

Drug Reform Coordination Network (DRCNet)

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New Jersey Racial Profiling Documents Go Online

Historic Opportunity for Activists, Researchers, Public

Washington, DC—The “floodlight” of attention on the issue of racial profiling on New Jersey highways, as some media outlets have described it, turns into a “spotlight” this week, as a Washington-DC based educational and advocacy organization posts the entire 91,000-page archive to its Internet web site.

David Borden, Executive Director of the Drug Reform Coordination Network (DRCNet), explained, “We decided to make the profiling archive available on our web site, so that civil rights organizers, media, attorneys and other concerned citizens worldwide could take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities these documents afford.”

Documents reveal the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) as both hero and villain in the profiling debacle. While DOJ’s civil rights division has taken a leading role in opposing racial profiling, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), another branch of DOJ, has overtly encouraged police forces around the country to use race-based profiling techniques, as part of its controversial “Operation Pipeline.”

The 91,000-page New Jersey Racial Profiling Archive was previously available only by on-site inspection at the Attorney General’s office, or on CD-ROM provided only to media outlets at \$1,000 per set. The documents can now be accessed via DRCNet’s web site at www.stopthedrugwar.org.

DRCNet publishes a weekly online newsletter that it distributes by e-mail to 18,000 subscribers, as well as legislative action alerts and web sites dealing with a range of drug war issues, including mandatory minimum sentencing, drug injection-related HIV and hepatitis, asset forfeiture reform, medical marijuana, and US drug policy toward Latin America.

DRCNet also coordinates a student-based campaign to overturn a new law stripping students convicted of drug offenses of federal financial aid for college. Over 30 student governments as well as national organizations including the NAACP have endorsed DRCNet’s resolution calling for repeal of the financial aid ban, which they charge is racially discriminatory due to disparate application of drug law enforcement, such as profiling.

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