in an area where there are no services. Here is a [short report](#) from Pedro Rios describing some of the work AFSC and partners have done over the past several weeks in support of people migrating.



*67 Sueños, Oakland*

### **Telling our stories, finding healing through art**

This summer, AFSC's 67 Sueños unveiled its latest mural in Oakland, "Cultura, Sueños, y Sanación." This mural, like many others created by 67 Sueños, was developed by youth, from start to finish. Jackie Garcia-Martinez of AFSC [writes](#) that the theme of the mural is healing. "In these difficult times, youth wanted to plant a seed of hope in our community. The mural depicts how tapping into our ancestral practices grounds us. Our culture holds many answers to the questions we ask ourselves in our journey toward healing from trauma and injustice."



*Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon–Washington*

### **Update on advocacy for immigrants in Oregon**

Pedro Sosa (above, left) and Alonso Oliveros recently shared about AFSC’s work in support of immigrants in Oregon. Along with partner organizations, AFSC pushed for the creation of a hotline where people could report violations of the state’s Sanctuary Promise law, which forbids local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration. Pedro played a key role in the passage of \$2.5 million in state support for indigenous language interpretation. [Read more.](#)



*Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno*

### **Youth discussion looks at land, food and suppression**

Sixteen young adults met at PVI’s *People’s Platica: Land, Food, and Suppression* roundtable on September 16. The first session focused on the Farm Bill, a new topic for most of the participants. To their surprise, the Farm Bill includes crop insurance and rural development but does not include farm and food workers’ rights, school meals, or WIC. What was most confusing to them was that the Farm Bill provides funding for SNAP benefits but not WIC. [Read more](#) from Minerva Mendoza of AFSC.

**STINGER® GRENADE RUBBER PELLET RP, RP/CS & RP/OC**

**DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY®**

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS	
Construction	Rubber Ball Grenade Body
Diameter	3.10 in / 7.9 cm
Length	5.20 in / 13.2 cm
Fuze	M2D1A1 Type
Explosive Content	Flash Powder - 0.28 oz / 8 grams
Sound Level	175 dB at 5' (1.5 m)
Projectile Count	25 Rubber Balls
Launchable	Yes
SUB-MUNITIONS	
Active Agent	CS 0.07 oz / 2 grams OC 0.01 oz / 0.30 grams
Caliber	.12
Diameter	0.32 in / 0.81 cm
Hardness	75 Durometer (A)
Part No.	RP 1090 RP/CS 1088 RP/OC 1089
Warranty	5 years from date of manufacture
ALL SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVERAGES AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE	
The Stinger® Grenade is a combination Less Lethal Impact Munitions and Distraction Device(s) that may incorporate optional CS or OC laden powder desired. The Stinger® Grenade is a maximum effect device as it delivers up to four stimuli of psychological and physiological effect: rubber pellets, light, sound, and optional chemical agent (OC).	
The Stinger® Grenade has an initial 1.5 second delay that initiates fuze assembly operation, followed by another 3.5 second delay before the function of the device. The blast is sufficient to project the rubber balls and optional chemical agent in a 50 foot radius.	

Its applications in tactical deployment situations include high-risk warrant service, hostage rescue, and the arrest of potentially violent subjects. The purpose of the Stinger® Grenade is to minimize the risks to all parties through pain compliance, temporary distraction or disorientation of potentially

California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

## AFSC urges Alameda County supervisors to ban scattershot munitions

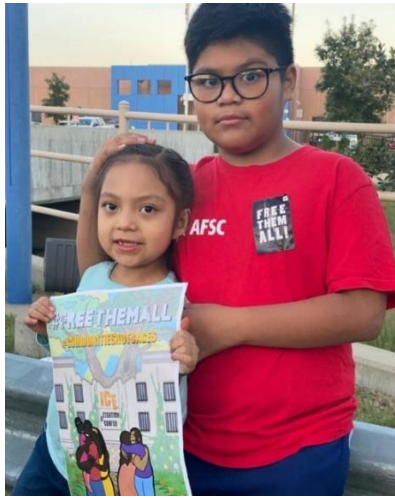
On September 28, AFSC and partners urged Alameda County officials to reject the sheriff’s proposal to acquire additional drones, “flashbang” grenades, impact projectiles (i.e. rubber bullets) and chemical agents. Advocates called for a ban on dangerous and indiscriminate scattershot munitions which are part of the sheriff’s current arsenal. [Learn more.](#)



People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

## Healthy food campaigns benefit preschoolers and farmers

“Our children went right for it and touched it. It went right into their mouth,” a preschool teacher reported to AFSC New Mexico staff about the impact of our farm to preschool healthy food campaign. This fall we introduced another new vegetable, cucumbers, to about 1,000 preschoolers. We also partnered with two new small-scale organic farms to grow food for the children. [Read more](#) from Sayrah Namaste of AFSC – and check out her [op-ed in Green Fire Times](#).



Youth participants at a recent [GEO Detention Center vigil in Colorado](#), part of 11 Defund Hate actions across the US.

*Immigrant Rights Program, Denver*

### **New report looks at Denver's immigration policies**

Gabriela Flora of AFSC reports that AFSC and our Not1More and CFIR members have been working in coalition with pro-immigrant organizations at the state and local level to shift Colorado and Denver into a pro-immigrant state and city over the past two decades.

To help elected and appointed City officials understand the context of and responsibility they have in upholding and expanding Denver's pro-immigrant city policies and practices, Gabriela worked with Denver's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to write *[A Historical Perspective: Understanding Denver Immigration Policies, Practices and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Engagement](#)*.

### **Short takes**

Rick Wilson of AFSC writes about why we all should back [unions and striking workers](#)....A new national poll shows support for a [just and equitable Farm Bill](#).... Register now for the next [AFSC Friends liaison call](#) on Thursday, October 26 at 6 pm CT....Listen to the latest [Quakers Today podcast](#), sponsored in part by AFSC....Read AFSC's statement: [To end violence in Palestine and Israel, we must address root causes](#)....And check out the [latest news](#) about AFSC's work in the Midwest.

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