

# FULL DISCLOSURE VIDEO NEWS BLOG #28

## Transcript

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### INSIDE THE BOYCOTT: LEGITIMATE RACIST?

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Protection Alliance

**DUTTON:** Nativo Lopez, the President of the Mexican-American Political Association, MAPA, called for a general strike to demonstrate to white America that immigrants are a powerful economic force.

**LOPEZ:** We called for the Great American Boycott in the tradition of – of American politics and social movements, and calling on people not to go to work, not to go to school, not to go shopping, and not to go selling, but to organize massive marches throughout the country in every town, every hamlet, every state where immigrants reside and form a sizable portion of the population, and demand an end to HR4437, the Sensenbrenner bill, akin to the fugitive slave law of 1850, and also to demand immediate and universal legalization of all those currently in the United States without legal documents.

**DUTTON:** *Full Disclosure* interviewed Brook Young, a videographer who is producing a documentary on the struggle between immigrants' rights advocates and Americans who are concerned about the illegal invasion. Brook Young has videotaped hours of protests and counter protests, and has created a website where he features a three-minute clip showing Latino leaders screaming messages of hate, and

advocating retaking of the Western states by Latinos.

(Audio clip with video of protest rally)  
Voice of Professor Jose Angel Gutierrez, University of Texas

“This is our homeland. We cannot – we will not – and we must not be made illegal in our homeland! We are not immigrants that came from another country to another country. We are migrants, free to travel and length and breadth of the Americas because we belong here! We are millions. We just have to survive. We have an aging white America. They are not making babies. They are dying. It’s a matter of time. (Laughter.) The explosion is in our population.”

(End of clip.)

**DUTTON:** There were an estimated 500,000 people in the March 27<sup>th</sup> demonstration in Los Angeles where Brook videotaped a lot of the footage for his documentary. In fact, there were large groups waiving Mexican flags in communities around the country. We asked him how they were organized. Where did they all come from?

**YOUNG:** You’ll see day laborers that are brought in. They’re – they’re brought in in cargo vans, you know,

they pack 'em in cargo vans, the same way they do to smuggle them across the border. And they – they'll bring them to the protest and, uh, they give them flags that are already printed up and – and they held – hold up the signs and they kind of look out of place. They don't seem to know what they're even doing. I don't know if they're paid. I think they probably just had nothing better to do and they – they just bring in all the day laborers.

**DUTTON:** What is the catalyst for these protests? They claim that it's immigration reform legislation in the U.S. Congress. We asked Brook what he thought was the main theme to all of these immigrant protests.

**YOUNG:** All racism. That's the tool. That's – that's the claim against everything. Uh, everything is racist, everything is oppressing them, uh, uh, it's racist legislation, uh, the Minute Men are racist, uh, everything that, uh, doesn't cooperate with their – with total legalization, what doesn't, uh, completely order the borders, that won't legalize everyone, that's racist.

**DUTTON:** Nativos agree. He had compared the immigration legislation to the fugitive slave law of 1850. He wrapped himself in the humble cloth of Gandhi, encouraging an economic boycott of the American businesses on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**LOPEZ:** Under the principles of Gandhi, under the principles practiced by Cesar Chavez, uh, we are asking our people to do something, uh, in – in the spirit of, uh, ?enboldening? themselves by not cooperating in the economy of America. On that day, we are asking people not to go to work, don't cooperate, not to go to school, don't

cooperate, not to go shopping, don't cooperate, not to go selling, don't cooperate, but to go in the streets to manifest under the principles of our constitution, expression of their distaste for the Sensenbrenner bill and their demand for full universal legalization, their recognition as people who've contributed to building America.

**DUTTON:** Former California Senator Dick Mountjoy was the father of Proposition 187, which would have denied government benefits to illegal immigrants. We wanted to get his perspective on the boycott.

**“DUTTON:** They're calling for Mexicans – and they do say Mexicans – to walk off the job and walk out of the school and, uh, we're just sitting here wondering, is it gonna happen, do you think?

**“MOUNTJOY:** Well, I think it's gonna happen to some extent, but I don't think it's gonna be the – the major walkout that people may – may, uh, believe it's gonna be. I've heard many, many people say, 'Hey, great. It'll be an easy day to shop because we'll all go shopping and probably the merchants will do better. Uh, freeways may be less crowded that day.' Will it have any effect? No.”

**DUTTON:** Both Dick Mountjoy and Brook Young agree that the answer to the problem is quite direct and simple.

**YOUNG:** What we need to do is, we need to enforce our workplace laws. We need to have secure documentation, and we need to make sure that the people who are working in – are citizens of this country. And we need to secure our borders. Uh, that's – and it's not that complicated, either. They're –

the politicians know this as well, but they like to – to throw up a big smokescreen and say, “Well, how are you going to deport 12 million illegal aliens? Think about how much money that will cost all of you. That’s going to come from you,” and they try to scare you thinking, “Oh, my gosh. That’s gonna cost a lot of money. How could we do that?” Well, I agree. I don’t see that a mass deportation is plausible, either. If you want to see riots and civil war, try mass deportation and that’ll happen. Uh, but through workplace enforcement, securing the border...

**DUTTON:** We asked Brook, having been in close physical contact with these angry protesters, if he was concerned about his physical safety. Should we be afraid?

**YOUNG:** Should white America be afraid? We’ve never had a large number of people come into the country before waving foreign flags, uh, saying that this is their homeland and white men should go back to Europe before. That’s all very new. I think Americans should be afraid.

(Video clip.)

“We need to make sure that we have a good way for people and a fair way to become citizens, regardless of whether they’re documented or undocumented.”

(End clip.)

**YOUNG:** But the people that are coming here now, they don’t seem to see themselves as anything other than Mexicans, most of them. All the vocal majority are from Mexico. The flags you see flying at the rallies are Mexican flags. They see themselves as Mexicans and that this is their land.

(Film clip.)  
(Chanting in Spanish.)

**YOUNG:** ...like a never-ending saga, you know. Now, I don’t really see a happy ending to it. Uh, in the beginning I thought I was doing, uh, a documentary that would be, uh, about regular, ordinary Americans like the Minute Men who were, uh, fighting against their government and – to make a change, you know, raise awareness among other Americans to – to make a change for the better with our own government. But I’ve kind of – I’ve kind of realized that it’s – I feel that it’s a losing battle, quite frankly. Uh, I don’t see a happy ending to all of this.

**DUTTON:** We want to know what you, the viewers think. Please respond to our survey and leave your comments.

Number one: Do you think racism is the motivating factor behind the boycott?

Number two: Do you think that merely enforcing current laws will be effective in controlling illegal immigration?

Number three: Please write your response to this question in the comment section below: Why do you think it is that media is advocating only for the polarized position of deportation or open borders, and ignoring the reasonable alternative suggested by our guest?

If you will leave your e-mail address, we’ll respond to your comments. Thank you so much.

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