

IMMIGRANTS PLAN PROTEST MARCH

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Body

Saying it wants to fight back against anti-immigrant sentiment, a coalition of immigrant and ethnic groups announced yesterday that it plans to organize a One Million Immigrants March on Washington this fall.

Miguel Maldonado, a spokesman for an umbrella group planning the march, said his organization is tired of immigrants being treated like second-class citizens.

He said the Oct. 12 march will bring attention to their plight.

"This is our country too," said Maldonado. "Immigrants have been an important part of this country since it began. We deserve the same respect as others."

Maldonado said the group - Immigrants and the Poor United in the Fight for Justice - will also be very vocal about the 1996 presidential election when they are in Washington.

"We will not allow the candidates to ignore us," said Maldonado. "Our concerns must be heard too."

The group is pushing for equal access to public education and jobs, review boards to monitor police, and an increase in the minimum wage.

"We also want to put an end to the anti-immigrant sentiment in this country," said Maldonado. "Many of us [in the group] were born in this country and we are still getting harassed."

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