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Story Created: May 1, 2007

Story Updated: May 2, 2007

# A Day Without Latinos: raw video

**Diane Pathieu**

MILWAUKEE - One hundred-twenty businesses in the area closed Tuesday to allow their workers to march for immigration reform.

A lively crowd stretching about a mile long marched as part of a national day of action in which Latinos around the country demonstrate their economic clout.

Some in the crowd carried American flags, others hoisted Mexico's flag.

The crowd gathered on Milwaukee's near south side where many Latinos have settled. Then they moved en masse about two miles into downtown Milwaukee before heading to the lakefront.

The "A Day Without Latinos" march began Tuesday at noon at Voces de la Frontera, 1027 South 5th St., and headed to Veterans Park along the lake, where leaders, including Ricardo Chavez, brother of the late Cesar Chavez, spoke to the crowd.

Last year, thousands participated. They were marching against a measure that would make illegal immigration a felony.

This year, they are addressing other issues - no more deaths along the border, higher education and worker rights for immigrants. Some businesses in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha are allowing their workers to participate.

Those marching will join many others across the country. Voces executive director Christine Neumann-Ortiz said this is "...truly a civil rights movement for immigrants."

Maria Torres, among the demonstrators Tuesday, came from Mexico to Milwaukee where she works in a fabric store. Torres said she was afraid to march and afraid of immigration officials, but decided to come out anyway because she supports the cause.

Marches and rallies were taking place in dozens of American cities Tuesday. Demonstrations were determined to win a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

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#### **WE ASKED, YOU TOLD US WHAT YOU THINK**

"I strongly believe in this march and will also participate, I have received permission from my employer and will be paid. My parents are from Mexico and if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be here." - Filiberto S.

"I think we should do one of two things. Either go back to the immigration restrictions we had in place in the mid 60's or adopt Mexico's laws on immigration. At the pace we are going it will be sooner than most people think before our country's resources are used up on sheer numbers of illegal's let into the country unchecked. Try that in Mexico and see how far you get." – Anonymous

"Yesterday, I saw an employer on the Spanish talkshow "Christina" and their was an employer from Whitewater, WI and his company was raided. After this event, he stated that he hired 30 American Citizens and by the end of the month 2 remained. Immigrants that come from other countries are here to work, and they are committed and responsible and their main goal is to support their family." – Cynthia B.

"Why should illegal immigrants from any country get special rights. They have no rights." – Diana B.

"No amnesty for illegals !! They should be sent home and be made to apply for entry. The borders must be secured before any new immigrants be accepted. We have no idea how many are here, nor do we know where they are. There should be no rewards for illegal behavior !!" - Lynn

"I think there is a BIG need for immigration reform in this country, with all the resent raids so many children are left with out family member. My child's father is an immigrant here and I would hate to have to find out what it will be like with out him here. I think the Children should come first, just like in the 'no child left behind act', and in that aspect their parents and families should be able to stay here in the USA with legal status." – Elizabeth B.

"I don't think what they have to say should matter they are illegal they don't belong here companies that hire them should be fined and or shut down we should start employing Americans and getting are unemployment rates down" – Danielle

"Hundreds of years ago immigrants poured into the United States and proudly became legal residents. Today's immigrants should do the same. If the immigrants came to the United States with the intention of staying here, they should make it legal - become legal residents." - Carla R.

"At my job we offered to teach English to twenty of them because they didn't speak any they chose

to quit instead. we send immigrants home who risk drowning from other country's do we really want people here in our county who break the law because they fell like it oh ya lets talk about the strain but on all our police DPT because of gangs and oh yes they feel like breaking the law. P.S. I'm a Veteran who volunteered to serve in Viet Nam. thank you. " – Howard W.

"The last sentence of your news story says it all. "demonstrations were determined to win a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million ILLEGAL immigrants in the U.S." What part of "illegal" doesn't the media or our politicians understand ? The ILLEGAL immigrants have no rights. There are laws in place to allow immigrants to come to our country legally , which they have done for hundreds of years , let them all come here for a better life..... but do it LEGALLY. Why should our tax dollars be spent on people who shouldn't even be here when our country has a hard time supporting the people who are LEGAL residents." – Anonymous

"We have Laws in this country. And they were made for everyone. If they want to be an American Citizen. We have procedures. Follow them !!!!!!!!!!!!! I'm tired of people doing what they want to and then expect everyone to fold for them. They're here illegally!!!!!!!!!! Get them out !!!!!!!!!!! But I guess if we can let your president lie under oath. And he gets away with it. What can I say." – Floyd B.

"I believe if any one of us found an intruder in our home, regardless how long he or she was hidden from, would still regard them as an UNwelcome intruder. Trespassing into my country illegally is not one bit different." – Michael W.

"I have no problem with legal or illegal Latinos. My problem is with all Illegal's. Why should people who are legal work and pay all the taxes and get nothing when our time to retire comes. Why are we putting all this pressure on our already failing health care system to treat people who shouldn't be in this country to begin with? It's not right to pay an illegal because he or she can't afford to support themselves. We have legal families in this country in need of these benefits' as one person said "we can't ship out all the illegals", but we can close the doors letting them in." – Gary C.

"It is a shame that there are families here that are illegal. Their children suffer, because they are citizens and the parents are not. It's too bad, but the parents are still illegal. They are not here according to our laws, and they have to accept that. Our government will have to come up with an answer, but it will not be easy." – Anonymous

"What does the word "Illegal" mean? If you or I did anything "Illegal" we would be arrested. So, why are we letting them flaunt it in our faces. I hope that they are taking pictures of all the participants, and then, I hope they follow-up and arrest some of them (illegal)." – Terry B.

"I believe if an immigrant is here legally, that's fine. But if they are not legal, they are breaking the law and have no rights." – Steve

"First of all, immigration is not the issue... ILLEGAL immigrants are. Why should we, as Americans, encourage this practice and then turn a blind eye. Illegals are having children in the US so they can be citizens - they expect welfare and food stamps and now the government wants to provide Social Security benefits for them. And by all means, wave the American flag!! Nothing irks me more than watching a group of immigrants waving the flag of their country when a US flag is nowhere to be seen. I have no problem with people wanting to make a better life for themselves, but do it legally... Then I can embrace you with open arms!" – John F.

"I have friends who marched so I'm going to say that no one in America is here legally except the Native Americans. I'm with my friends to the end. Here is a prayer I thought of at School (PIUS XI). Eternal God you know that I support my friends and I can tell that through what I saw that you also


support them so help them get what they want which is what you show the world that only love can win for love lasts forever and you protect us now as you will if we do you're will that's why I'm asking you Lord to save America from destruction amen.” – Anonymous

"Would appear almost ironic that the same people who want the Latino issue to go away are some of the same people who would not work for the low wages that are offered legally or otherwise and filled by the same workers we prefer would just "go away." We either take the lower paying jobs on this side of the border or we just wait till our jobs move to Mexico and South America and elsewhere. We simply can't have it both ways. Stealing our jobs???...come on, that's like saying the slaves were stealing our jobs with one exception... they didn't come on their own. Max W. Milwaukee” - Max

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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