

FROM CALIFORNIA TO ARIZONA

# ¡Aquí y Alla, La Raza Vencera!

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On Sat. May 29th, demonstrations were held through the United States to expose the growing racism and fascism that is taking place in Arizona. As part of this nationwide response, the Comité de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa, a mass base group under the leadership of the Emiliano Zapata Base of Unión del Barrio, organized a rally on the corner of 30th and Oceanview, in the community of Logan Heights (San Diego, CA), a mostly Mexican and African community.

## DEMONSTRATION WAS MILITANT AND SPIRITED

Waving Mexican flags, carrying signs, and shouting chants, over 50 people demonstrated for more than one hour. Several organizations and community residents joined the Comité Digna Ochoa. The organizations present included Chicano Mexicano Prison Project (CMPP), Committee To Free the Cuban Five, Association of Raza Educators (A.R.E.), Padres Por La Justicia Social de Lincoln High School, and the human rights organization, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The key organizers of the protest were Unión del Barrio members Pablo Aceves and Bryan Constantino.

While small in numbers, the demonstration was militant and spirited. Throughout the action, the demonstrators were chanting “Aquí estamos y no nos vamos, y si nos echan, nos regresamos!” “Raza Si Migra No!” “Arizona, no esta sola”, “El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido”, “Alto a los retenes y redadas”, and “Aquí y Alla, La Raza Vencera!” Raising their fist or honking the horns of their cars, both the young and old, who were walking or driving by, were extremely supportive of the demonstration.

## RAISING AWARENESS AND CONSCIOUSNESS

Leading the chants and overall organizer



*Pablo Aceves leading chants at the demonstration.*



was Compa Pablo who summed-up the purpose of the protest as: “The rally was held as an esquina de resistencia. It was held to demonstrate our solidarity and unity with the struggle of Raza in Arizona. It was also held

to let our gente know that we can struggle independently and not be afraid to express our views in our own land and our own community.”

“The esquina also was a way to raise awareness and consciousness around an ongoing struggle that the Comité Digna Ochoa and the community of Barrio Logan has been waging against the racial profiling by the San Diego Police who routinely put up checkpoints that target our gente for vehicle confiscation. We see these police actions as part and parcel of the Migra/ICE raids and the militarization of the Border.”

The demonstration also brought to light the fact many “regular white folks” have an extreme fear of Mexicans and other nonwhite people publicly demonstrating their rights. An example of this occurred during the demonstration when a white bigot walked quickly through the demonstrators and, in an insulting fashioned, yelled several times “boycott Tijuana!”

He was an extremely suspicious character whose action appeared to be that of an agent provocateur with the intention of creating a violent situation where someone could get hurt or arrested—a tactic historically used by the police and right-wing groups to entrap or attack activists. Those coordinating the march were not frightened by the bigot and responded immediately with chants of “Que Viva La Raza” and pointing towards the bigot, as he quickly walked away, yelled, “Ese Güey Es Racista!”

The demonstration was a success as it was able to get its message across to literally hundreds of people. Also of significant was that it was an action organized by grass roots activists not tied to any government or funded agency, and whose goal is the self-determination of Raza and all oppressed and colonized people. [For more info see: [coalicionproderechos.org/](http://coalicionproderechos.org/)]