

May - June 2007 U.S. Immigration Alert!

A Monthly Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network

May - June, 2007 Issue, Volume 22

No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights!

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**Say NO to the Senate - White House
"Compromise" Immigrant Bill!
No to the Police Terror Against the
Immigrant Rights Movement!**

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National Immigrant Solidarity Network Statement about the recent Senate-White House Immigration Plan, TAKE ACTION TO OPPOSE IT!

[May 25, 2007] On Thursday May 17, key Democrat and Republican members of the Senate had reached a compromise immigrant agreement with the President Bush after months of closed-door negotiations. The proposal is unacceptable and unreasonable, and we want encourage everyone to call your Senator and White to oppose it.

This is NOT an "amnesty" bill, this is a bill will continue and even expand the institutional racist and oppressive measures to against the immigrant communities, escalating the militarization of the border, and giving migrants empty and unrealistic promises for path to the citizenship. (>> go to page 2)

National Immigrant Solidarity Network to LAPD Chief William Bratton, and to LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa: TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MAY DAY MCARTHUR PARK POLICE ATTACK!

[May 9, 2007] The National Immigrant Solidarity Network and the ActionLA Coalition are outrage by the vague comments and "actions" taken by the LAPD and the Mayor after the May Day police attacks on the immigrant rights marchers at and around Mcarthur Park. Videos footage and eye witness testimonies have shown that LAPD, not the so-called "small groups of anarchist" to blame of the violence. Furthermore, it's clear, from the eye witness accounts and past actions by the commanders and units present, that the May Day police attacks were not simply a "break" in command chain or few "bad apples" on LAPD, but was well coordinated action from the top of the command chain.

Therefore, we demand that LAPD chief William Bratton, and LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa: TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MAY DAY MCARTHUR PARK POLICE ATTACK! (>> go to page 3)

July 27 -29 Richmond, VA National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference!

Yesterday We Marched, Today We Organized, Tomorrow We'll Achieve Our Dreams and Goals! Together We'll Build A New National, Broad-Based, Immigrant Rights/Civil Rights Movement!

<http://www.2007Conference.net>

Mark your calendar! Please come to attend our 2007 national grassroots immigrant strategy conference at Richmond, VA!

We envision this as a grassroots activist conference of broad-based, multiethnic organizers from African American, Native American, African immigrant, Asian American, Latino/Latina, Arab-Muslim-North African, progressive labor, interfaith, LGBT, student, anti-war/peace and global justice groups from across the country. To meet face-to-face and discuss how to build a new national, broad-based, immigrant rights/civil rights movement, and to set a 6-9 month national strategy for the 2007-2008.

Please subscribe to our ISN Immigrants Daily-Info E-mail List!

Send e-mail to: isn-subscribe@lists.riseup.net or web: <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/isn>

National Immigrant Solidarity Network Statement about the recent Senate-White House Immigration Plan

National Immigrant Solidarity Network Legislation Watch: <http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/legislation.html>

[May 25, 2007] On Thursday May 17, key Democrat and Republican members of the Senate reached a compromise immigrant agreement with the President Bush after months of closed-door negotiations. The proposal is unacceptable and unreasonable. We wish to encourage everyone to call your Senators and the White House to oppose this measure.

This is NOT an "amnesty" bill. Further, it should be clarified that there has never been an amnesty in this country, not in 1952, not in 1986 and not now. This is a bill that will continue expand institutional racism and direct oppressive measures against immigrant communities. This proposal escalates the militarization of the border while giving migrants empty and unrealistic promises for pathway to citizenship.

1. False Path to Citizenship

The path to legalization for undocumented immigrants encompassed by the proposed renewable "Z" visa is an onerous burden. The initial \$5,000 fee is excessive. This amount is 14 times the typical weekly salary of most immigrants. There is an additional fee at the end of the process and it is estimated that the fees could total approximately \$11,000. It appears that the administration wishes to cut the deficit on the backs of the undocumented.

The cruelest joke is that border enforcement triggers must be met and the backlog must be cleared before legalization and new worker provisions can be implemented. The implementation of border provisions is estimated to take two years and the estimation to clear the visa backlog is eight years. Conceivably it could be determined that border provisions are not met or that additional years are needed to meet the trigger provisions. Tacking on the estimated eight years to process under this legalization, it may take 16 or more years before a person can become a permanent resident.

The argument is that this is needed so these individuals don't go to the front of the line. This is a specious argument because if Congress truly was concerned about going to the front of the line it would have repealed the Cuban Adjustment Act which allows any Cuban after one year entry into the United States legally or illegally to go in front of everyone citizen and permanent resident alike in order to be granted permanent resident status. Clearly this measure is designed only to punish.

2. Elimination and Reduction of certain family-based categories

Visas for parents of U.S. citizens would be capped, while green cards for the siblings and adult children of U.S. citizens and green card holders are entirely eliminated. While applications in the current backlog would be cleared within 8 years, anyone who applied after May 2005 would have to reapply. This will have a tremendous impact on South Asians who have relied on the family-based system for decades to reunify families.

In addition, a new merit-based point system for green cards is created for all applications received after May 2005. This would create a massive boondoggle. The point system criteria is set by Congress and cannot be modified for 14 years. Our economy is then strapped by this policy that has been set in stone. The economic implications of this is enormous. Adjustments to a fast moving economy can not be made. This becomes a recipe for economic disaster. This point system also creates an inequitable move away from the present family based visa system that has served America well and has contributed to America's ability to compete in the world market. The present employment based visa system is not broke. It needs expansion in order to address unmet labor needs especially with respect to unskilled labor.

3. Criminization of the immigrant communities

The proposal allows criminalizing the immigrant communities by empowering local police to enforce immigration law, and pushing "tougher" background checks on immigrants. There are due process concerns with the expansion of immigrant detention, stiffening of the definitions of "aggravated felony" and "fraud" and issues relating to state and local law enforcement.

4. New Guest Workers Programs

The new guest worker program is unworkable. It is counterintuitive that an employer will continue to employ a worker after an employee's forced one year departure. This is a provision designed to fail.

5. Militarization of the Border

The bill calls for spending billions of dollars to build a so-called a "high-tech" border fence along U.S.-Mexico border, it'll force migrants to go through even more dangerous journey, it'll be creating more border deaths with tragedies, and only fatten the pockets of the migrant smugglers. This is a racist wall because it only targets the Mexican border but not the Canadian border. Rather than building fences the U.S. should be engaging in dialog with our neighbors to the North and South of us to address the complex issue of unlawful migration.

6. Failure to Address Thousands of TPS Applicants

Based on the wording of the proposed legislation hundreds of thousands of TPS recipients do not qualify for any type of legalization because they are not in an unlawful status. Legalization for these people must be allowed.

Given that past U.S. immigration policies have changed year-to-year there is no guarantee that "good" elements of this bill will remain and that bad elements will not increase. In the end, undocumented immigrants will be forced to choose an "illegal" way to enter and stay in this country because of excessive costs and the barriers to take the "legal" way.

It is unacceptable that immigrants must pay excessive fees in the thousands of dollars and will be required to depart the United States in order to begin the process to apply for permanent resident status. The burdensome nature of this bill confirms that the main objective of this immigrant bill is to punish undocumented immigrants!

The destiny of 12 millions or more undocumented immigrants is one of the critical human rights issues in the U.S., we need a comprehensive immigration reform bill that will guarantee path to the citizenship with dignity. We cannot accept any bills that will criminalize immigrant communities and enforcing punishments, because immigrant workers are not "illegal," and we deserve respect and basic human rights.

We encourage you to call the Congress and the White House, say NO to the proposal, and Yes to our 10 points of immigrant rights:

- 1) No to anti-immigrant legislation, and the criminalization of the immigrant communities.
- 2) No to militarization of the border.
- 3) No to the immigrant detention and deportation.
- 4) No to the guest worker program.
- 5) No to employer sanction and "no match" letters.
- 6) Yes to a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- 7) Yes to speedy family reunification.
- 8) Yes to civil rights and humane immigration law.
- 9) Yes to labor rights and living wages for all workers.
- 10) Yes to the education and LGBT immigrant legislation.

White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111

Contact Your Senator: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

May Day 2007: Success While Facing More Police Oppression

[May 7, 2007 Immigration News Briefs] On May 1, 2007, thousands of people around the US marched and rallied for immigrant rights. Media coverage focused on the fact that the demonstrations were much smaller than similar actions last spring--even though advocates knew well in advance that the numbers in the streets this May 1 wouldn't match last year's mass mobilizations. Organizers and policy analysts offered several reasons for the lower numbers: conflict over the STRIVE Act, a legislative proposal which some groups support but many see as far too punitive; the fact that harsh anti-immigrant legislation like HR4437, which spurred last year's protests, is no longer on the table; and fear among immigrants stemming from a major increase in raids over the past year. Immigrants and supporters rallied this year around legalization as well as an end to the raids. In all, more than half a million people demonstrated in over 100 cities and towns in 26 states and the District of Columbia. The following summary is based on available news reports.

1. CAPITAL AREA: DC, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA WASHINGTON DC:

About 450 people gathered at Taft Park for a rally in front of the US Capitol. The group included some 300 Asian activists brought in by bus from other areas. Activists also visited elected officials in a lobbying effort. A crowd demonstrated outside the Democratic National Committee headquarters

before marching three blocks to the Republican National Committee headquarters. The demonstration was co-sponsored by the National Capital Immigrant Coalition and the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC). Immigrant supporters also rallied at Meridian Hill Park (Malcolm X Park) in the Columbia Heights

neighborhood.

MARYLAND: Several hundred people took part in a public forum in support of immigrant rights at Union Bethel AME Church in Brandywine. The event was organized by a coalition of Maryland pastors, as part of a new partnership among the workers' rights group CASA de Maryland, the Partnership for Renewal in Southern and Central Maryland (PRISCM) and the National Capital Immigrant Coalition.

VIRGINIA: A rally was held on May 1 in front of Alexandria's city hall.

2. SOUTHEAST: FLORIDA, NORTH CAROLINA, KENTUCKY

FLORIDA: In Miami, more than 1,000 people rallied at the government center before marching downtown. In West Palm Beach, about 1,000 people marched from the Kravis Center to the Paul G. Rogers Federal Building. In Belle Glade, about 200 people, mostly second-and third-generation teenagers from Glades Central High, marched past sugar cane fields and through the city's downtown to a rally at Pioneer Park. Last year's May 1 action in Belle Glade drew 5,000 people. In Immokalee, more than 500 workers formed a human chain along a busy road in a three-hour demonstration culminating at Farmworker's Village.

According to media reports, no rallies were planned or took place in Atlanta, or elsewhere in Georgia, even though 50,000 marched in Atlanta on May 1 last year.

NORTH CAROLINA: In Raleigh, about 500 people turned out for a rally at the capitol on the evening of May 1. In Charlotte, organizers said more than 600 people gathered at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center for a bilingual evening rally. About 50 people gathered in song and prayer at a vigil in the parking lot of Calvary Baptist Church in Asheville. Events also took place in Burlington, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Durham, Greensboro, Hickory, Lumberton, Siler City and Wilmington.

KENTUCKY: In Louisville, more than 250 people took part in a 5pm rally at the federal courthouse before marching to Jefferson Square Park. Last year on May 1 more than 1,000 people attended a midday rally in Louisville. On Apr. 29 in Lexington, hundreds attended a "Solidarity Sunday!" cultural event at a local park.

3. NORTHEAST: NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

NEW YORK: In New York City, two feeder marches converged at a rally at Union Square in Manhattan. Nearly 4,000 people rallied in Chinatown and at least another 1,000 took part in an interfaith vigil in Washington Square Park. Both groups then marched to Union Square to join a larger demonstration, followed by a march along Broadway back downtown to Foley Square, behind the Federal Building. According to the New York Daily News, organizers estimated that a total of 20,000 people attended the Union Square rally, while police sources put the crowd count closer to 3,000.

As a section of the march passed the intersection of Broadway and 8th Street around 6pm, without warning a police officer attacked a demonstrator who was wearing a

traditional Mexican wrestler's mask, and tried to forcibly remove his mask. A melee ensued between police and demonstrators. The masked man's cousin, Rosendo Bonifacio, was arrested; it was not clear whether there were any other arrests. Bonifacio said three or four agents jumped on top of him and beat him, then pepper-sprayed him in the face after handcuffing him. Bonifacio spent the night in jail and was charged with obstruction of government administration, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. Alberto Lezama, a member of Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio who witnessed the scene, said police attacked the crowd like "rabid dogs," indiscriminately beating up men and women with their nightsticks. [On May 1 in 2000 and 2001, police arrested people at New York City immigrant rights marches on the pretext of enforcing a state law that barred the wearing of masks at public demonstrations. In the 2001 incident, which involved a wrestling mask being used in a street theater performance, police beat up demonstrators, legal observers and journalists. The anti-mask law was overturned in November 2002; it is unclear why the police thought they had the right to remove someone's mask at this year's demonstration.]

On Long Island, 1,000 people rallied in Hempstead. In White Plains, in Westchester County just north of New York City, about 100 mostly Latino students walked out of classes at White Plains High School and marched to Renaissance Plaza, where they held a peaceful demonstration for immigrant rights. About 80 people turned up for a march and rally in the village of Spring Valley, in Rockland County in the lower Hudson Valley area. Starting at about 10:15 am, the march led from the parking lot of International Food Mart on Route

59 up Main Street to Memorial Park. Last year, an estimated 1,500 people marched in Spring Valley. Factors contributing to this year's lower turnout included doubt as to whether the village would issue a permit for the march and immigrants' fear of exposure, said Hugo Jimenez of the Spring Valley May Day Coalition, which organized the event.

In Rochester, more than 50 people carried signs and marched outside the Kenneth B. Keating Building. Last year, hundreds of immigrant rights advocates marched on the Rochester federal building.

In Buffalo, a group of students demonstrated at their high school on May 1 to protest the school's administration, oppose military recruiters and support immigrant rights. They were joined by students and teachers from other high schools and from the University at Buffalo (part of the state university system, SUNY). The protesters then drove to City Hall and to the Buffalo office of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to protest the criminalization of students and immigrants.

NEW JERSEY: About 200 protesters gathered in downtown Morristown, in north Jersey, according to organizers. This year protesters were motivated by anger over Morristown mayor Donald Cresitello's proposal to have the Department of Homeland Security train local police officers to enforce immigration laws. Last year 1,500 demonstrated in Morristown. At least 60 people (or 150 according to El Diario-La Prensa) gathered in Paramus to protest outside the office of Republican Rep. Scott Garrett, who supports legislation that would criminalize undocumented immigrants.

Some 30 people rallied in a park in Jersey City before marching to Union City. The Jersey City rally was sponsored by New Jersey members of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). Dudley Griffith, president of ACORN's political committee, drew a parallel with the slave trade. "History teaches us that the same thing happened to black people," he said. "My people were brought here in chains. Families were torn apart. And America overcame that. We must have a conscience as human beings and remember where we came from." More than 200 people, many of them farmworkers, marched in Bridgeton in south Jersey. The Bridgeton demonstration was organized by the Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (Committee to Support Agricultural Workers, CATA).

PENNSYLVANIA: About 175 protesters, including many from Delaware, marched through the streets of Kennett Square on May 1. The demonstration was organized by the Kaolin Workers Union, which represents mushroom workers in Kennett Square, and by CATA. About 50 people took part in a vigil in Allentown on Apr. 30.

CONNECTICUT: Hundreds of people marched in downtown New Haven and rallied on the New Haven Green. Police said 250 to 300 people took part in the rally.

RHODE ISLAND: An estimated 500 to 600 people marched through Providence to the State House. Last year, 15,000 to 20,000 people marched in Providence. This year about 20 members of a group called Rhode Islanders for Immigration Law Enforcement held a counter-demonstration.

MASSACHUSETTS: In Boston, about 500 people rallied on the Common in a demonstration organized by the Boston May Day Coalition. There were 25 anti-immigrant counter-demonstrators at the scene. As many as 2,000 immigrants and supporters (or "several hundred," according to WCVB-TV) held a separate rally in the Central Square of East Boston after marching from the nearby towns of Everett and Chelsea. The march started at the Everett town hall with about 60 people, according to the Boston Herald, but picked up more people as it passed through Chelsea to East Boston. Chelsea Collaborative, a coalition of grassroots community groups, organized the East Boston demonstration.

About 200 people attended a rally on the Town Common in Amherst, and about 50 rallied in Court Square in Springfield. The Amherst rally included more than 50 students from Amherst High School who walked out of class to attend. Many students from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst also walked out of class. Smaller demonstrations were also held in Lowell, Fitchburg, and Worcester.

4. MIDWEST: ILLINOIS, WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA, MICHIGAN, INDIANA, IOWA, KANSAS

ILLINOIS: The largest event nationwide was in Chicago, where police estimated 150,000 people took part in an afternoon march. Organizer Jorge Mujica said he believed 250,000 to 300,000 people participated. Several marchers told reporters that anger over an Apr. 24 raid in the Little Village neighborhood motivated them to march. Morning feeder marches set off from the predominantly Mexican neighborhood of Pilsen and the traditionally Puerto Rican neighborhood of Humboldt Park.

The Humboldt Park feeder march left from the Adalberto United Methodist Church, where Mexican immigrant Elvira Arellano has been in sanctuary since last August, resisting deportation and separation from her US-born son. As she broke a 25-day hunger-strike on May 1, Arellano stood at the window of the church with a microphone and led the crowd of 50 or so marchers in a prayer before they started off. The feeder marches joined other groups gathering in Union Park; from there, demonstrators marched through the Loop and packed into Grant Park for the main 3pm rally, where Chicago mayor Richard Daley addressed the crowd. The march tied up afternoon traffic in the city center.

Initially, the Centro Sin Fronteras and the March 10 Coalition, which disagreed over whether to support the STRIVE Act, had planned to organize two separate marches in Chicago, but after meeting in April, the two groups decided to unite in a single march. The united march was supposed to end in Daley Plaza, in the heart of downtown, but a day before the march police decided to shift it to Grant Park, along the waterfront. Police said Daley Plaza was too small for the expected crowd. Police reported that two people were arrested for painting graffiti.

WISCONSIN: Tens of thousands of immigrants formed a march stretching more than a mile through downtown Milwaukee on May 1. The march started at the offices of Voces de la Frontera and culminated in a rally at Veterans' Park on the Lake Michigan shore, where Ricardo Chavez, the brother of Cesar Chavez, urged persistence in the struggle for immigrant rights. Milwaukee police would not give an estimate of the crowd size, but Voces volunteers estimated that the number of demonstrators was close to last year's total of around 65,000.

Many immigrants said their employers supported their participation in the march. The Wisconsin Restaurant Association urged its 7,000 members to support workers who wanted time off to attend the rally or otherwise recognize the cause, association president Ed Lump said. "We're not encouraging a boycott or that people walk off the job," Lump cautioned. "We're encouraging employees to work with their employers to find meaningful ways to show their support."

A rally at the state capitol in Madison drew about 500 people, according to local police. Alex Gillis, a spokesperson for the Immigrant Workers Union, said between 2,500 and 3,500 people took part in the day's activities, which also included the sharing of music and food in Brittingham Park.

Organizers led some a convoy of some 60 demonstrators from the Plaza Azteca in Appleton to a rally in Green Bay. The event, called "Protest Convoy," included cars and trucks painted with pro-USA signs as drivers circled downtown Green Bay blocks for about 20 minutes, honking their horns.

MINNESOTA: In Minneapolis, more than 2,000 people marched from Lake Street and Nicollet Avenue South to Powderhorn Park, stretching along three blocks. The group, about half Latino, included a large group of high school and college students, as well as many families and workers. Many Latino businesses closed their doors at that hour so their workers could attend the events. The march came in the wake of recent immigration raids in nearby Worthington and

Willmar. A message on one of the many placards read: "You can't deport all of us."

Elsewhere in Minneapolis, about 100 people, most carrying wooden crosses representing people deported during immigration raids, gathered on the steps of the Basilica of St. Mary. From there they embarked on a several-block procession to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Outside Westminster, many participants took out cell phones and called the offices of Minnesota congressional members, asking them to approve immigration reforms.

Several hundred high school and college students left their classes to attend an afternoon rally at the state capitol in St. Paul or other events. The St. Paul School District reported that about 70 high school students skipped classes in connection with the rallies. In Minneapolis, about 90 students left Southwest High School at noon, said officials in that district. They said they didn't have numbers for other schools in the district.

MICHIGAN: In Detroit, thousands marched from Patton Park, in the heart of the city's Mexican- American community, to Clark Park, led by a banner reading "Stop the Raids and Deportations." Police estimated the crowd at 15,000. Organizers said some businesses shut down for the day and others made do with fewer employees so they could take part in the event. Only about 50 of the 450 students at the Cesar Chavez Academy in southwest Detroit attended class on May 1; others skipped to attend the rally. School officials said about 200 students from Detroit Public Schools left their schools to participate in the rally. Detroit was the only city where this year's May 1 demonstration far surpassed last year's in size; in 2006, Detroit's May 1 march drew about 700 people, according to news sources at the time. The Detroit Free Press claims this year's march was smaller than a March 2006 rally in Detroit which police apparently say was attended by more than 50,000 people; at the time, the New York Times reported that 4,000 people attended the Mar. 27 rally in Detroit.

INDIANA: Some 7,000 to 8,000 people marched down Meridian Street in downtown Indianapolis in a "Justice for Immigrants March" from St. Mary Catholic Church to Monument Circle. At least 20,000 people attended a similar demonstration in Indianapolis last year.

IOWA: About 80 people attended an immigrant rights rally in Iowa City. Organizers said they had instead asked people to display US flags or call their lawmakers to call for immigration reform.

KANSAS: A rally in Topeka drew 50 people. The Topeka Center for Peace and Justice was one of the participating groups.

5. SOUTHWEST & ROCKIES: TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, NEVADA, COLORADO

TEXAS: In Austin, thousands took part in a May 1 rally at the state capitol building, organized by the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition. After an hour of speeches, music and cultural festivities, the crowd marched down Congress Avenue in the rain to Austin City Hall, where a theatrical performance focused on the harsh realities of immigrant life.

Last year at least 8,500 people took part in May 1 actions in Austin.

On May 1, about 100 people demonstrated for immigrant rights in downtown Houston. Last year on May 1, some 10,000 marched. About 300 to 400 people marched in Houston on Apr. 28, while about 20 held a counter-protest.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 people marched through the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas on the evening of May 1. Demonstrators started off with a prayer at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, then marched past the office of Rep. Pete Sessions, who opposes legalizing undocumented immigrants. The march kicked off a three-day phone lobbying effort for legalization.

In El Paso, some 150 people marched from the foot of the Paso del Norte Bridge to San Jacinto Plaza. The crowd included some 20 to 30 students from Austin High School. The Border Network for Human Rights, which helped organize last year's May 1 events in El Paso, declined to participate this year; organizers apparently felt that May 1 events alienate Americans and are counterproductive.

A rally in McAllen, sponsored by La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), attracted between 1,200 and 1,500 people, said Juanita Valdez, director of LUPE's South Texas chapter. Last year about 3,000 to 4,000 people took part, Valdez said. In Corpus Christi, about 500 people marched from Sherrill Park along Shoreline Boulevard to the federal courthouse, then back to Sherrill Park for a closing rally. Organizacion Fuerza Comunitaria, an immigrants rights group, organized the event working with the League of United Latin American Citizens Council No. 1, the American G.I. Forum and several other groups, said group secretary Juany Martinez.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 people marched through downtown San Antonio from Milam Park to Travis Park. Che Lopez from the Southwest Workers Union put attendance at 7,000 to 10,000. Rough estimates from police officers stationed along the route ranged from several hundred to 1,000. Planned walkouts by dozens of high school students across the city apparently never materialized. Chief William McManus said organizers didn't obtain the necessary march permit, but he allowed them to take to the streets because he didn't think they would stir up any trouble. Last year's march drew about 18,000.

About 100 demonstrators marched through downtown Brownsville from Dean Porter Park to the Jacob Brown Auditorium.

NEW MEXICO: Music, speeches and a free dinner drew about 400 people to a downtown park in Santa Fe. At least 1,200 people gathered at a park in Albuquerque. And in Clovis, more than 100 people dressed in white marched carrying colorful signs.

ARIZONA: About 15,000 to 20,000 people marched 2.5 miles in nearly triple-digit heat to the state capitol in Phoenix, waving signs that read "Stop the roundups" and "The sleeping giant woke up forever." A few dozen counter-protesters turned out. In Tucson, police said up to 2,500 pro-immigrant demonstrators marched to the federal courthouse and then to a park in the downtown area. One man was

arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for throwing a water bottle at counter-demonstrators.

NEVADA: About 4,500 people rallied outside the US Courthouse in Las Vegas, police on the scene told reporters. Many were waving American flags and signs. About a dozen people held a counter-protest across the street. Last year on May 1, some 7,000 people marched in Las Vegas. This year's protest began with kids walking out of as many as a dozen schools, and marching for four hours to Jaycee Park.

In Reno, about 2,000 people marched from Miguel Ribera Park into downtown--a 90-minute trek in the midday sun--carrying US flags and signs and banners calling for "Full rights for all immigrants." The crowd included many children, and parents pushing strollers and carrying infants. Participants were led in a rendition of "God Bless America" after reaching the front of the Bruce R. Thompson Federal Building. On May 1 last year, about 7,000 people took part in an evening march in Reno.

COLORADO: Thousands of people marched through downtown Denver, capping the demonstration by lifting their cell phones in the air and calling Colorado's US senators. The crowd grew after they left a park near downtown and marched past the state capitol on the way to a rally at another park. Police estimated the crowd at 2,000; organizers said the number was more like 10,000. Last year, 75,000 marched in Denver, according to police.

6. PACIFIC COAST & NORTHWEST: CALIFORNIA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, IDAHO

CALIFORNIA: More than 100,000 immigrants and advocates took part in two separate demonstrations in Los Angeles on May 1. In the morning, the March 25 Coalition led demonstrators from the intersection of Broadway and Olympic to a rally in front of City Hall. By the time the marchers reached City Hall, the crowd had grown to an estimated 25,000. According to the Coalition in Defense of Immigrant Rights, another 60,000 people led by Cardinal Roger Mahoney and the Multiethnic Immigrant Worker Organizing Network (MIWON) marched from Vermont Ave and 3rd St to MacArthur Park. The Los Angeles Times reported the size of the second march as 10,000. Among the marchers were hundreds of students who ignored pleas from school administrators and left Los Angeles-area campuses to take part in the events. School district officials said the largest group came from Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, where about 150 students ditched classes. By midday, 640 students had walked out of 12 schools, said LA Unified School District spokesperson Monica Carazo. Last year more than 51,000 students walked out of class.

At both rallies in LA, several counter-protesters gathered. The LA Police Department deployed hundreds of officers on foot, horseback, bicycles, motorcycles and cars along both march routes; helicopters flew overhead. Sgt. Lisa Turvey said the extra policing would cost about \$300,000, the same as last year.

At 5:30pm, as the MIWON rally and festival in MacArthur Park was starting, some 600 riot police agents stormed the park, firing tear gas and rubber bullets at the crowd. A witness said the chaos began after one person threw something at the agents. Cops pushed through the park,

indiscriminately shoving and beating people in their wake and forcing demonstrators to disperse. National Lawyers Guild observer Sanjukta Paul was beaten repeatedly, including a blow to the kidneys, as she attempted to separate the police from the crowd. Police also attacked members of the press who were covering the event, including a local Fox news team. Reporters were hit with batons, pushed to the ground, shot at with rubber bullets, and their camera and recording equipment damaged. Video footage of the police attack, including an angry report by the local Fox anchor, was distributed widely on YouTube.com, the free internet video site.

On May 6, LAPD Chief William Bratton said that up to 60 members of the Metropolitan Division's B Platoon--the elite squad that stormed the park--have been taken off the street. Bratton said he spent the weekend viewing video of the MacArthur Park incident and he said LAPD failures were widespread, and that officers from the top on down were to blame. "I'm not going to defend the indefensible," Bratton told journalists during a meeting at a television studio in Hollywood. "Things were done that shouldn't have been done." Cops fired 148 rubber bullets at the rally.

In San Diego, an afternoon march from San Diego City College to Pantoja Park drew several hundred participants, and about 1,500 people took part in an evening march that started at Chicano Park, according to police estimates. Jack Brandais, a spokesperson for the school district, said about 45 students walked out of Morse High School and 75 to 100 more out of Hoover High School. A smaller rally took place in nearby Vista. About 20 members of the San Diego Minutemen staged a counter-demonstration outside the federal courthouse.

About 1,500 people marched in Santa Ana. Late in the afternoon, more than 100 people, mainly youth, marched through Pomona. In San Bernardino, about 150 to 200 students marched from Arroyo Valley High School to an early afternoon rally at San Bernardino City Hall.

In San Francisco, thousands of people gathered in Dolores Park before marching to the Civic Center. Major streets--Valencia and Market--were closed for a procession that stretched along four blocks. Inside the Muni underground station at Civic Center, security guards were demanding proof of payment--a rare move that seemed to target Latino families headed to the march. When activists Lisa Gray-Garcia and Angel Garcia asked the security guard for directions, they were asked for their ID and given a citation for resisting arrest.

About 6,000 people marched in downtown Oakland along International Boulevard from 100th Avenue to City Hall. Anti-immigrant protesters meanwhile held a series of May 1 counter-demonstrations in East Bay towns: Fremont (where 13 people attended), Palo Alto, Pleasanton and Santa Rosa. A counter-rally had been planned for Hayward, but no one showed up.

Some 12,000 people, including hundreds of school-age children, marched in San Jose on the afternoon of May 1. Last year's May 1 march in San Jose drew some 125,000 people. This year's march was timed to avoid conflicts with school hours, but 120 students from Academica Calmecac

Charter School in East San Jose left campus early with permission from staff and escorted by a few teachers. The kids held their own makeshift rally at City Hall, hours before the main march. Nearly 1,000 people rallied in San Jose on Apr. 29. Another 200 people marched on Apr. 29 in the tiny agricultural town of Mendota.

In Santa Cruz, hundreds of students and workers rallied at Baytree Plaza on the University of California-Santa Cruz campus before marching to downtown, where they were joined by families from the Beach Flats. The demonstrators then marched back to end the mobilization at the Beach Flats. Thousands of families marched through the streets of Watsonville and Pajaro, according to Santa Cruz Indymedia. The Santa Cruz Sentinel said the crowd was about 2,000 at the height of the march. The Sentinel reported that some 150 students from Pajaro Valley High School and about 35 to 50 students from Watsonville High School also held an 11am rally at City Plaza. According to Indymedia, about 500 students walked out of Pajaro Valley High School. The march was organized by MigraWatch Network, which came together last September following raids in Santa Cruz, Watsonville and Hollister on Sept. 7-8. Several thousand people gathered on May 1 in front of St. Mary of the Nativity Catholic Church before marching through East Salinas. According to police estimates, about 3,000 people took part. The local march was sponsored by the Alianza Primero de Mayo (First of May Alliance).

Several thousand people gathered on May 1 at the capitol in Sacramento. In Davis, about 350 people protested, and activists reportedly staged a civil disobedience action blocking Freeborn Hall, where the Department of Homeland Security hosted a public meeting to receive comments on a proposed rule governing drivers license identification. There were 25 arrests.

About 1,000 people marched through downtown Stockton on the morning of May 1, according to police estimates. Event organizers said 1,500 to 2,000 people participated. The march began at 10:30am at the Mexican Community Center on Lincoln Street and ended three hours later after a rally at De Carli Square. In Modesto, about 3,000 people marched from south Modesto to the downtown government center. In Fresno, between 3,000 and 5,000 people marched from a "free speech" site at the Fulton Mall to the downtown federal building. Last year around 20,000 people marched and rallied on May 1 in front of Fresno's city hall.

In San Rafael, hundreds of immigrants and their supporters gathered on May 1, including high school students angry over recent immigration raids and the Iraq war. In St. Helena, in the Napa Valley, local immigrant rights groups organized a march for Apr. 28, the Saturday before May 1. The march

started at Crane Park and swelled to about 100 people by the time it ended at Lyman Park. Last year an estimated 3,000 people walked from Crane Park to Lyman Park. Protests were also reportedly held in Mountain View, Riverside, Berkeley, Santa Rosa, Madera, Martinez and other California towns. The ILWU reportedly stopped work in six west coast ports.

OREGON: About 4,000 people marched through Portland on the evening of May 1. Earlier in the day, about 2,000 people rallied at the capitol in Salem, according to police estimates. Salem organizers told Capital Press they estimated the crowd there at about 6,000. In Eugene, about 30 people rallied at the Blair Boulevard office of Community Alliance of Lane County in the morning to send off a handful of local activists to join the demonstration in Salem. Locally organized by CAUSA, an immigrant rights coalition, the group carried signs in opposition to state legislation that would narrow the list of documents applicants can use to prove their identity when applying for an Oregon driver's license.

WASHINGTON: About 5,000 people marched in Seattle on May 1 from Seattle Center to Westlake Park. The demonstration was organized mainly by El Comite Pro Amnistia General y Justicia Social, a non-profit organization composed mostly of local social, labor and religious groups. Last year, as many as 30,000 people marched in Seattle.

About 4,000 demonstrated in Yakima on May 1. Police estimated the crowd at 3,000. Last year, police pegged the crowd at 3,000 to 5,000 while organizers said it was 10,000. This year marchers passed a group of 75 to 80 counterdemonstrators, including representatives of the Minutemen.

More than 400 people marched in Mount Vernon and rallied in front of the Skagit County Courthouse. Organic livestock farmer George Vojkovich, co-owner of Skagit River Ranch, marched with three of his workers, Diego, Victor and Jesus Bernal. "I'm here to show my respect for them," he said of the three brothers. "They came here just like my family, not speaking English and looking for work. They're the best workers I've ever had."

About 250 people marched through Bellingham to the Whatcom County Courthouse, then marched back to Cornwall Park for a potluck fiesta. The event, which started at noon, was sponsored by Community to Community Development, the Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force and Whatcom County Democrats.

IDAHO: In Boise on April 30, about 500 people marched to Julia Davis Park.

May Day Los Angeles MacArthur Park Police Attack: An Eye Witness Report

Lee Siu Hin - National Immigrant Solidarity Network

Seven years ago, I was one of the class-action lawsuit plaintiffs against LAPD for their attack, harassment and secret surveillance against protesters during the 2000 Los Angeles Democratic National Convention (DNC) protests. LAPD agreed to settle, paid damages and agreed to institute internal review to avoid future similar events. Despite all that, it happened again on May Day 2007, again in Los Angeles.

Police intimidation and violence tactics used seven years ago against DNC protesters, were identical to those used against peaceful immigrant marchers on May Day 2007 in MacArthur Park. Based on the following eye witness testimony (using pseudonyms to protect their identities) the LAPD planned their intimidation before invading the marchers, carried out their unprovoked violence and showed no remorse despite the thousands of elders, women and children who were among their targeted victims.

1. Police Intimidation Against Protesters Before the March.

Saula: About 2:30 PM at the end of the first march downtown Los Angeles, when I went to the MTA Red Line Civic Center Metro station, I saw several LAPD police officers detaining and issuing tickets to several young Latino passengers at the station for no reason.

2. Crowd Control: Riot Police Violently Harassing Protesters (Before the Attack)

Lucy: I, my partner, and my 5-year old son were at MacArthur Park on May Day. We marched with the queer contingency from Vermont and Washington. The police kept us very tight as we marched. When we arrived, probably around 3:30 or 4:00 PM, there was already a huge police presence.

Around 5:00 PM, there were a great many people, but all were peaceful. Some chanting, some singing, and some Aztec dancers. We were in the park on the grass near the corner where the police drove into the crowd. They (LAPD Police) drove straight in, and we could see nothing that could possibly have prompted that action. We were confused and a little scared, so we headed over to the other side of the park where the tents, speakers, and dancers/singers were. We stayed there for awhile before we noticed that the police had more than doubled their presence and now were standing with helmets down and nightsticks out. They lined up side-by-side surrounding two sides of the park. We stood on the sidewalk directly in front of them. Not once did we hear that the police had ordered us out. We did not receive any information from the police officers, who were completely unresponsive except to advance quickly on anyone who stepped off the sidewalk. We decided to leave when it became clear that they were preparing for something, and not something good. The helicopters were circling the whole time.

Radio Reporter: It began on one end of the park as people were peacefully marching. Without warning, the police arrived in their riot gear with batons and rubber bullet guns, jumped out and demanded everyone get on the sidewalks. Those who did not move from the street (believing that they had a right to peaceful protest) were approached by motorcycle cops who began to rev their engines and drive forward into the crowd, acting as though they intended to run the demonstrators over. This included families and children.

People on the sidewalks were commanded to get in the park, but they stayed, stating they would be witnessing to see if the cops tried to attack anyone. Some young people later told me that one person was ran over by the motorcycle and others were hit.

Soon, on the other side of the park there began more police harassment and everyone ran over to see. Throughout the stand offs you would hear rubber bullets popping. I saw a couple kids throw plastic bottles toward the mobs of police who were harassing the protesters. Soon I went to the center of the park where peaceful protesters were enjoying the rally and the entertainment of a live band, and skits. However, before long, masses of people began running frantically from the street into the park. Turns out they were sprayed with teargas and were being chased.

Once people were inside the park, the police began to methodically infiltrate the park, as if they were conducting a militaristic public ICE raid. A helicopter announced everyone must leave. The police then went on their rampage, which was broadcast on the news.

3. The Violent Attack: First Accuse the Protesters of "Attacking" the Police, then Forcefully End the Protest and Assault Anyone in the Park to Show the Immigrants Who's Boss

Jubilee: Without provocation, LAPD riot cops attacked the permitted, peaceful gathering of families and activists around 6:00 PM, with motorcycles, firing plastic bullets and swinging batons, with the apparent objective of clearing the entire park of everybody. The maneuvers were unrelenting and merciless, even credentialed media were caught in the onslaught.

At the beginning of the attack, police on motorcycles plowed south through the peaceful gathering near the north end of Alvarado (near 6th street). There were too many people for the police who retreated to 6th St/Alvarado intersection. The conflict was reignited at Wilshire and Alvarado where riot battalions ran north into the park from Wilshire. That was followed by two open bed trucks with forty riot cops speeding south on Alvarado between Wilshire and 6th who opened assault, driving everyone west several blocks beyond the park.

The street was filled with people and police initiating attack. The anarchists I observed were not marching separately as LAPD Chief Bratton claims. They were mingling among the others in Alvarado Street. It is untrue that the anarchists provoked police and were apart from the march.

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<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>

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