

OWS protesters rally for immigration rights

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Byline: By Sam Levin and Erin Durkin

Body

HUNDREDS of **protesters rallied** for immigrant **rights** Sunday, attempting to breathe new life into the Occupy Wall Street movement as they marked International Migrants Day.

The **protesters** marched from Foley Square to Zuccotti Park, denouncing the spike in deportations and harsh state **immigrations** laws. There were 396,906 undocumented immigrants deported in fiscal year 2011, the highest ever.

"It's still horrible. I'm so broken. I haven't seen my husband in a year and a half," said Carla Rice-Mata, 47, of the Bronx, a school social worker whose husband was deported to the Dominican Republic in 2003 over an attempted drug possession charge dating back to 1988.

Yajaira Saavedra, 23, a Manhattan college student, said her parents brought her to the United States illegally when she was 4.

She founded the DREAM Scholars, an advocacy group fighting for the federal DREAM Act, which would provide a path to citizenship for young people.

"Undocumented students like me dream of graduating to use their degrees to give back to this country they call home," she said, draped in an American flag and speaking through tears.

Graphic

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