

Flashback to 2006: Wisconsin mobilizes on May Day against extreme anti-immigrant legislation

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The state of Wisconsin is no stranger to anti-immigrant legislation. According to Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera, "The recent events in Arizona have galvanized people all over America to respond as they did in 2006 when Wisconsin's own Congressman Sensenbrenner proposed the same kind of draconian measures that are an affront to basic American democratic values. Indeed, the Arizona law goes even further by institutionalizing racial profiling. "

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, tens of thousands of people will march in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to condemn Arizona's recently enacted immigration law that legalizes and institutionalizes racial profiling; call for federal action to stop the increased deportations of noncriminal immigrants; demand the passage of federal immigration reform in 2010; and push for vigorous job creation for all workers.

The annual May Day March in Milwaukee represents the largest mass march of workers in Wisconsin's history. With a past record turnout of 80,000 marchers, the small city of Milwaukee has boasted the largest May 1 March in the nation for the past two years in a row. Joining the Milwaukee march will be buses full of people from locations across the state.

There will be a program at the beginning of the march at 11:30AM featuring Michael Burke, President of Milwaukee Area Technical College, followed by solidarity messages from supporting religious, community and labor organizations. The march will commence at noon and proceed west on National Avenue to Mitchell Park (the Domes). At 1:30pm in Mitchell Park there will be a program featuring: Omar Damian Ortega, an immigrant worker facing deportation after being injured on the job; Rafael Reyes, a day laborer from Arizona sharing his first hand account of the outrage and fear caused by the recent passage of SB 1070; Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera; Karl Klessig, a dairy farmer with the Dairy Business Association; and U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore. The rally will be followed by a celebration featuring live music.

Please see details below for program. Also please visit our website at www.vdlf.org for more details. To read a recent bio of the march's main organizer, see <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/92025549.html> .

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