

# OVER 100 PROTESTERS GATHER TO KEEP "CHARLIE KIRK OUT OF VISALIA"

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The Visalia Police Department was not the only security present. Members of the Fresno Autonomous Brown Berets For Self Defense were also surveilling the area in an effort to protect protesters.

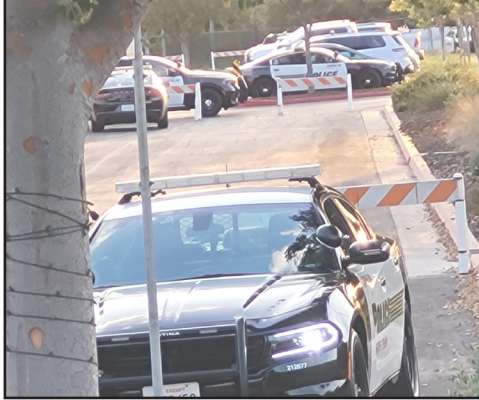
One of the Brown Berets, Jose Solorio, was present during the entire protest. He described the organization as a revolutionary group of native people who "will reclaim the land and it will be the downfall of the U.S. government."

"We serve the community in any way they need, whether that means doing security like this, whether that means going on and putting on events ourselves like community events, mutual aid things, water distribution is a big thing that we do," Solorio said. "When we say community, we mean people that are marginalized; black, indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, women, children in poverty."

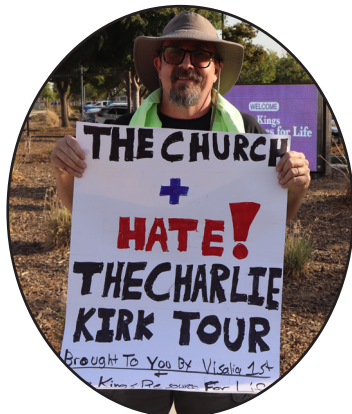
The protest was peaceful for the majority of its length, but occasional aggravators disrupted the crowd.

Content creator and ex-convict Josh Fulfer has been attending events and protests since 2015, but not as a participant. Fulfer was livestreaming the protest for over two hours onto his Rumble account, and got into disputes with protesters along the way. Fulfer specifically addressed the Brown Berets, calling them a racist and violent group.

"As a Trump supporter, they [protesters] call you 'Nazi, right-wing racist,' and even my Black friends were called Nazis and white supremacists, so I'm like 'wait a second, I'm gonna start going out there and documenting them so I have something to counter it,'" Fulfer said. "America first. Lock down the borders, deport illegals. It's very hard to get healthcare in California, and if you're an illegal, they just give it to you. Those are the kinds of things that are illegal first, America last."



A VISALIA POLICE CAR FACES PROTESTERS OUTSIDE THE VISALIA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH AS A CHURCH PARKING LOT IS FILLED WITH MORE POLICE CARS AND PEDESTRIANS ON SEPT. 2. PHOTO BY JUAN MURATALLA.



CHRIS DAVIS HOLDS A SIGN THAT READS "THE CHURCH + HATE! THE CHARLIE KIRK TOUR. BROUGHT TO YOU BY VISALIA 1ST AND TULARE KINGS RIVER RESOURCES FOR LIFE" OUTSIDE THE VISALIA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH ON SEPT. 2. PHOTO BY GAVIN RULAND.

Isabel Brown, the guest speaker at the TKRL event, is a popular voice among Gen Z conservatives. She authored the book, "Frontlines: Finding My Voice on an American Campus." Brown

has a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences and the description of her book states that during college she felt immersed in "a world of leftism, silenced by the thought police, and afraid to speak up for conservative values."

College students at this protest contradicted her messaging, arguing that although freedom of speech is important, it does not outweigh truth and decency.

"Freedom of speech does not mean freedom of consequences," Erik Rodriguez, an art major at College of the Sequoias, said. "If you are spewing misinformation and hateful rhetoric, don't be surprised when people try to silence you."

Arion Grajeda, a Fresno City College alumnus, Reedley College student and M.E.C.h.A. member, pointed to a recent situation at FCC to contradict Brown's book description. In early September, FCC students found stickers that read "Smash Zionism with White Power," included with a QR code linked to the homepage of a white nationalist group known as Clockwork Crew.

"I mean look at what just happened on Fresno City's campus," Grajeda said. "If that ever was the case, if what she's saying was the case, it certainly isn't the case now."

At 6:45 p.m., a group of four men in a red Ford F150 were stopped behind a red light, directly adjacent to the protesters. They were playing loud music and began to taunt the protesters by dancing and wiping nonexistent tears from their faces.

Around 7:45 p.m., the same group of men returned to approach the protesters and began interacting with them in a mocking tone. One protester then tossed an empty popsicle wrapper at one of the men, and he quickly became loud and hostile with the group. In response, at least 10 officers quickly intervened and separated the two parties.

Jocelyn said that Visalia Police were overly aggressive towards the protesters considering they were not the instigators. Jocelyn referenced previous instances when Visalia Police had "been in the wrong." They brought up an instance in 2020 where a Black Lives Matter protester got hit by a car, and mentioned another peaceful protest Jocelyn attended where over 30 police cars unnecessarily patrolled the vicinity.

"We saw so much love in that space and so much care and so much opportunity for conversation but at the end of the day, I've been taking it very hard knowing that in my position as an organizer, no matter what, I had to come to terms with the fact that some aggressors will always make their way into the crowd, and they will always be protected by the police," Jocelyn said.

The TKRL event ended at 9 p.m., and the venue of 2,750 seats was sold out. To prevent



JOSH FULFER (LEFT) FILMS AND LAUGHS AT A PROTESTER HOLDING A SIGN WITH FULFER'S NAME AND CASE NUMBER (F16907166) DETAILING FULFER'S ARREST IN 2016 AFTER BEING CONVICTED WITH THE FELONY OF CORPORAL INJURY TOWARDS HIS EX-WIFE ON SEPT. 2. PHOTO BY LOGAN PAYNE.

potential conflict, most protesters left the scene by the time the event concluded.

The last three protesters who remained, all who wished to remain anonymous, believed it was important to show the people coming out of the event that their voices still mattered.

"I think it's important to try and provoke some of them to actually question Kirk because Kirk had chosen to be silent after Trump called him and told him to report less on the Epstein files, which is a giant hypocritical move and a grift if he is picking a stance of protecting children and caring about life and being pro life," said a protester who asked to be called Asada.

Earlier in the evening at the height of the protest, three women wore red robes as an homage to the Margaret Atwood novel, "The Handmaid's Tale." The women chose to remain anonymous, but they spoke about their intended message and how their appearance is especially relevant now.

"The Handmaid's Tale was a cautionary tale for women and men who love and respect them, to caution us to beware the way politics is funneling women into a secondary role," one of these protesters said. "We're now sort of divided into these echo chambers of opinion, so we live in a really dangerous time for that reason. We need to search ourselves and not just go along with the crowd, which is what I think I'm seeing here."



TWO ANONYMOUS PROTESTERS WEAR RED ROBES REMINISCENT OF THOSE FROM MARGARET ATWOOD'S "THE HANDMAID'S TALE" AND POSE FOR A PHOTO OUTSIDE THE VISALIA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH ON SEPT. 2. PHOTO BY LOGAN PAYNE.

## NEW MARIACHI ENSEMBLE STARTS ON CAMPUS

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The first-ever mariachi ensemble class at Fresno City College launched this semester. FCC is now among the nine colleges in California that have mariachi classes.

Pamela Galicia, professor of mariachi ensemble at FCC, said she believes the class will grow in popularity.

"This is the first semester, so I have around 15-16 students, but hopefully it gains even more popularity within the students," Galicia said.

Galicia has been connected with mariachi music for years. She started playing violin in elementary school and continued in the orchestra at Roosevelt High School.

"Mariachi music ties me to the culture, and it represents something that is very personal for me," Galicia said.

She said that FCC has provided strong support, including purchasing instruments before the class officially began.

"Even before I was officially hired instruments were purchased and there was a buzz around Fresno City College about this class," Galicia said.

According to Galicia, class aims to connect generations and creates a sense of community.

"It helps the generations together because a lot of music that we play is traditional older generations, remember the same songs and the younger students are learning these songs," Galicia said.

The Mariachi class offers more than typical music classes. It allows students to push the boundaries of the classroom itself.

"This class will open them up to the Mariachi

world, and the traditional mariachi music allows them to perform with the local group, so it gives them real opportunities," Galicia said.

Students are anticipating being the first students of this class.

"It's very exciting and interesting to be a part of the first group of students of the Mariachi program," said Andrew Powell, senior commercial music student.

Students also have strong connections and personal meaning with the mariachi world.

"For me it's not only culture, because I'm Mexican American, it's almost like a way of life, way that we breathe and a way to listen to music," said Vanessa Lomeli, a sophomore student at FCC.

Galicia is an important part of this class, so she helps students open the mariachi world.

"It's pretty awesome getting a professor like Galicia, so she is very passionate about teaching, and she is also really informed about how to play every instrument," Powell said.

The group of students is multicultural and very hospitable, like a family.

"I've attended one class, group meeting and based on the environment that was presented to me as a welcoming and like new student, they gave me a really welcoming environment, and you can tell there's a lot of different faces there from different cultures, and it's really nice to see that people from other cultures, besides the Hispanic culture," Lomeli said.



STUDENTS IN MARIACHI ( MUS-45-41564 ) PRACTICE WITH TRADITIONAL WIND INSTRUMENTS ON AUG. 27. PHOTO BY: PAMELA GALICIA.



STUDENTS IN MARIACHI ( MUS-45-41564 ) PRACTICE WITH TRADITIONAL STRING INSTRUMENTS ON AUG. 27. PHOTO BY PAMELA GALICIA.