

# JESSE JACKSON PRAYS: 'STOP THE VIOLENCE' CITES BEATING OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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## **Body**

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The Rev. Jesse Jackson prayed Easter Sunday for an end to violence against illegal immigrants as a videotaped beating and a deadly crash focused attention once more on the smuggling of human cargo.

"Easter is about unearned suffering that is redeemed," Jackson said in a telephone interview after leading about 60 people in a "Stop the Violence Prayer" at a South El Monte nursery.

The nursery was where an 80-mile chase of illegal immigrants crammed into a truck ended last Monday and two Riverside County sheriff's deputies were videotaped beating a couple.

"I know that we must have border checks, and with that conflict there must be due process, but there was no justification for the brutal beating, for the officers to take the law into their own hands," Jackson said.

The deputies gave chase after the pickup, crammed with at least 19 illegal immigrants, ran an immigration checkpoint in Temecula.

On Saturday near that same checkpoint, seven presumed illegal immigrants were killed and 19 injured when the pickup truck the men were riding in overturned as it was followed by U.S. Border Patrol agents.

"When the driver saw the patrol car, he sped up," Pablo Alonso Maximo said from his bed at Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center in Mission Viejo. "We yelled for him to stop, but he kept speeding up."

Four makeshift crosses told of the tragedy in rural Santa Rosa north of Temecula, in a region marked with citrus and avocado groves. One memorial at the ditch where the truck landed consisted of rocks in the shape of a cross. Three other standing crosses were placed amid wreckage.

The injured men on the stolen truck were taken to three hospitals, according to Riverside County fire officials - Mission Hospital, Inland Valley Medical Center in Wildomar and Riverside General Hospital.

The two men at Mission Hospital were in satisfactory condition, a nursing supervisor said.

## **Classification**

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