

Why We Boycott



The United Farm Workers
of America, AFL-CIO
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FAR FROM THE FIELDS WHOSE DUST
IS FOREVER STAINED WITH THE BLOOD
OF OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS, FAR FROM
THE POLICE AND COURTS CONTROLLED BY
THOSE WHO SEEK TO DESTROY OUR UNION -
WE SEEK JUSTICE. THE BOYCOTT IS THE
ONE NON-VIOLENT RESPONSE LEFT
US. AND THEREIN LIES OUR HOPE.

ARRESTS OF FARM WORKER PICKETS

APRIL 17 - AUGUST 29, 1973

RIVERSIDE COUNTY 357

KERN COUNTY 638

TULARE COUNTY 401

FRESNO COUNTY 1993

3389



YOU ASK:

WHY ANOTHER BOYCOTT?

FOR AS MANY YEARS AS WE REMEMBER...



WE HAVE SUFFERED.



E. and J. Gallo Camp number one.

TO END
THE
SUFFERING,
WE
BUILT
THE UNION.



*IN 1970, AFTER 5 YEARS OF STRIKE AND BOYCOTT,
WE WON CONTRACTS WITH THE GROWERS.*



July 29, 1970:

Delano grape grower John Giumarra Sr.
signs UFW contract.

BUT IN 1973, THE GROWERS SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH THE TEAMSTERS, NOT THE FARMWORKER'S UNION.



December 12, 1972: Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons addressing annual convention of American Farm Bureau, pledging to destroy UFW.



*IN RESPONSE,
WE STRUCK,
TO DEFEND
OUR UNION
AND OUR FREEDOM
OF CHOICE.*

"A Union is not built on a love affair with the company, but by love, understanding, and compassion for the people it serves and is a part of. The Teamster officials and hired goons will never be a part of farm labor. They cannot identify with it."

-Walter Williams
UFW Field Office Director
Haines City, Florida

ALTHOUGH WE WERE JAILED.....



April 18, 1973: Jose Perez and family arrested while praying at Tenneco Ranch.

*THE STRIKE
CONTINUED..*



THE GROWERS THEN BOUGHT TEAMSTERS FOR
\$67.50 A DAY,



AS MUCH AS WE SEE IN A WEEK.



THE TEAMSTERS BEAT US...



June 28, 1973: Teamsters attack farm worker picket line at Kovacevich Ranch near Lamont as police sit in their car (upper left) and do nothing to stop the attack.

"I didn't see how he caught my husband, but I heard blows. I was just recovering from being hit myself. When I got up I saw the Teamster standing over my husband, who was curled up on the ground in pain. The Teamster was kicking my husband, again and again, trying to step on his head. I ran over to where they were and tried to push the goon away from Luis. The Teamster pushed me, and I fell to my knees. When I was down, the Teamster hit me twice in the back of my head."

-Guadalupe Rangel

WHILE THE POLICE WATCHED,



June 28, 1973: Teamsters attack farm worker picket line at John J. Kovacevich ranch. Four strikers were hospitalized, 29 Teamsters arrested.

"I was running with my family, and my mother was lagging behind. We all slowed down to help her, and the Teamsters got my father. Two of them grabbed him from behind and one of them punched him in the head. My father fell to the ground and a second Teamster started to hit him with a pole. I ran over to help him. The Teamster hit me across the back with the stick. I stayed with my father and the Teamsters went down the road to beat up other people.

I am 15 years old."

-Salvador Monarrez, Jr.



After the attack was over and the Teamsters were being arrested, I spoke to Salas, the Mexican cop. I said to him, "Why don't you give us protection? Where is your gun?" He said, "You think I want to get killed for one of you guys?"

-Arnulfo Mancha

June 28, 1973: Juan Hernandez transported to Kern General Hospital with skull fracture after Teamster attack on picket line at Kovacevich Ranch.

BUT STILL WE STRUCK.



THE POLICE ATTACKED US....



July 31, 1973: Giumarra Vineyards. Marta Rodriguez, 18 years, 85 pounds.

"I was still screaming when the first sheriff nabbed me. The first one pulled my hands behind my back and handcuffed them together very tight. He pulled my arms back until I thought they would break. I was screaming and then the same sheriff hit me in the knees, causing me to fall. Then there were two more sheriffs hitting me. One of them hit me in the side with his stick. I could barely breath. They were pulling at me so hard."

-Marta Rodriguez

"I saw the police had a young girl face down on the ground. One cop had his foot on the girl's back and was pulling her arms up. She was crying and begging to be let up. Frank Valenzuela and I asked to talk to the girl and told the cops not to treat her that way.

"The only response we got was that we were sprayed with mace. I saw them swinging at Frank. They were holding him face down on the hood of a car and kept hitting him again and again with a nightstick on his legs and head."

-Frank Quintanilla



July 31, 1973: Giumarra Vineyards Corporation. Frank Valenzuela, International Representative from AFSCME. In background on ground is Marta Rodriguez.

MANY TIMES.....



August 7, 1973: Giumarra Vineyards. Marcelina Mendez, 57 years.

" I saw 3 Sheriffs hit another lady who was sitting down on the ground and already handcuffed. They then dragged her across the ground to where the vines were and left her there. "

- Javier Carrillo



August 7, 1973: Glumarra Vineyards. Marcelina Mendez, 57 years, 6 stitches.



August 7, 1973:
Glumarra Vineyards Corporation.

"Before I knew it, one of the Sheriffs knocked me on the back of the head. I went down and felt faint. I actually passed out for a while and when I came around again I was still on the ground. The Sheriff kicked me twice while I was down. He told me to stay there while I was lying face down, handcuffed. I was still groggy when they took me to jail."

-Dora Mendez

BUT THAT COULD NOT STOP US.





August 21, 1973: Maximina de la Cruz at funeral of her slain husband.

IN AUGUST,
TWO OF OUR
BROTHER
STRIKERS
WERE
MURDERED.
TEN THOUSAND
STRONG,
WE HONORED
OUR DEAD.



THE STRIKE GREW EVERY
DAY-TABLE GRAPES IN
DELANO, WINE GRAPES IN
LIVINGSTON, MELONS IN
FIREBAUGH, TREE FRUIT
IN FRESNO - LIKE A FIRE
ACROSS A DRY PRARIE
THE STRIKE SPREAD. OUR
FRIENDS RESPONDED AND
HUNDREDS OF RELIGIOUS
AND LABOR LEADERS JOINED
THE STRIKE ON THE PICKET
LINE AND IN JAIL.

Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker, arrested in Fresno
for picketing in violation of court order.



Armed Fresno growers comb nectarine orchard for isolated farm worker pickets.

AS WE WERE ARRESTED FOR PEACEFUL
PICKETING, GROUPS OF ARMED GROWERS AND
VIGILANTES PROWLED RURAL CALIFORNIA.
TRAGEDY WAS INEVETABLE.

*A POLICEMAN'S FLASHLIGHT AND A SNIPER'S
BULLET CHANGED THE COURSE OF OUR STRUGGLE.*



Juanita and Alfredo Herrera
of Lucas Ranch
prepare to leave for boycott.

*TO STRIKE ANY LONGER WAS TO INVITE DEATH.
INSTEAD, WE LEFT OUR HOMES AND FRIENDS.
TO 64 CITIES WE HAVE COME, TO BOYCOTT.*



WE MUST ENDURE,
WE SHALL WIN!
WE ARE FIGHTING
FOR OUR UNION,
FOR OUR LIVES,
FOR OUR CHILDREN.

CHRONOLOGY OF VIOLENCE

- April 16 More than 1000 Coachella Valley grape workers go on strike to protest the signing of Teamster contracts the day before. Alicia Uribe, 21-year-old striker, receives permanent eye damage after being struck with a brass knuckle by an unidentified Teamster organizer.
- April 18 The first contingent of \$67.50 a day Teamster goons arrive in Coachella, armed with pipes, clubs, stakes, knives and guns. More than one hundred farm worker pickets are arrested while praying near a Tenneco ranch.
- April 23 Al Johnson, supervisor of Pozo Ranch in Wasco, points a shotgun and fires shot at strikers passing by the ranch.
- April 24 Al Droubie, rancher-turned-Teamster, together with Coachella Imperial Distributors vice president Henry Reider, leads attack on UFW pickets at CID camp near Indio. Many injured, several cars damaged, no arrests.
- April 26 Gregorio Ibarra, contractor and foreman for Kovacevich ranch, leads crew of strikebreakers armed with clubs, chains, grape stakes, jacks and leather straps in threatening strikers.
- April 28 Three private police employed by Mirage Ranch in Thermal arrested after drawing guns on a UFW picket line.
- May 2 Two more rent-a-cops arrested at Mirage, these for carrying illegal billy clubs.
- May 21 Lamont 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 Everado Saldana off the road at a picket line. Sheriffs refuse to arrest the driver or take any action.
- May 31 Father John Bank of Cincinatti, Ohio, press liason for the strikers in Coachella, attacked by Teamster goon Mike Falco while eating breakfast in an Indio cafe. Bank received a broken nose and Falco was arrested.
- June 13 Ralph Cotner, head of the Teamster Coachella Valley operations, arrested for battery after attacking UFW picket.
- June 18 Murray Westgate, sent by International Brotherhood of Teamster president Frank Fitzsimmons to investigate Teamster violence in the Coachella Valley, beaten by Teamster goon in lounge of Indio motel, then threatened by Cotner.
- June 21 Teamster goons Lupe Tamez and Lupe Saucedo arrested for kidnap and attempted murder after abducting and attacking a Coachella farm worker with ice picks.
- June 22 Six Teamsters arrested on felony charges after attacking Cesar Chavez car caravan near Mecca, California.
- June 23 Teamster Johnny Macias (known as Yellow Gloves) leads lead pipe attack on UFW picket line at Henry Moreno ranch in Coachella. Five UFW pickets hospitalized, five Teamster goons jailed.
- June 24 Striker Francisco Campos, his wife and child barely escape from their trailer, burned to the ground while they slept. Teamster Mike Falco later brags about the fire and threatens to burn the Campos car next.

- June 25 Teamster violence in Coachella escalates with attacks on UFW pickets Marshall Ganz, Joe Lopez, John Osborne, Ray Huerta and others.
- June 25 Coachella strikers Salvador Ochoa and Felix Rodriguez pulled from their car by Teamsters who beat them and break car windshield with baseball bats.
- June 25 Gregorio Ibarra curses out female strikers and pulls a gun on them at Meridan Market in Weedpatch.
- June 26 Five shots fired at the home where Cesar Chavez was staying in Coachella.
- June 28 Ray Griego , former Teamster guard, tells Riverside Press Enterprise that Ralph Cotner, Teamster chief in the Coachella Valley, is "the man who is responsible for all the violence that is going on out there."
- June 28 Teamsters attack picket line at Kovacevich Ranch in Lamont. Four strikers hospitalized. Juan Hernandez, age 62, suffers skull fracture; other strikers beaten with clubs, pipes and sticks. Two Kern County sheriffs present during attack but take no action. At end of attack, more sheriffs arrive and arrest 29 Teamsters on assault and conspiracy charges. Chief Fote of the Sheriffs 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 pickets 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 the Sabovich ranch with Aldrin, a deadly chlorinated hydrocarbon. Strikers become sick; sheriffs take no action.

- July 31 Rancher George Aronian tries to run over entire picket line at El Rancho Farms. Sheriffs do not arrest Aronian, but instead arrest Cornelio Salinas, co-captain of the picket line. Picket line then sprayed with mace by sheriffs.
- July 31 Kovacevich supervisor Marty Bozina points gun at pickets and threatens to kill them. Sheriffs do nothing.
- July 31 Private guard Bob Hinsely tries to run over Luis Perez, UFW picket, at Kovacevich Ranch. Sheriff G.C. Rascoe refuses to arrest Hinsely.
- 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 way. Also use a helicopter, coming within six feet of the heads of the strikers.
- July 31 Teamsters attack picket line at Nalbandian Ranch in Lamont. 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 striker and missing.
- August 1 Striker shot on the picket line in Delano but no arrests made.
- August 1 Don Galindo, UFW striker, drives into Giumarra ranch to talk with workers, is arrested and beaten by sheriffs. His car is impounded, and when returned to his wife a pair of binoculars, a tool chest, and two cameras are missing.
- August 7 Sheriffs again beat and mace strikers at Giumarra Ranch. Pickets again arrested, including Marcelina Mendez, who receives six stitches in her skull after being beaten by Kern County sheriffs.