



California Deportation Protests

June 10, 2025 - SHAELYN BREAUX

I don't believe there's a way for me to formally write this. No matter what form of social media I'm on, I'm hearing about this protest that happened in California and there's one common question almost everyone is asking: should Black people stand with Latinos? I'll be sheer when I say this—this is an absolutely stupid question. I don't mean to be crude, remember, it's my opinion, but I've seen so many people respond to the question saying, "No, Latinos should stand for their own and us Black people shouldn't get involved. Where were they during the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests? If they don't want a fight, they shouldn't be coming here illegally." There's three key points in a response such as this one; Latinos should stand for themselves, ALL Black people shouldn't get involved, and no Latinos were seen during the BLM protests. I'm going to address each one separately as there is so much to say about them.



Latinos Should Stand for Themselves

I find it absurd that there's so much more going on in the world yet there's some people out there trying to justify separating races. In a situation such as this, it doesn't matter who should take whose side; innocent people are being killed or injured, rights are being violated, but I see people on TikTok live "debating" if Black people as a community should protest alongside them. The president of these United States raped a woman and assaulted many more, he said if he could kiss his daughter he would, he's in the Epstein files, he's trying to make a woman miscarrying illegal—HE IS A FELON, but let's get butthurt over Black people fighting with Latinos. You'd think it'd be common knowledge that most Black people would WANT to support the efforts of Latinos because they went through similar struggles. "What struggles? Black people weren't being deported!" Our rights were (and still are) being violated, were they not? Innocent Black people were being shot and killed (AND STILL ARE), were they not? The same thing is happening to Latinos, is it not? As people of color, we should be able to find refuge in each other instead of having to divide upon our own because some people feel as if Latinos didn't lend a helping hand to us, so why should we?

Where Were Latinos During BLM Protests?

They were there; people just choose to ignore them to make their narrative seem correct. How can I prove it?



Alright then. Moving on.

“If They Don’t Want a Fight, They Shouldn’t Illegally be Here”

I find whoever attempts to make an argument such as this one is ignorant to the fact that some, but not all, Latinos entering the country are seeking asylum. Doing so is not illegal, according to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), specifically section 208, and the Refugee Act of 1980. When a person seeks asylum, they’re looking for protection for themselves or their family. Once in the country, they can go through the process of being legalized. However, being legalized is a due process, therefore, immigrants are protected by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, including those who are undocumented. The Constitution's protections apply to all people within the U.S., regardless of their immigration status. While they may not have the same rights as citizens, they’re still entitled to a certain basic level of protections under the U.S. Constitution, such as due process and protection against unlawful searches and seizures.

I’m not oblivious to the fact that criminal activity, such as drug trafficking and gang involvement, is a legitimate concern when it comes to immigration, and individuals engaged in such activities should be targeted. However, it is dangerously misguided to assume that ALL Latinos entering the country pose a threat. Recently, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been conducting operations targeting schools and Latino businesses, resulting in the apprehension and detention of suspected "illegal" immigrants. Reports indicate that detainees face inadequate conditions in detention centers. For example, there have been accounts of individuals being denied necessary medical treatment, such as care for dental cavities. Untreated cavities can lead to serious infections and, in rare cases, death. One reported incident involves a detainee who suffered a stroke due to denied dental care but thankfully survived. This case raises concerns about the potential for similar mistreatment occurring to others in ICE detention.

It’s an obvious misuse of power and a violation of rights, but ICE faces no punishment. ICE officers go home to their families, hoping to keep them safe from the dangers of the world, but knowingly endangered the lives of another. Have they no shame? I despise people who say “they’re just doing their jobs!” But how does that explain an ICE officer who aimed and shot a rubber bullet at a reporter? Is that doing their jobs?

It strikes me as deeply ironic that the United States, formerly celebrated as the Land of the Free and welcoming to immigrants from around the world, from Mexico to Asia, seeking a brighter future, would now be engaging in these mass deportations. It should be celebrated that people still find refuge in the U.S. but instead they are made the enemy because they are not White.

It shouldn't be a debate on whether you should help or be a bystander. Basic human decency dictates a stand against oppression. It's disheartening that some within the Black community advocate for non-intervention; one would expect a deeper understanding of the current struggle against oppression. Each person holds their own beliefs, and choosing to support the Latino community is an individual decision, not a universal requirement. In a time of need such as this, a debate is unnecessary and a waste of time when lives are on the line. Serious action needs to be taken immediately, but nothing will be done if we all can't act sensibly.



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