

PEOPLE'S WORLD

www.peoplesworld.org

May 4, 2010

Outrage over Arizona law fuels huge May Day rallies

By Marilyn Bechtel

Well over 100,000 immigrants and their supporters demonstrated May 1 in more than 100 communities throughout the country, in a massive outpouring of protest fueled by outrage over Arizona's SB 1070 which allows police to stop anyone merely on suspicion they might be undocumented.

Unions, faith groups, African American and Native American organizations and a broad range of community organizations joined with immigrants from around the world to demand just and comprehensive immigration reform. Signs and T-shirts proclaiming "Todos Somos Arizona" ("We are all Arizonans") were a common sight.

Meanwhile, a powerful movement to boycott Arizona is developing to protest the draconian law.

The largest march was in Los Angeles, where an estimated 60,000 marchers turned out.

Angelica Salas of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles told the LA Times that five coalitions representing over 150 labor, faith and immigrant rights organizations worked with Spanish language media to build the rally.

She called the demonstration "a message to President Obama" for immigration reform and an end to "massive deportations," as well as "a



special message to Republicans" to stop blocking reform and cease supporting "hateful laws" in Arizona.

At City Hall, LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa expressed strong backing for immigration reform, while Roman Catholic Cardinal Roger Mahony told the crowd, "Everyone in God's eyes is legal. We are standing with our immigrant brothers and sisters."

In Tucson, Ariz., over 20,000 marchers

THIS WEEK :

- **Outrage over Arizona law fuels huge May Day rallies**
- **Editorial: Democratize this!**
- **Oil rig disaster imperils entire Gulf**
- **Impulsaría economía legalización de indocumentados**
- **Workers' memorial dedicated in Hartford, Conn.**

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG

- black, brown and white, young and old, immigrants and native-born - rallied at Armory Park. Among them were U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., United Farm Workers union co-founder Dolores Huerta and singer Linda Ronstadt.

In Phoenix, Ariz., at least 4,000 joined in protests at the capitol that lasted far into the

A powerful movement to boycott Arizona is developing to protest the draconian law.

night. “Undocumented immigrants come here to work, they don’t come to live on charity,” 64-year-old Hector Ortega, a native-born U.S. citizen, told feetintwoworlds.org. “What they are trying to do to them will also influence us. It hurts me that I would have to carry my documents with me when no one else would,” he said, adding that if he is stopped he will not cooperate.

One of the largest marches brought out some 30,000 protesters in Dallas, Texas. In Chicago, over 20,000 marched for immigrant rights and jobs, following the annual tribute to the Haymarket Martyrs sponsored by the Chicago Federation of Labor and Illinois Labor History Society. A 75-member delegation from Japan’s Zenroren Labor Federation participated in both events. The march was led by a delegation of undocumented immigrant youth, the Immigrant Youth Justice League, who have boldly “come out of the shadows.” Unions, community organizations and churches from across the metropolitan area joined in the march.

In Washington D.C., U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., an author of an immigration reform bill now before Congress, was among 35 arrested after sitting in at the White House during a protest by thousands.

Though the Los Angeles march was by far the biggest in California, thousands more protested in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Watsonville, Salinas and other cities and towns throughout the state.

In Sacramento, a thousand people, many with their children, gathered at the Capitol before marching to the Federal Building.

Calls for a boycott have reverberated throughout the country. In California, state Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg has called for ending existing state contracts. The Major League Baseball players union condemned the law and some players say they wouldn’t participate in the 2011 All-Star game in Arizona.



Marilyn Bechtel writes for the People’s World.

Democratize this!

By PW Editorial Board

A Gulf Coast disaster has again shocked an entire nation. The callous corporate disregard for safety, workers’ lives and environmental devastation is infuriating and mind-boggling.

In March 2005, 15 workers lost their lives in an unnecessary explosion at the BP refinery in Texas City. Eleven workers are presumed dead from this latest explosion.

Investigations into the 2005 explosion indicated that BP decided it was cheaper to pay the possible fines than to follow OSHA safety guidelines.

The oil rig continues to leak oil into the Gulf and threatens to destroy the coastal environment of Louisiana, just as the area is beginning to recover from the disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The damages inflicted on the Gulf Coast by these two incidents are inestimable and the people of the area will suffer for many years to come.

The government is in another position of having to “bailout” these mega-corporations. This time it’s BP.

Just like with the banks, if the refineries and

energy corporations were publicly owned, adequate safety standards could be maintained so that workers’ lives and the environment could be saved and economic disaster avoided.

Instead of the profits being gobbled up for private gain, they could be reinvested in the communities and the larger social-environmental fabric of the country, plus investment for research into green energy sources.

Plus such profits could go to the current clean-up and previous environmental disasters that have left many Gulf Coast communities in ruin.

It’s a positive step that President Obama has said unequivocally that BP is going to pay for the clean-up and damage. But a 1990 law capped the damage an oil company would be responsible for to a mere \$75 million. That’s a Big Oil bailout!

Why should we the people continue to have to shell out for these private-profit-driven corporations? It’s disaster capitalism! It’s time for the people to run things.



It’s disaster capitalism! It’s time for the people to run things.

Oil rig disaster imperils entire Gulf Coast

By Tim Wheeler

With an estimated 25,000 barrels of crude oil gushing each day from BP's Deepwater Horizon well in the Gulf of Mexico, an environmental group called for an immediate halt to off-shore drilling.

Richard Charter, senior policy adviser at Defenders of Wildlife, an expert on oil drilling, told the People's World, "The most important priority right now is unity in the country in response to this unprecedented emergency. Get a relief well drilled as soon as possible, at any cost by any corporate entity or government agency, to stop this leak."

Charter said in a phone interview, "This spill is different from an oil tanker that turns over and spills crude. This is an unstopped well leaking oil 50 miles offshore and a mile below the surface."

Five states have already declared an emergency status, with preliminary estimates that the cost to their economies is more than \$14 billion, Charter noted.

Calling it a "catastrophe that imperils the entire Gulf Coast," he said, "Offshore drilling has again proven to be unreliable and unsafe."

Forty wildlife refuges along the coast face imminent danger of being engulfed by oil contamination, including thousands of migrating birds, sea turtles, whales, and dolphins, river otters and many other species," Charter said.

Environmentalists were encouraged by the White House order to suspend any new drilling until the spill was investigated. But with Shell an-



nouncing plans to move forward with drilling in the Arctic, where cleanup technology doesn't even exist, groups are calling on the president to reinstate the moratorium on all U.S. off shore drilling.

President Obama, accompanied by Environmental Protection Agency Director Lisa Jackson, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and other officials, toured the disaster zone May 2. Speaking to reporters in front of a moored U.S. Coast Guard cutter, the president said the gushing sea-bottom oil well is an "unprecedented environmental disaster."

Obama said his administration has "launched and coordinated an all-hands-on-deck, relentless response to this crisis from day one." starting with the Coast Guard evacuation of 115 oil rig workers and the search for 11 workers still missing.

Submersibles have detected three leaks in the 5,000-foot-long pipe lying on the ocean floor.

"Because this leak is unique and unprecedented, it could take many days to stop," Obama said. "I'm going to spare no effort to respond to this crisis."

He added, "Let me be clear: BP is responsible for this leak. BP will be paying the bill."

"Let me be clear: BP is responsible for this leak. BP will be paying the bill."

Hartford dedicates workers' memorial

By Tom Connelly

A permanent workers memorial was dedicated in Hartford's Bushnell Park on Workers' Memorial Day, April 28, culminating a 20-year effort by the Connecticut AFL-CIO.

The stone monument honors all workers who were injured or lost their lives while at their work site. The inscription quotes Mother Jones, "Mourn for the Dead - Fight for the Living."

John Olsen, Connecticut AFL-CIO president, led the long struggle. He spoke on the steps of the State Capitol to the crowd that gathered to commemorate the memorial on April 28.

A large group of state legislators presented a citation and pledged to continue to fight for workers' safety.

A group of striking District 1199 workers joined the march from the State Capitol to the memorial in Bushnell Park. Olsen recognized the workers whose main strike issue is health care benefits.

The names of each worker killed this year were read followed by a bell ring. Among those named were the workers killed at the Kleen Energy Plant explosion in Middletown in February.

The AFL-CIO initiated Workers Memorial Day after the collapse of the Connecticut L'Ambiance Plaza in Bridgeport, with a devastating loss of workers' lives.

More than 100 events commemorated workers injured or killed on the job this year.

Nationally 5,071 workers died on the job and 3.7 million were injured in 2008.

Impulsaría economía legalización de indocumentados

Por Emile Schepers

Un nuevo estudio publicado por el Centro por el Progreso Norteamericano por la Integración y Desarrollo de América del Norte demuestra que la legalización a los 11 a 12 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados en Estados Unidos podría elevar el Producto Interno Bruto de este país en \$ 1.5 billones durante 10 años, además de traer otros beneficios a los trabajadores de EEUU y la economía de la nación.

El estudio realizado por el doctor Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda, director fundador del Centro por la Integración y Desarrollo de América del Norte de la UCLA, utiliza un modelo de metodología sofisticado llamado "equilibrio general", para examinar el impacto de la legalización de los inmigrantes que les afectaba a alrededor de 3 millones de indocumentados al final de los años 1980 a través de la Ley de Reforma y Control de Inmigración de 1986, y un programa de legalización suplementaria para los trabajadores agrícolas, como base para predecir lo que sucedería si un nuevo programa de legalización se llevara a cabo ahora.

El estudio y muchos otros documentos útiles se pueden encontrar en la página de Web del Centro de Política Migratoria, en www.immigrationpolicy.org.

Muestra Hinojosa tres escenarios posibles:

- Una reforma migratoria que legalice a los indocumentados actualmente en los Estados Unidos con ple-

nos derechos laborales, y un método para conectar el futuro flujo de trabajadores a las necesidades laborales de EEUU.

- Una reforma migratoria que les convierte a los actuales inmigrantes indocumentados en trabajadores huéspedes permanentes, sin derechos laborales, y que sólo permite una masiva inmigración legal a través de programas de trabajadores huéspedes, en las que los trabajadores inmigrantes tienen derechos laborales limitados.

- Un enfoque "solamente policial", con el cual todo se concentra en detenerles y deportarles a los indocumentados.

Cita Hinojosa estadísticas que muestran que cuando los 3 millones de trabajadores anteriormente indocumentados fueron legalizados por la IRCA y el Programa de Trabajadores Agrícolas Especiales a finales de los 1980 y principios de los 1990, hubo un incremento inmediato en los salarios, especialmente para las mujeres trabajadoras. Esto se debía a que ya no tenían miedo a la deportación si buscaban mejores salarios, y también porque fueron capaces de conseguir trabajo que antes no podían debido a su situación ilegal. En 1992, los trabajadores que se habían legalizado a través de la IRCA tuvieron un aumento promedio de salario de cerca del 13,2 por ciento mientras que las mujeres habían aumentado sus salarios en alrededor del 20,5 por ciento.

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523

Email: contact@peoplesworld.org