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Onderwerp: US Immigration Bill Game-Changing Yet Flawed

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THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

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US Immigration Bill Game-Changing Yet Flawed



Photo © 2013 Reuters

The Senate's proposed immigration plan, announced Wednesday, is potentially game-changing. It could finally clear a path to legal status for millions of people.

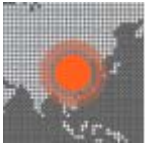
If passed into law, the bill would make unauthorized immigrants less vulnerable to human rights abuses, and less fearful about reporting crimes and speaking out. It would address violations such as separation of families by deportation, and prohibit racial profiling by immigration authorities. Also, people deported without criminal convictions and youth who qualified under the proposed [DREAM Act](#) could seek legalization.

However, the bill calls for tougher criminal prosecution of people who migrate without permission. This is unnecessary – they can simply be deported – and diverts resources from real security issues.

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[Good News! Polluting Tanneries in Bangladesh Face Fines](#)

For probably the first time, Bangladesh's government has leveled pollution-related fines against two leather tanneries in Hazaribagh, a Dhaka neighborhood so polluted with waste from its roughly 150 tanneries that residents and workers are plagued by serious health problems.

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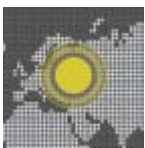


[Venezuela Should Respect Free Speech and Assembly](#)

Venezuelans are entitled to peacefully challenge the election results, by marching in the streets or by expressing their views in the media. President-elect Nicolás Maduro shouldn't threaten to use an 'iron fist' to restrict and intimidate those who try to voice their opinions.

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[In Russia, a Worker Exploited on Olympic Venues is Detained](#)

The Russian authorities unlawfully detained a migrant construction worker who was seeking to file a complaint for nonpayment of wages on Olympic venues in Sochi. Although he was released, authorities charged him with "minor hooliganism".

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[Formula 1 Holds Grand Prix in Bahrain, Ignores Rights Abuses](#)

Bahrain is already tightening the lid on protest as the Formula 1 race grows near. The Formula 1 organizers apparently prefer to bury their heads in the sand, risking holding their race against repression it has provoked.

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