

DEFEND THE HONOR

**Anti-Mexican Hate Speech on Radio and Hate Crimes**

**How much does hate speech embolden the punks who kill defenseless immigrants?**

This week, the murderers of a 25-year-old Mexican immigrant got a slap on the wrist, although the case had every indication of being a hate crime. MALDEF is asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the case. And in Boston, a talk show host has been suspended after a fairly long racist diatribe against Mexicans. Suspended? Some critics believe that hate speech on radio may be linked to hate crimes.

If these stories outrage you, please get the word out and let the world know that: We won't take this any more... Send a letter, an email, a fax, make a call, tell your friends, your cousins, your coworkers. Raise folks' consciousness about these issues -- make them think: substitute any other group for Mexican and ask: would that be permitted? Together, Americans of honor and decency can make a dent in racism. But it won't happen without us taking action each and every time. Don't give an inch. Democracy and free speech only works if we participate

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Henry Solano of MALDEF, is asking all of us to speak out in the case of a 25-year-old Mexican immigrant who was brutally beaten by a group of teenagers who yelled racist epithets all the while... Read more from Henry below and go to: <[http://maldef.org/luis\\_ramirez\\_petition/](http://maldef.org/luis_ramirez_petition/)> to sign the MALDEF petition.

The other issue is the case of conservative talk show host Jay Severin of WTKK-FM in Boston. Severin was talking about the Swine Flu. And in the course of it, he disparaged Mexicans as "the world's lowest of primitives." Go to <http://www.alternet.org/blogs/immigration/139704> to hear Severin for yourself. Thanks to Cenk Uygur, co-host of The Young Turks, a nationwide radio show, for posting Severin's comments. The Boston Globe also ran a story today: [http://www.boston.com/ae/tv/articles/2009/05/05/severins\\_agent\\_says\\_he\\_will\\_return\\_to\\_the\\_airwaves\\_soon](http://www.boston.com/ae/tv/articles/2009/05/05/severins_agent_says_he_will_return_to_the_airwaves_soon)>

Here are just a few of Severin's remarks:

"When we are the magnet for primitives around the world - and it's not the primitives' fault by the way, I'm not blaming them for being primitives - I'm merely observing they're primitive."

"It's millions of leeches from a primitive country come here to leech off you and, with it, they are ruining the schools, the hospitals, and a lot of life in America."

To send a note to WTKK in Boston, go to: <<http://www.wtkk.com/contactus.aspx>>

Here is what Solano said:

It is time for the United States Department of Justice to intervene and conduct an independent and comprehensive investigation of 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. We need you, and so does Luis Ramirez's family. Will you join me in making sure the DOJ does its job and brings justice to Shenandoah, Pennsylvania?

Click here now and urge the DOJ to investigate this hate crime today.

If you're still not convinced let me give you the facts point by point:

On July 12, 2008, Luis Ramirez, a 25-year-old Mexican immigrant residing in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, was tragically beaten and stomped to death by a group of teens as he walked through the town. Witnesses overheard anti-Mexican and ethnic epithets shouted by his assailants during the violent attack. A retired Philadelphia police officer testified during the preliminary hearing that she heard one of the defendants yell, "Tell your [expletive]

Mexican friends to get the [expletive] out of Shenandoah or you'll be [expletive] laying next to him."

On Friday, May 1, 2009, a jury in Schuylkill County found two of the defendants accused of beating the 25-year-old father of two, not guilty of third degree murder and ethnic intimidation. Despite the mounting evidence of a hate-driven attack, the jury convicted them on charges of simple assault. The jury's conclusion is an outrage. Most shocking is the recent news article describing the Jury Foreman's view that trial of the defendants was biased because of racism and prejudice he noted among his fellow jurors. Luis Ramirez was brutally murdered and even in death, Ramirez remains a victim of extreme racism, which denies his family the justice they deserve.

Now, MALDEF needs your help in calling upon the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice to conduct a thorough and comprehensive federal investigation surrounding the fatal beating of Luis Ramirez and to bring appropriate criminal charges against his assailants.

[Click here now](#) and urge the DOJ to investigate this hate crime today.

Sincerely,

Henry Solano  
Interim President and General Counsel  
MALDEF

P.S. Please help spread the word and get others to sign as well. We are relying upon you to help bring justice to Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.