



Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

BSEC • 53 Prospect Park West at 2nd Street • Brooklyn

www.bsec.org • 718.768.2972

SI KAHN ON THE CAMPAIGN TO END IMMIGRANT FAMILY DETENTION — AT BSEC, JUNE 14TH

For immediate release, May 27th

At the T. Don Hutto “Family Detention Center” — formerly a medium security prison in Taylor, Texas — children and infants are imprisoned together with their mothers, who are there for being in the United States without the proper documents. In 2007, United Nations Human Rights Inspector Jorge Bustamonte was denied access to the facility, where women from more than 40 countries have been held. That same year, the

ACLU won a lawsuit that forced the Corrections Corporation of America, a for-profit company that operates Hutto under contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to deliver adequate schooling, health care, and recreation to the children.



Si Kahn, singer-songwriter-activist

Grassroots Leadership, a national non-profit founded in 1980 by organizer/musician Si Kahn, has been working for the past three years to end the practice of imprisoning children and to implement humane alternatives that do exist for undocumented immigrant families. On June 14 (11 a.m.) at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, Kahn will talk about the Campaign to End Immigrant Family Detention, perform some of his socially conscious songs, and screen a short film (1 p.m.) about the Hutto facility and the alternatives to incarceration that exist in the community.

Si Kahn is a singer-songwriter and activist who moved from Pennsylvania to the South during the Civil Rights Movement and he now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is the founder and director of Grassroots Leadership (www.grassrootsleadership.org), which focuses on prison reform, immigrant rights, and stopping violence; the organization is sustained, in part, by his musical performances. He has also been involved with Save Our Cumberland Mountains, an environmentalist group opposed to strip mining in Appalachia, and was a founder of the Jewish Funds for Justice in New York. Kahn has produced 15 albums of music: His music, he has said, is a “hobby that got out of hand.”

The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture is a diverse community of people who seek to make ethical values central to how they live their lives. For more information about Si Kahn’s appearance at BSEC’s landmark building on Prospect Park, contact Damal Edmonds, at 718.768-2972.