Chavez Is Starting a Fast to Affirm Nonviolence

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DELANO, Calif., Aug. 19 — César Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers, and a hundred of his followers, began a three-day fast here today in what was termed an effort to demonstrate once again "our commitment to nonviolence" after recent antistrike activity and the death last week of two members of Mr. Chavez's union and injuries to many others.

The fast will coincide with the funeral Tuesday of Juan La Cruz, 60 years old, a member of the union since 1965, who was shot Thursday night when he was leaving a picket line in the Giumarra Vineyards in Aven, 50 miles south of here.

Ernest Baclig, 64, of Fresno, and Bayani Avincula, 20, of Dalano, were booked on suspicion of murder. They will arraigned tomorrow.

Do Not Need to Kill

On Friday, 10,000 farm workers, and their supporters, marched four miles and conducted memorial services for Nagi Daifullah, 24, a Yemenite farm worker who died Wednesday. The farm workers have linked his death to a skirmish with Gilbert Cooper, a local deputy sheriff.

At the memorial service, Mr. Chavez said: "Farm workers everywhere are angry and worried, but we are not going to fall into the trap that our persecutors have fallen into. We do not need to kill or destroy to win."

Three other union pickets have been shot and wounded.

Jerry Cohen, said he was "going to press for a Justice Department investigation of the pattern of conduct by the sheriffs' departments in Kern, Tulare, and Fresno Counties, where picketing is concentrated."

Mr. Cohen contended that the sheriff's departments were acting "as a private army of the growers" and said he planned to file suits alleging Federal civil rights violations.

He also mentioned Mr. Cooper, who according to farm workers, struck Mr. Daifullah on the head with a flashlight in a local bar and then dragged him through the street.

The Kern County sheriff's department, however, has said that Mr. Daifullah died of a fall suffered while Mr. Cooper attempted to arrest him following a bottle-throwing incident in the bar.

Mr. Cooper has been removed from field duty, according to Kern County Sheriff Charles Dodge, but Mr. Dodge added that the change in assignment "in no way constitutes a suspension."

With the suspension of vineyard picketing, the union has shifted its focus to a consumer boycott of table grapes and lettuce in large cities.

The Delano area growers, meanwhile, are holding firm on the teamster contracts. Two weeks ago, John J. Giumarr, operator of the largest grape growing company in the area, said, "I don't think the growers will ever sign with him [Mr. Chavez] again."

After the growers signed with a local teamster organizer, the validity of the contracts was challenged by Frank E. Fitzsimmons, the international teamster president.

Late yesterday, California Secretary of State, Edmund G. Brown Jr., urged the passage of emergency legislation that would provide for secret-ballot elections to resolve the dispute. There is no mechanism for elections now because the National Labor Relations Act exempts farm workers.