

## DEFEND THE HONOR

**Dear Defender of the Honor,**

Three things:

1. San Antonio Defenders moving forward on creating a non-profit to carry out their mission.
2. El Paso Defenders getting ready to greet Ken Burns on Monday
3. Please sign a petition being circulated by MALDEF on the Luis Ramirez case.

In San Antonio, the local Defenders are getting ready to form a genuine 501 (c)(3) -- giving them the ability to take on new activities related to ensuring the rightful place of Latinos in our nation's historical narrative. Details to come.

In El Paso, local Defenders are preparing for a Memorial Day event, where **Ken Burns will speak about "Public History and the Hispanic Heritage" at the Chamizal at 4 p.m.** Please contact [defendthehonor@gmail.com](mailto:defendthehonor@gmail.com) if you want to be part of a welcome committee.

And it does not escape us that ignorance about the contributions of Latinos has created an atmosphere of hatred and violence against Latinos, in particular against immigrants. So let's join MALDEF in standing up in the the case of Luis Ramirez, the 25-year-old Mexican immigrant who was brutally beaten and left to die by punks in Pennsylvania last summer. Two of his killers were given a slap on the wrist. See the complete story at:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/us/03pottsville.html?\\_r=1&scp=3&sq=luis%20ramirez%20+%20verdict&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/us/03pottsville.html?_r=1&scp=3&sq=luis%20ramirez%20+%20verdict&st=cse)

From an Associated Press story May 2: "One of the defendants, Brandon Piekarsky, 17, was acquitted of third-degree murder and ethnic intimidation, while the other, Derrick Donchak, 19, was acquitted of aggravated assault and ethnic intimidation. **They were both convicted of simple assault.**"

**MALDEF is urging** the U.S. Justice Department to intervene and investigate Luis Ramirez' death as a hate crime. **"It is time for the United States Department of Justice to intervene and file federal hate crime charges against those responsible for the brutal murder of Luis Ramirez in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. The Justice Department must send a strong message that violence targeting Latinos will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."**

To sign the petition, go to: [http://maldef.org/luis\\_ramirez\\_petition](http://maldef.org/luis_ramirez_petition)

And then please please please send it to others you know who care about justice and who believe that any hate crime should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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Gus Chavez & Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, Co-Founders, Defend the Honor  
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