

CHRONOLOGY OF VIOLENCE IN KERN COUNTY — 1973

- April 23 Al Johnson, supervisor of Pozo Ranch in Wasco, points a shotgun, fires shot at strikers passing by the ranch.
- April 26 Gregorio Ibarra, contractor and foreman for Kovacevich Ranch, leads crew of 15 strikebreakers, armed with clubs, chains, grape stakes, jacks, and leather straps in threatening strikers.
- May 21 Strikebreakers threaten John Osborne, UFW Legal Staff member, with knives. Sheriffs refuse to take action.
- May 25 Supervisor at El Rancho Farms tries to run Everardo Saldana off the road at a picket line. Sheriffs Department refuses to arrest the driver or take any similar action.
- June 6 Scabs at Kovacevich pelt the picket line with peaches. Sheriffs summoned to the scene refuse to make arrests.
- June 20 Teamsters show up at picket line at American Produce Company, try to provoke strikers with foul language and threats.
- June 25 Gregorio Ibarra curses out female strikers and pulls a gun on them at Meridian Market in Weedpatch.
- June 28 Teamsters attack picket line at Kovacevich Ranch. Four strikers hospitalized, including Juan Hernandez, age 62, who suffers a skull fracture. Other strikers beaten with clubs, pipes, sticks. Two sheriffs present during attack but take no action. At end of attack, more sheriffs arrive and arrest 29 Teamsters, on charges ranging from disturbing the peace to assault with a deadly weapon. Chief Fote of the Sherriffs Department says the Teamsters were apparently "imported" from the Coachella Valley for the "specific purpose of attacking the UFW pickets."
- July 2 Sheriffs arrest a number of pickets who go to labor camp on Copus Road to meet workers who have gone to pick up their checks after walking out on strike. Arrested pickess are maced, dragged from paddy wagon, generally mistreated.
- July 13 Merel Pace, a 17 year old pesticide spray rig operator, sprays entire picket line at Sabovich Ranch with Aldrin, a deadly chlorinated hydrocarbon. Strikers become sick; sheriffs take no action.
- July 27 Frank Valenzuela & seven UFW organizers go to Giumarra Ranch, still under UFW contract, to talk to members working there. Supervisor of ranch says they are trespassing, even though UFW contract provides for such work by business agents. Sheriffs arrest 3 organizers, rough them up.
- July 3 George Aronian, rancher, tries to run over entire picket line at El Rancho Farms. Sheriffs do not arrest Aronian, instead, they arrest Cornelio Salinas, co-capt<sup>a</sup>in of the picket line, after Aronian demands this. Picket line then sprayed with mace by sheriffs.

- July 31 Marty Bozina, supervisor for Kovacevich, points a gun at the pickets and threatens to kill them. Sheriffs do nothing.
- July 31 Bob Hinsley, private guard, tries to run over Luis Perez, UFW picket, at Kovacevich Ranch. Sheriff G.C. Rascoe refuses to arrest driver.
- July 31 Sheriffs arrest and brutally beat strikers picketing Giumarra Ranch at Edison Road near Highway 58. They use mace indiscriminately, and club strikers who are in their path. Also use a helicopter, coming within six feet above the heads of the strikers, to disperse crowd.
- July 31 Teamsters attack picket line at Nalbandian Ranch. Sheriffs assist them, arresting and holding strikers so that Teamsters can beat them. Although a number of UFW pickets are arrested, only one Teamster is arrested, and this for kicking a sheriff after aiming for a striker and missing.
- August 1 Striker shot on the picket line in Delano. No arrests made.
- August 1 Don Galindo, UFW striker, drives into Giumarra field in an effort to talk to the workers. Is arrested, beaten by sheriffs. His car is impounded, and when it is returned to his wife, several things are missing--a pair of binoculars, a tool chest, an Instamatic camera, and a Hawkeye Super 8 Movie Camera with good footage on the previous day's attack at Nalbandian.
- August 7 Sheriffs again beat and mace strikers picketing Giumarra Ranch. Pickets again arrested, including Marcelina Mendez, who ends up with 6 stitches in her skull after being beaten by sheriffs.
- August 8 Sal Giumarra, of Giumarra Farms, attacks strikers with rocks, and smashes the windshield of a car belonging to 21 year old striker, Mike Mendez, while Mendez and a friend sit in the front seat. No arrests made.
- August 9 Sheriffs hit young striker picketing Jesse Juarez' camp. He falls to the ground and is run over by a truck. He is taken to the hospital, and as he leaves the building after treatment, he is arrested by the sheriffs. A young girl, Sonia Morales, is beaten as well.
- August 10 Delano Private Patrol runs over 3 strikers at picket line.
- August 10 UFW picket line at Missakian Ranch, on Road 136 near Avenue 12, in Tulare County just north of Delano, shot at for a period of 15 minutes. Two strikers wounded from the shooting. No arrests made of the strikebreakers who were shooting at the pickets.
- August 14 Lupe Murguia, UFW organizer, beaten by Tony Villa-Lobos and Claudio Carranza, contractors and foremen, and has shotgun held to him by third attacker, outside market in Weedpatch. Sheriffs refuse to make arrest, D.A. does no investigation.

- August 14 Nagi Daifullah, UFW striker from Yemen, beaten by Sheriffs Deputy John Gilbert Cooper. Dies 24 hours after being beaten, having suffered two skull fractures. Autopsy and District Attorney's report show death resulted from blows received on head.
- August 15 In two separate incidents, Fernando and Fred Chavez, son and nephew of UFW Director Cesar Chavez, shot at while in area around Delano.
- August 16 Juan delaCruz, 66 year old striker, shot to death on picket line in Weedpatch.
- August 17 Ray Olivas, UFW organizer, shot at while driving near Earlimart.

These incidents are not the only ones to have taken place in Kern County, rather they are representative of what has gone on since the beginning of the strike. The declarations and photographs that document these events point up the attitude of the Kern County Sheriffs Department in relation to the UFW, as well as illustrating the violence carried out by foremen, Teamsters, supervisors, and other non-union workers.