United Farm Workers AFL-CIO

When the issue is representation, let the workers decide!  
Cesar Chavez
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Cesar Chavez

Some growers have indicated that they're willing to lose up to 50% of their profits rather than sign with the United Farm Workers. Why? Because they know we'll enforce our contracts. We'll insist on pesticide control, grievance procedures, and a democratic hiring hall. Unions in other industries have won such basic human rights after long struggles. We'll win, too.
A major tragedy developed in April 1973. A misled Teamster official signed back-door contracts with California growers whose farm workers had for three years been UFW members. Demands for free elections were refused. Hundreds of our UFW supporters joined us in peaceful picketing; yet within a few months two UFW strikers were killed, dozens injured and 4,000 arrested. Rather than expose our people to more brutality, Cesar Chavez recalled us from the picket lines.
We have many friends.

Dorothy Day, Editor of the Catholic Worker, was on the United Farm Workers' picket line in August 1973. She and hundreds of other pickets were arrested because they defied as unconstitutional a court order prohibiting mass picketing.

George Meany and all of the AFL-CIO unions have backed us with money, manpower and experience. The UAW and the ILWU have also been extremely generous.

Our first march to Sacramento began with just 75 people. Now, with our friends, we can rally thousands to help us.

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Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday
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**March 1974**

3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9

End of Cesar Chavez' first fast 1868

10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16

Bobby Kennedy attends Senate hearings in Delano 1966

17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23

Beginning of march from Delano to Sacramento. 75 people 1966

24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30

1969 First table grape contract signed 1969

Farm Workers Death Benefit Started 1970

31

Farmworkers Co-op Founded 1967
Coretta King supports our cause. The world is being torn apart by senseless and sterile brutality but she knows that we’re committed to non-violence in the tradition of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Gandhi. We’re convinced that we will win justice in the fields and vineyards, but not with violence.

Religious leaders of many faiths have helped us. When Rabbi Norman Hirsch came to Coachella to support us, he said “...love must take the shape of justice in the affairs of society.”

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AWOC founded in Stockton, Ca. 1959

St. George contract signed 1967

Schenley boycott ends. First tobacco agreement signed 1964

Passover

Easter

Coachella strike begins 1973

April 1974
"We used to own our slaves. Now we just rent them."  

California grower

Farm workers in the United States are still virtual slaves. The average life expectancy for farm workers is 49 years.

Death from tuberculosis and respiratory infections is 260% higher than the national rate.

Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor

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May 1974
The overworked members of the Filipino community were the first to strike against unjust conditions in the California fields. When their group AWOC struck, the UFWOC joined them and now we have UFW.

Buy the produce with our black eagle, our union label, and you too will be a member of the United Farmworkers AFL-CIO. Unity is our strength!
In California one fourth of the farm labor is done by children under 16. Farm workers are killed in accidents at a rate 300% higher than the national rate and they are not covered by Workmen’s Compensation.

 Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor
Care and love . . .

Our union has started clinics staffed by volunteer physicians. They provide health care for farmworkers and their children, who are among the most medically neglected people in the United States.

photo El Malcriado/Maxwell
What do we want?

To have healthy working conditions, to live in dignity and be paid fairly for our work, and to have control over our lives. We must have proper medical care, education, and time to enjoy life.

We do the work, the growers get rich. That’s not right. They’re going to have to share with us from now on.
"We're rich in people and not afraid to work. We'll have setbacks for a few years but we'll win in the end. Our people will never give up the love they have for the Union." — Cesar Chavez
In California our members are about 90% of Mexican origin, while in Florida our members are mainly from the black community. Beside these large groups we have in our membership Puerto Ricans, Filipinos, Anglos, Portuguese, Arabs and other national minorities. There's no place for racism. We're united by our struggle, our goals, and our conviction that we all deserve to live in dignity. Racism is a weapon of the employer, an attempt to set one group of workers against another.
WE COUNT ON YOU!

In the first strike the UFW called, it was the American grocery shopper who brought the growers to their senses. YOU buy the produce we pick. If you'll buy only the grapes with the black eagle on the box, our UFW union label, the growers will get the message.

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December 1974

photo Bob Fitch - Black Star

Cesar Chavez jailed 1970

El Malcriado founded by Cesar Chavez 1964

Schenley boycott begins 1965

Calif. Supreme Court orders Chavez freed from jail 1970

Christmas Day

1974
January begins a new year of work and hope. Time is on our side in the grower/farmworker struggle, so we plan in long range terms. We have many people working on our education center at UFW headquarters in California. Teachers, carpenters, librarians, tile setters, artists and landscape architects have volunteered their help. Farm worker crews also volunteer on weekends to do specific jobs.

We will face many problems, but we will continue to grow. Our union is here to stay.
Dear Friends:

Thanks for using our United Farm Worker Calendar this year. We hope you find it a frequent reminder of our struggle.

We've noted many anniversary dates throughout the year. These are the major steps - and sometimes the setbacks - which have accompanied our progress over these difficult years. 1973 has witnessed some of the greatest tests of our commitment but we look forward to 1974 with confidence.

Your involvement is vital to us this year. We need your help in the marketplace where many merchants pretend to be uninvolved. They say that they employ no farmworkers and that their only responsibility is to their customers. We remind them that their corporations do not exist in a vacuum and that their responsibilities extend to their suppliers and to society at large. We tell them that if they market boycotted produce, they have already chosen to side with the growers who refuse to recognize the rights of their employees.

Please participate in our boycotts which are our powerful non-violent means of winning our rights. Tell the store managers and your friends that you don't purchase boycotted items.

If you would like to help in other ways or if you would like more information, please contact the nearest United Farm Workers office or write to me.

With your help 1974 will be a year of victory.

¡Viva la causa!

Cesar E. Chavez

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