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# East Palo Alto rally for Atlanta families

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EAST PALO ALTO — "How can we live on the moon, when our children live in danger," one sign read. The placard was carried throughout a three-mile march from the Ravenswood High School to Kelly Park at the Belle Haven Community Center.

The march was staged Saturday in support of the families of the children slain in Atlanta.

Some 20 black children have been murdered in that city, in a wave of terror that has touched blacks across the nation.

Senior citizens, youngsters on bicycles, and students wearing Canada College T-shirts in green and yellow moved side by side.

Prominent community members, including East Palo Alto Municipal Councilwoman Gertrude Wilks, participated in the demonstration.

The marchers were joined along the way by motorists who drove behind the group to show their support.

The march was organized by the Canada College's Black Student Council. Black student council

president Terry Brown said he hopes the march will "open people's eyes, and not let the same thing that is happening in Atlanta happen here."

"It is a good thing," onlooker Marta Espinoza said, her small children gathered around her. "Everyone has children. You really feel for those children's parents."

"I am surprised that something like this can happen," she said.

Gordon Landreth said he feels "a burden for Atlanta. I want to remind people that God cares. We have to go to try to turn this thing around."

Community leaders like Mayor Barbara Mouton, religious leaders and school representatives spoke at the rally. The Black Student Council sold refreshments, food and drinks.

What good does marching in East Palo Alto do the families of dead children in a far away state?

"Anytime any black people are in trouble we should come to their aid. Marching lets them know that one part of the world is with them," said Andrew Westfields, a member of the Mount Olive Masonic lodge of Palo Alto.



Times Tribune staff photo by Kyle Brehm

Clifford Boxley of the Probe Community Center in Redwood City speaks to a group at Belle Haven Community Center in Menlo Park in a rally concerning killing of children in Atlanta.