

Unitarian leader convicted for role in protest

by [Jack Jenkins](#) in the [September 6, 2011](#) issue

The head of the Unitarian Universalist Association has been convicted on misdemeanor charges for participating in a protest rally against Arizona's controversial immigration law.

Peter Morales, the first Latino president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, was found guilty on August 5 of failing to comply with a police officer at a July 2010 event where he and others blocked the entrance of the Maricopa County Jail in Phoenix.

"My conviction as a result of that civil disobedience in no way alters my commitment to opposing this legislation that targets and dehumanizes some of the most vulnerable among us," said Morales, who is an ordained minister.

The protest—whose more than 1,500 participants included UUA members and representatives from local immigrant advocacy groups—criticized Arizona's hotly debated immigration bill that was passed in April 2010. —RNS