

UPF Albuquerque, New Mexico's October 2017 Monthly Meeting

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October 21, 2017



Albuquerque, NM – The Universal Peace Federation (UPF), New Mexico, held its fourth monthly meeting on Saturday, October 21st, with eleven people attending including two newcomers. One is a community activist Daniel Vega who also served as a speaker. Daniel works with the New Mexico Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice as a staff member and is currently taking time off from his university studies in order to address the issues affecting so many of the immigrants living in New Mexico.

Daniel is a “Dreamer”, a recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) executive order; he is personally experiencing the uncertainty of immigration policies. He recounted the experience of an Iraqi refugee who saved many American troops during the Gulf War and now faces deportation. This man will almost certainly be executed if he is forced to go back to Iraq. Daniel also explained the diverse situations of many Mexican and Central Americans currently in detention here. Daniel shared how much Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi and Jesus had inspired him with their commitment to nonviolence and love and forgiveness rather than bitterness towards challenge.

Both Daniel and Abdullah, a fellow millennial and a Muslim business student from Saudi Arabia, shared that they had far more in common than differences during the question and answer discussion period after Daniel’s presentation.

A deep and thoughtful event, participants agreed that immigration is a complex issue that, like any such issue, requires us to turn to God in sincere prayer and respectful dialog with each other in order to find answers.