

## **Activists march and rally on May Day in San Bernardino for workers rights and immigration reform**

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (Ontario, CA)

May 1, 2013 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Local

**Length:** 412 words

**Byline:** Los Angeles Newspaper Group

### **Body**

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On Twitter: Reporter Beatriz Valenzuela@IEBeatriz and photographer Rick Sforza@RickSforza tweeted live.

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SAN BERNARDINO -- Members of the Justice for Immigrants Coalition of Inland Southern California as well as other immigrant and **workers' rights** supporters **marched** through **downtown** San Bernardino Wednesday in honor of International **Workers** Day.

Hundreds of people joined the **march** from Secombe Lake, 160 E. 5th St. to San Bernardino City Hall, bringing attention to immigration reform and **workers' rights**.

Participants shouted "Obama Escucha. Estamos en la Lucha," which means "Obama listen. We are in the fight," as they **marched** to City Hall, where they heard from speakers calling for legislators to fix the country's immigration system and strengthen **rights** for low-wage **workers**.

Father Jorge Garcia with the seminary school at the San Bernardino Diocese joined the **march** to help make people aware of what happens to families affected by deportation.

Garcia said he regularly sees parents deported, leaving behind their American born children.

"I come to support this cause because we are asking for basic human **rights** for everyone," he said. "We don't want to see families pulled apart by deportation anymore."

Jose Gutierrez , 43 of Hesperia, was brought to the county illegally by his mother when he was 9 years old.

He and his wife, Shena Gutierrez, **marched** with the **activists** in San Bernardino.

"I always felt like I belonged here, like this was my country," he said.

Jose Gutierrez is currently facing deportation for the second time.

He was deported two years ago, but tried to come back to be with his two small children who were undergoing medical treatment.

He was granted a federal stay, which is about to expire.

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"What would you do if you were in his shoes?" said his wife, Shena Gutierrez. "Wouldn't you want to come back to your kids, to your family?"

This year participants marched with the "We Voted, We Organized, Now We March," to bring attention to immigrant rights, workers' rights and the struggle for the working poor.

Children and adults alike are carrying homemade signs and waving American Flags to drivers-pay who are honking in support.

The Justice for Immigrants Coalition has organized the May Day March since 2009, alternating between the cities of San Bernardino and Riverside.

## Graphic

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May Day marchers cross Arrowhead Avenue at 2nd Street during a rally Wednesday in downtown San Bernardino.

May Day supporters gather at Seccombe Park in San Bernardino on Wednesday in support of workers and immigration reform.

## Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (91%); DEPORTATION (89%); IMMIGRATION LAW (88%); CHILDREN (86%); VISUAL ARTISTS (74%); IMMIGRATION REGULATION & POLICY (73%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (73%); HUMAN RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW (72%); POOR POPULATION (72%); PHOTOGRAPHY (69%); SOCIAL MEDIA (69%); WAGES & SALARIES (67%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (66%); RELIGION (50%)

**Company:** TWITTER INC (91%)

**Ticker:** TWTR (NYSE) (91%)

**Industry:** VISUAL ARTISTS (74%); SOCIAL MEDIA (69%)

**Geographic:** SAN BERNARDINO, CA, USA (94%); LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (90%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** May 2, 2013