

May Day 2010 - National Mobilization for Immigrant Workers Rights!

<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org/MayDay2010/>

May Day 2010 : We Made Another History!

**Hundreds of Thousands Marched Across The U.S.
Against Racist AZ SB 1070 and Demands for
Immigrant Workers Rights!**



Los Angeles, May Day 2010

**National Immigrant Solidarity Network
May 5, 2010**

May Day 2010, hundreds of thousands of immigrants, activists, students and workers across the country marched at over hundred cities/communities to celebrate international worker's day and to send unmistakable messages **against racist AZ SB 1070, and demands for immigrant workers rights with TRUE immigration reform that will path of residency/citizenships for 12+ millions undocumented immigrants in this country!**

Immigrant rights is one of the most important struggles in the U.S. right now. With the recent passage of Arizona's [anti-immigrant SB 1070 bill](http://www.anti-immigrant.org), many immigrants and activists are comparing this to the rebirth of Jim Crow and racial profiling. We have also seen an increase in the militarization of local police forces and of our borders in another racist effort to divide our country.

Injury to one is injury to all! We encourages everyone to actively linking our issues with different struggles: wars in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine & Korea with sweatshops exploitation in Asia as well as in Los Angeles, New York; international arm sales and WTO, FTAA, NAFTA & CAFTA with AIDS, hunger, child labors and child soldier; as well as multinational corporations and economic exploitation with racism and poverty at home—in order we can win the struggle together at this May Day 2010!

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National Report

Immigration law sparks US rallies

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press
2010-05-03



DAVID MCNEW / REUTERS

Marchers assemble for a May Day rally in Los Angeles on Saturday.

CHICAGO - Angered by a controversial Arizona immigration law, tens of thousands of protesters - including 50,000 alone in Los Angeles - rallied in cities nationwide demanding President Barack Obama tackle immigration reform immediately.

From Los Angeles to Washington, activists, families, students and even politicians marched, practiced civil disobedience and "came out" about their citizenship status in the name of rights for immigrants, including the estimated 12 million living illegally in the United States.

"I want to thank the governor of Arizona because she's awakened a sleeping giant," said labor organizer John Delgado, who attended a rally in New York where authorities estimated 6,500 gathered.

A Democratic congressman was among 35 people arrested during a protest at the White House. US Representative Luis Gutierrez was taking part in a civil disobedience demonstration.

Protests elsewhere were largely peaceful. No arrests were reported at most demonstrations; two were arrested near the march route in Los Angeles, but police said neither suspect appeared to be connected to the rally.

'Nation of immigrants'

Police said 50,000 rallied in Los Angeles where singer Gloria Estefan kicked off a massive downtown march. Estefan spoke in Spanish and English, proclaiming the United States is a nation of immigrants.

"We're good people," the Cuban-born singer said atop a flatbed truck. "We've given a lot to this country. This country has given a lot to us."



**"We're good people.
We've given a lot to
this country. This
country has given a
lot to us."**

GLORIA ESTEFAN
CUBAN-BORN US SINGER

Public outcry, particularly among immigrant rights activists, has been building since last week when Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed the legislation last week.

The law requires local and state law enforcement to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally. It also makes it a state crime to be in the United States illegally.

The law's supporters say it's necessary because of the federal government's failure to secure the border, but critics contend it encourages racial profiling and is unconstitutional.

Obama once promised to tackle immigration reform in his first 100 days, but has pushed back that timetable several times.

He said this week that Congress may lack the "appetite" to take on immigration after going through a tough legislative year. However, Obama and Congress could address related issues, like boosting personnel and resources for border security, in spending bills this year.

Organizers estimated about 20,000 gathered at a park on Chicago's West Side and marched, but police said about 8,000 turned out.

The event resembled something between a family festival - food vendors strolled through with pushcarts - and a political demonstration with protesters chanting "Si se puede," Spanish for "Yes we can."

A group of undocumented students stood on a stage at the Chicago park and "came out" regarding their immigration status.

Juan Baca was among those students. Baca, 19, whose parents brought him from Mexico illegally when he was 4 months old, said he has had to drop out of college and work several times already because he can't qualify for financial aid.

In Dallas, police estimated at least 20,000 attended a Saturday rally. About a dozen people there carried signs depicting the Arizona governor as a Nazi and Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, known for his tough illegal immigration stance, as a Klansman.

Organizers were asking sign holders to discard those placards.

All eyes on Arizona

Juan Hernandez, the Hispanic outreach coordinator for Arizona Sen John McCain's unsuccessful presidential run, attended the Dallas rally. He said Arizona was once considered by those south of the border to be a model state with particularly close ties to Mexico.

"It went beyond what most states do," he said.

"Now they are a state that goes beyond what the Constitution says you should do."

In downtown Miami, several hundred flag-waving demonstrators - many with Cuban and Honduran flags, but mostly American ones - called for reforms.

Elsewhere, an estimated 7,000 protesters rallied in Houston, about 5,000 gathered at the Georgia state Capitol in Atlanta and at least 5,000 marched in Milwaukee. About 3,000 attended a Boston-area march.

And in Michigan, more than 500 people held a mock graduation ceremony for undocumented immigrant students near the site of Obama's University of Michigan commencement speech.

In Arizona, police in Tucson said an immigrant rights rally there drew at least 5,000 people. Several thousand people gathered in Phoenix for a demonstration Saturday evening.

A smattering of counterprotesters showed up at rallies. In Tucson, a few dozen people showed up in support of the new law and Brewer. A barricade separated about two dozen counterprotesters from a pro-immigrant rights rally in San Francisco.

The other side speaks

Counterprotesters there carried signs that read, "We Support Arizona" and "We Need More Ice At This Fiesta," an apparent reference to the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

May 1 - International Workers Day - is a traditional date for political demonstrations. Immigration advocates latched onto that tradition in 2006, when more than 1 million people across the country - half a million alone in Chicago - protested federal legislation that would have made being an illegal immigrant a felony. That legislation ultimately failed.

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Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles Marches Against Racist Arizona Law (PHOTOS)

by Manuel Alderete *Saturday, May. 01, 2010 at 6:29 PM at LA.Indymedia.org*
info@protestarizona.com

<http://la.indymedia.org/news/2010/05/237924.php>

Over 100,000 march to protest racist Arizona "immigration" law; diverse crowd shows broad support against law



LOS ANGELES - May 1, 2010

The air was electrified by a presence not felt since the **Gran Marcha of 2006**. At least 100,000 people marched through Downtown in solidarity with Arizona's victims of a new law that legalizes racial profiling. It is a law that has been denounced by **President Obama**, DHS Head Janet Napolitano, the Mayor of Phoenix, the **Sheriff of Pima County (Arizona)**, and even some Republicans who see it as draconian legislation.

Many of the protest signs carried bold statements calling the Arizona law "**racist**" and "**Nazi-like**". There was a sense of urgency in their voices, demanding to "Boycott Arizona" and overturn Arizona's **SB 1070** law on the grounds that it was racially discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Unlike other marches where several other "niche issues" are brought into the march, this May Day march was focused like a laser: Arizona's new state law is a modern-day version of **legalized White Supremacy**, smacking of the **Nuremberg Laws** in Nazi Germany and **Apartheid "Pass Laws"** in South Africa.

As usual, the march began at Olympic and Broadway and continued north about a dozen blocks, ending near City Hall. The crowd surged with optimism as music played and ralliers chanted to Boycott Arizona and pressure President Obama to take swift action against Arizona's legalized Apartheid.

It should also be mentioned that **Los Angeles Police Department** had a very light footprint at the march, with only a few officers monitoring from the sidelines. And just as well: the march was peaceful, upbeat, and a proud statement of civic resistance to "legal" fascism.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I was pleasantly surprised to see the diversity of protesters in the crowd. There was a noticeable amount of White, Chinese, and African-American protesters who all felt that they also had a reason to stand up against what **SNL's Seth Myers** labeled as "*dry fascism*" on national TV.

This is a reminder to us all that there are non-racist Whites out there who are willing to speak out against White Supremacy. They see that this is a Human Rights issue (the humanity of Mexican and "Central American" people is being totally violated) and the human part of them also feels violated by Arizona's law.

Walking to the march, I happened to get flagged down by a European-descent couple vacationing from Australia. They asked me to explain the march and the issues. We had an excellent conversation about the ongoing legacy of European colonialism and how that applied to "wild west" Arizona. Again, I was reminded that truth and logic will prevail in this struggle. But we also have to summon the courage to demand that our rights be recognized. Those of us Mexicans and "Central Americans" are NOT immigrants to this continent. We are Indigenous (mixed and full-blood) people of this land. **Our blood is native to this soil, and has been spilled over and over on it, paying for this land many times over.** We absolutely cannot remain dehumanized as we have been during the last 500 years since Europeans invaded and colonized our continent. This is OUR time for CHANGE (to borrow a phrase).

Below are some of the most interesting protest signs I saw.

www.ProtestArizona.com





San Francisco-Bay Area, CA

May Day in the Bay and Beyond

IMC IndyBay.org



Bay Area and Central Valley Mark Holiday with Marches, Rallies, and Celebrations

Saturday, May 1st is May Day, or International Workers Day. The holiday was observed with celebrations, marches, rallies, and street parties.

In **San Francisco**, there was a march at noon from 24th and Mission to Civic Center Plaza. The march was followed by a rally at Civic Center at 2 pm. Marchers demanded full rights for undocumented workers, money for jobs and education, and no budget cuts or fee hikes. Also in San Francisco, UA in the Bay hosted a celebration in Dolores Park from 3 to 7 pm. The event included performances, face painting, maypole dancing, soccer, and tabling by groups like AK Press and Indybay. A Reclaim the Streets march and street party followed the celebration in the park.

In **Santa Cruz**, there was a street party downtown at the Clocktower on Pacific Ave. and Water St. Revelers partied from 9pm until about midnight.

In **Watsonville**, there was a rally for immigrant and workers rights, and a march through the streets.

In the **East Bay**, there were rallies from noon to 8 pm. Rally points included Telegraph and Bancroft in **Berkeley** at noon, 34th and International at 2 pm, and 71st and International at 4 pm. In the evening, there was an International Workers Solidarity Event from 7 to 10 pm at the Niebyl-Proctor Library in **Oakland**.

In **Fresno**, immigrant rights activists and their allies observed the holiday by demonstrating for immigration reform. Demonstrators met at 4 pm at the water tower on Fresno and 'O.'

In **Modesto**, there was a rally and march for social justice starting at 10 am at the corner of Crows Landing and Hatch Rd. in

South Modesto.

In **San Jose**, there was music and a rally for just and humane immigration reform. The event began at 2 pm at Mi Pueblo Plaza followed by a march and rally at San Jose City Hall.

Thousands Of Immigrant Rights Protesters Rally In SF Civic Center

by Z

Saturday May 1st, 2010 at IMC IndyBay.org

Around 1:45 thousands of immigrant rights protesters poured into Civic Center plaza.

Between 12 and 15 antimigrant racists were waiting in front of city hall. Despite the vast difference in numbers, The local Fox news affiliate (ch2) can be seen in 5th photo filming sole nonwhite person in racist crowd.





Massive rally in Union Square demands legalization of all immigrants

New York, May 1 -- Tens of thousands of people rallied, chanted and rocked to Hip Hop performers and other artists and orators for more than three hours in Union Square today before marching two miles to the federal buildings in downtown Manhattan. This year's May Day action focused on combating the recently passed Arizona anti-immigrant law and demanding legalization of all undocumented workers in the U.S. and their families.

With placards, chants and through talks from the podium, participants made it clear that they also opposed the proposals made by Democratic U.S. Senator Charles Schumer for so-called immigration reform because it emphasized militarization of the border and repressive identification cards, and it delayed legalization.

Like New York City itself, the rally was extremely diverse, representing immigrant groups from all over South America and the Caribbean -- many from Mexico -- and from all over the Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. There were also trade unionists, community organizers and many students and youths shouting their solidarity with the immigrants and raising their own demands for jobs, education and an end to wars.

The May Day rally was the largest in New York since 2006, when immigrants held the equivalent of a one-day national general strike to protest the Sensenbrenner Bill then raised before the U.S. Congress. The enormous outpouring at that time stopped that bill dead in its tracks.

Teresa Gutierrez, a spokesperson for the May 1 Coalition for Immigrant Rights -- the group that initiated the call for May Day in Union Square the last five years -- said, "Arizona is the home base of arch-racist Sheriff Joe Arpaio and others who falsely blame all problems of U.S. society on immigrants. These reactionaries thought they could get away with passing this repressive Arizona law, which is a threat to all immigrants, an insult to every Latino and Latina person, an assault on every person of color and an attack on all workers.

"This law has boomeranged on the racists. It ignited opposition nationally. It has aroused a new movement with a combative spirit that we all saw not only in Union Square today but also in Los Angeles, in Tucson and Phoenix in Arizona, in Texas and Chicago and in 80 cities around the United States."

Gutierrez estimated from the platform at the end rally near the U.S. Courthouse that 25,000 people had taken part in the rally and march. By telephone, an organizer from Tucson reported on that city's mass May Day action and one from Washington, D.C., told of 40 people arrested for civil disobedience. Gutierrez noted that the size, militancy and enthusiastic spirit of the rally and march had overshadowed other more politically timid activities, even though they were well-funded.

Toward the evening, news arrived from Jackson Heights, Queens, that police had harassed and arrested two women who were undocumented street vendors. Commenting on these arrests, Gutierrez said, "This shows that the climate of repression coming not only from Arizona but from the state and federal authorities is still harsh against our immigrant sisters and brothers. The struggle continues."



"May Day Returns to NYC With Revolutionary Fervor"

By John Pietaro

www.flamesofdiscontent.org

New York, NY—The Big Apple was on fire this May Day, with three large-scale rallies as well as a mass march in Manhattan, followed by an evening concert in Brooklyn featuring a powerful assortment of protest musicians and poets unifying in honor of the Industrial Workers of the World. For the first time in decades the canyons of Manhattan rang out with the sounds of radicalism in an orchestrated series of May Day rallies, events which celebrated both worker and immigrant equally. The cry of "All power to the workers!"--both local and migrant-- was adapted through actions, songs and poetry and the City that never sleeps quaked with a revolutionary restlessness.

The triumphal gathering at the municipal area of Foley Square and the one which occurred at the historic site of Left rallies for more than a century, Union Square, joined together during a march through lower Manhattan and coalesced in mass rally. Immigrant worker and unionist, native-born and newly arrived, stood shoulder to shoulder to celebrate the international labor day. Standing among them (more often than not, within their contingencies) were enclaves representing any and all of the progressive groups in New York City including the IWW, the Communist Party USA, Veterans Against the War, the Revolutionary Communist Party, the Progressive Labor Party, the Socialist Party, Workers World, the Vets of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the Working Families Party and an endless array of others. Stand outs among the unions were SEIU Local 32 B-J and Workers United, which both count many immigrant workers among their membership. Also on hand were AFSCME's DC 1707 (the Executive Director of which, Raglan George, offered an intensely rousing speech)and DC 37, CWA 1180, 1199 SEIU, many building trades and far too many more to count. The armies of unionist and activist began gathering at 10:30 AM and by 11, the hordes had swelled into the thousands. The opening rally began with the NYC Labor Chorus' moving rendition of "Solidarity Forever"; it was noted by more than one rally goer that the presence of this amazing piece of music, heard on May Day 2010 at a major intersection of lower Manhattan, broadcast over loudspeakers and with the pervasive imagery produced by a huge screen hovering over the stage, was greatly moving. The old visions largely lost to memory of May Day parades in days of yore offered some déjà vu to this moment and the union banners and topical placards waved on in mass approval. It was a day to remember.

BUT AT NIGHT, an artists' collective space in Bushwick, Brooklyn, Surreal Estate, offered the climax of the day, when the NYC General Branch of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD staged an all-night benefit concert. Dozens of bands, both of the acoustic folk-oriented variety and those that brandished screaming electric instruments blasted the night air with songs of revolutionary change. The space offered revelers two floors of live music as well as a rooftop DJ, all of which amounted to a May Day celebration which fused the topical music of old with that of tomorrow. Hardest-rocking radical grunge met protest folk, dissentful pop and revolutionary hip hop head on. The audience, mostly young and dressed in all black, shouted out in celebratory affirmation as the cultural workers delivered the visceral spirit of radicalism throughout the halls of the old building. The warm pre-summer air throbbed with the cheers and guttural explosions of a revolution in sound. Some of the artists heard included Rtronika, Spiritchild of Mental Notes, The Last Internationale, Born in a Cent, Nikki Patin, George Mann (long-term musical partner of Julius Margolin),performance poet Chris Chandler, Things in Action and others including the author's own ensemble the Flames of Discontent which offered a set of reconstructed songs of the Wobblies and other pieces of protest in verse. Some of the DJ's who kept the rooftop party going included DJ Juan Mapu, DJ Velvet and DJ Savalas.

May Day is the real labor day, the global day of the worker, born in the USA but neutralized by the evils of Cold War mentality. Once reclaimed by the wider movement, there's simply no turning back. Happy May Day, sisters, brothers, and comrades.

Milwaukee, WI



65,000 mobilize in Milwaukee against Arizona's discriminatory legislation, call for federal action on immigration reform

May 1, 2010

A seemingly endless flow of 65,000 passionate and peaceful marchers filled National Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin today, chanting "Obama, escucha, estamos en la lucha!" (Obama, listen, we are in the struggle!) and "El pueblo callado será deportado" (A community that's silent will be deported).

The Wisconsin Statewide May Day March for immigration reform and workers' rights is one of over 80 May 1 actions across the country, standing up against Arizona's increasingly hostile policies toward immigrants which also threaten the civil rights of all its residents.

"In the same way the Wisconsin Congressman Sensenbrenner's bill HR 4437 ignited the immigrant rights movement in 2006; so today has passage of Arizona SB 1070 awakened the nation and opened a new chapter in the civil rights struggle of this country," said Christine-Neumann Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera.

Featured speaker Rafael Reyes, an Arizona resident and member of the National Day Labor Organizing Network, gave testimony to the current situation in Arizona after the devastating passage of SB 1070. "There is a presence of fear in Arizona, but also a presence of strength and beauty in the young people and elders who are protesting, holding vigils, fasting, and calling for SB 1070 to be defeated."

The marchers pledged to support the Resolution that will be introduced by Alderman Witkowiak this Monday, calling for participation in the economic boycott of Arizona; and plan for a Milwaukee protest outside the Diamondbacks game at Miller Park in August.

Before the march, a suspicious dumpster fire billowed smoke onto the crowd as they assembled around noon, but the marchers were not deterred by what appeared to be an attempt at intimidation. Coordinators of the march and local law enforcement quickly contained the situation, and the march proceeded, even more determined to share its crucial message of dignity in the face of injustice.

Madison, WI

May Day in Madison bigger crowd against Arizona law!

Immigrant Workers Union (UTI) Alex Gillis Email: alexmgillis@gmail.com.

Madison, Wisconsin-May 1st, 2010: Today, around fifteen hundred people march from Brittingham Park in Madison demanding immigration reform and immigrant rights in the streets and in the workplace along with stop any cuts to local public education. The fifth anniversary of the massive marches of spring 2006, hit Madison with renewed energy to further the agenda of immigrant and labor rights. The labor movement and the immigrant rights movement showed a united front in their demands that highlighted issues such as the demand for universal health care, an end to the war, and rejection to racist laws like SB1070 in Az..

The events began a little after noon . In a rally characterized by high energy and determination to keep struggling for human, labor and immigrant rights, the police registered no incidents.

At several points in the rally , there were a few words spoken by Dane County Equal Opportunities Commission member, Pedro Albitier who read the latest reaction of Equal Opportunities Commission of Dane County (see below), Jorge Carrera and Ignacio from U.T.I (Immigrant Workers Union), TJ Mertz from Progressive Dane, Ananda Mirilli local education activist, Will Williams from Vets for Peace, Barn from MAPC, Steve Burns of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Jesica Ruiz and Claudia Rodriguez of the IWU-Youth; Eric Robson of the ISO; and immigrant workers and artist from the crowd that use the improvised open mic to talk about their stories.

The rally ended with local singer Sandra Rybachek who helped to organize a cultural and community event back in the park featuring a Sonido Suave and Son Mudanza.

Organizers of the event were happy with the rally, "there was more people and a clear determination that changes will come only from the community" says Alex Gillis IWU leader, "some kids and parents show up with their own banners saying that Obama was a liar, to me this means that the community is ready to fight for immigration reform beyond the limits of the bigger parties lines".

The Immigrant Workers' Union thanks the Madison community for its continued support of immigrant workers, especially tens of volunteers that helped spread the word about the rally. Yvonne Geerts, IWU said, "2010 has been a hard for many of our families, but it is inspiring see that the community is far to give up".

Media coverage:

http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/05/02/ralliers_decry_arizo.php

<http://www.wkowtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12409631>

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/article_99e6e9e8-5567-11df-b567-001cc4c03286.html

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/grassroots/article_494fd5a8-5652-11df-b9fc-001cc4c03286.html

Washington DC

Chicago congressman arrested at D.C. rally

By Gerry Smith

Chicago Breaking News Center (May 1, 2010)



Rep. Luis Guitierrez, D-Ill., (left) is arrested during a rally Saturday near the White House. (AP/Jacquelyn Martin)

excited" about being arrested.

"He think it's very important to keep escalating the pressure to deal with our immigration problem in this country and to keep pressure on both parties and the White House to make immigration reform a priority this year," Rivlin said.

It was not the first time the congressman has been arrested during a demonstration. In 2001, Gutierrez was one of about 180 people arrested for trespassing on restricted Navy grounds during bombing exercises in on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

The D.C. march was one of 80 or so nationwide, including Chicago. Angered by a controversial Arizona immigration law, tens of thousands of protesters -- including 50,000 alone in Los Angeles -- rallied in cities across America demanding that President Barack Obama tackle immigration reform immediately.

Dallas, TX

Thousands in Dallas rally to keep Arizona-style immigration law out of Texas

Sunday, May 2, 2010

By THEODORE KIM, DIANNE SOLÍS and IAN McCANN / The Dallas Morning News, Emily Fox and Matthew Haag contributed to this report.

An estimated 28,000 people protested at Dallas City Hall against Arizona's new crackdown on illegal immigration. The peaceful throng, estimated in the tens of thousands but smaller than anticipated, wound its way from the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe along Pearl and Young streets to City Hall.

The march was one of several dozen similar May Day rallies from New York to Los Angeles that ranged in size from hundreds to tens of thousands. By nearly all accounts, Dallas drew one of the largest crowds.

Rosa Lopez of Dallas, executive director of the low-income housing group Vecinos Unidos Inc., expressed outrage.

Authorities pegged the crowd at around 28,000 when it arrived at City Hall. The crowd might have been larger, perhaps twice that size, when the march began, authorities said.

Organizers originally thought the march would draw as many as 100,000. A similar rally four years ago generated a multitude estimated at 300,000 to 500,000.

Lt. Andrew Harvey, a spokesman for the Dallas police, said authorities recorded no arrests or "significant events" Saturday.

Passions on all sides

The debate surrounding Arizona's law has fanned passions on all sides, spurring discussions of topics from race, culture and border protection to the economic impact of undocumented workers.

Further escalating emotions is last week's shooting of an Arizona sheriff's deputy, in which a band of suspected drug smugglers, most of whom appear to be illegal immigrants, stand accused.

Saturday's rally served as a living symbol of the turbulent debate. Most of the protesters were Hispanic and wielded American flags as they walked in the street. A few carried more inflammatory messages.

One sign borne by a number of demonstrators depicted Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer in a Nazi uniform and Maricopa County, Ariz., Sheriff Joe Arpaio, known for his tough stance against illegal immigration, wearing a white hood. The sign replaced the "Z" in Arizona with a swastika.

The rally also drew scores of counterprotesters, who shouted at the marchers, "Not your flag!" and "Go back home!"

At one point, Greg Glennon stood up at the recently renamed César Chávez Boulevard and shouted at the passing crowd, "USA! USA! USA!" The crowd yelled back: "USA! USA! USA!" Glennon then shouted: "Obey the laws. We are a nation of laws."

He added later, "It is a strange time in the U.S. It is a pivotal time."

At City Hall, counterprotesters had raised a sign: "We relocated the alligators to the Rio Grande."

"We want the government to enforce the law," said Chris Krok, a conservative talk show host on KLIF-AM (570), who led the counterprotest near City Hall.

The marchers far outnumbered Krok's group.

In God's name

The event began with a blessing from Bishop Kevin Farrell of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas, who said in Spanish, "In the name of God, we are going to struggle."

The Irish-born Farrell then said in English: "Today we gather seeking peace and justice. We march so that our leaders will hear us."

Lidia Ortiz of Dallas said she and her friends were compelled to come when they learned of the Arizona law.

"With the threat it might come to Texas," she said, "we really had to be here."

Yadira Sierra of Dallas shared that view. "Whether you are white, black or brown, we are all human," she said.

Mexico City native José Rodríguez stood at a glass door inside an office building he was helping to paint and took photos of marchers with his cellphone.

"We need to do this for our compatriots in Arizona," he said in Spanish. "We need papers. They need to give us visas. We are not hurting anyone."

Co-organizer Domingo García, a former state representative, said he hoped to organize a Dallas contingent to go to Arizona this week for more protests.

State Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, who is African-American, addressed the throng outside City Hall.

He noted that the city of Farmers Branch has tried to curb illegal immigration through an ordinance governing housing rentals. A federal judge struck down the measure in March.

"All of us know what happened in Farmers Branch," West told the raucous crowd. "Well, it is not over. If we don't do something, we will continue to see legislation like in Arizona, which legalized racial profiling."

Before West spoke, 11-year-old Rodrigo Mendoza took the stage with a call to action for President Barack Obama:

"Everyone is dying to say, 'Sí, se pudo. [Yes, we did.]' "

Staff writers Emily Fox and Matthew Haag contributed to this report.

Ames, Iowa

Iowans React To Arizona Immigration Law

May 1, 2010

AMES, Iowa -- Just last week, Arizona's governor signed into law a controversial immigration bill.

It requires local and state law enforcement to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they are in the country illegally.

Iowa candidate for governor, Bob Vander Plaats said Friday he would propose a law like it for Iowa. Meanwhile, students in Ames held a protest. About a hundred Iowa state university students marched in the rain to call for an end to Arizona's new immigration law.

It calls for police to investigate a person's immigration status if they suspect that person is here illegally. The students worry officers will primarily consider skin color and accent.

At least one Iowa candidate for governor said he supports Arizona's plan.

"This is not a racist policy. This is an anybody-who-is-here-illegal policy," said Vander Plaats. Vander Plaats said the federal government has failed, and it's now up to the states.

"As soon as everyone understands we have high expectations regarding immigration within our state, and we are holding people accountable, I think it will clear up very quickly," said Vander Plaats.

Protesters are concerned that innocent people will be jailed, detained or harassed in the process. "They can just be sent to jail until they produce evidence that they are legal residents," said ISU student Frederick Cortes.

They do agree with Vander Plaats on one thing. So far, the current administration has failed to come up with a plan for immigration reform.

"We are a rising population and we elected him.

We got him into the presidency. So we also need to send a note to President Barack Obama saying this is important to us," said Mexican Citizen and ISU student Claudia Prado.

Vander Plaats also said he favors tougher penalties for businesses that knowingly hire illegal workers.

The students hope the protests continue until something is done to reverse the law in Arizona.

San Diego, CA

Protests Over Immigration Bill: San Diego May Day Rally

Sights and Sound-offs from the May Day Rally in San Diego, CA. iReporter Deanne Goodman covered the May 1st 2010 protest from Chicano Park and brings you these photos.



Boston, MA

Boston Rally-March

by Michael Borkson at Boston IMC

Boston Common-May 1, 2010:
Over a thousand people turned out for May Day in Boston.





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Virginia state-wide immigrant organizing E-mail list

send- e-mail to: va-immigrantrights-subscribe@lists.riseup.net
or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/va-immigrantrights>

May Day 2008 national organizing e-mail list

send e-mail to: mayday2008-subscribe@lists.riseup.net
or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/MayDay2008>

About National Immigrant Solidarity Network

NISN is a coalition of community, immigrant, labor, human rights and student activist groups, founded in 2002 in response to the urgent needs for the national coalition to fight immigrant bashing, support immigrant rights, no to the sweatshops exploitation and end to the racism on the community. Please visit our website:
<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>

Contact Information:

E-mail: info@ImmigrantSolidarity.org
(213) 403-0131 (Los Angeles)
(212) 330-8172 (New York)
(202) 595-8990 (Washington D.C.)
(773)942-2268 (Chicago)

Please donate to NISN! (All donations are tax deductible!)

Check pay to: NISN/AFGJ
Send to: **National Immigrant Solidarity Network**
P.O. Box 751
South Pasadena, CA 91031-0751

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