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Fellow demonstrators render aid to S. Brian Willson moments after he was run over by train

State News

CONCORD (AP) — Protesters continued their vigil Sunday at the Concord Naval Weapons Station, where about 5,000 people held a mass demonstration Saturday prompted by last week's amputation injury to a Vietnam veteran.

The protesters, some remaining from Saturday's mass rally, were at the site where S. Brian Willson was hit by a munitions train during a protest against alleged arms shipments to Central America.

"This was too brutal not to protest," said Jason Jenkins, 34, of Berkeley. "The war has now come to the United States."

There was no immediate estimate of the number of protesters Sunday at the site about 45 miles east of San Francisco, according to a spokesman for the Mount Diablo Peace Center.

Saturday's rally ended when about 75 protesters tore apart about 300 feet of railroad ties and girders outside the Concord Naval Weapons Station. They ignored pleas for non-violence from Holly Rauhen, Willson's wife.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol blocked the station's north and south entrances to the protest, but they did not attempt to arrest anyone.

Station spokesman Dan Tikalsky said the estimated damage to the tracks was \$10,000. He estimated the crowd Saturday at 4,500.

Folk singer Joan Baez entertained the crowd on Saturday with songs in English and Spanish.

Contra Costa County Sheriff's Lt. Dale Sandy said he believes the train crew thought the protesters would follow previous practices and leave the tracks after a whistle was blown, but they didn't.

Rosario Murillo, the common-law wife of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, said her visit Saturday with Willson at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek was a personal visit and not motivated by publicity.

"Sure, some people are going to think that way," she said Saturday in an interview at her hotel. "But that's not why I came. I came to see Brian and his family, to tell him how much we respect what he has done."

Murillo also toured the still-bloodstained tracks where the accident occurred.

SEPT 7 1989 SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Protesters keep up vigil at Concord



Associated Press

Rosario Murillo, common-law wife of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, visits S. Brian Willson