

## We All Have Constitutional Rights

Did you know that whether or not you are a citizen, you have rights under the United States Constitution?

- ◆ The Fifth Amendment gives every person the right to remain silent: not to answer questions asked by a police officer.
- ◆ The Fourth Amendment restricts the government's power to enter and search your home or workplace, although there are many exceptions and new laws have expanded the government's power to conduct surveillance.
- ◆ The First Amendment protects your right to speak freely and to advocate for social change. However, if you are a non-citizen and are deportable, the Department of Homeland Security can target you based on your political activities.

Constitutional rights cannot be suspended—even during wartime.

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## What should I do if immigration authorities stop me?

You do not have to talk to the police, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, or any other investigator. Both documented and undocumented people in the U.S. have the right to remain silent until they have spoken to a lawyer. You also do not have to let authorities search you or your home unless they have a warrant (written permission from a judge allowing them to search your home).

**Make a copy of this card. If authorities question you, show this card:**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Before answering any questions, I want to speak to an attorney at

\_\_\_\_\_.

I will not speak to anyone, answer any questions about my immigration status, respond to any accusations, waive any of my legal rights, or consent to any search of my person, papers, or property until I have first obtained the advice of an attorney.

Lawyer or organization's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted with permission from Auerbach, Elsa and Nina Wallerstein, *Problem-Posing At Work: English for Action*. Edmonton: Grass Roots Press, 2004.