Mortgage crisis not over



PAUL SAKUMA / The Associated Press

Marisa Salas, right, holds a sign during a foreclosure and eviction rally at the home of Carlos Moreno in Menlo Park, Calif.

Despite halt by banks, foreclosures proceed

By Curt Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — For most Americans at risk of losing their homes, the brutal business of foreclosure goes on.

Bank of America halted foreclosures across the country to address paperwork problems, but three other banks did so only in 23 states. Other banks holding millions of mortgages have not suspended any foreclosures.

In the other 27 states, judges don't have to review foreclosures.

Those states without judicial oversight for foreclosures include eight of the top 10 foreclosure states.

Not only have the mortgage industry's actions been limited geographically, but banks mean different things when they say they're halting foreclosures.

Ally Financial's GMAC Mortgage unit, for example, is continuing to initiate foreclosures nationwide. It has stopped evicting homeowners and selling foreclosed properties in the 23 states that require judges' approval.

By contrast, Bank of America has stopped seizing foreclosed homes in all 50 states — but is continuing to sell homes that had already been foreclosed on and is still processing new foreclosures.