

# 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 hundreds of his followers will begin a three-day fast here tomorrow in what was termed an effort to demonstrate once again "our commitment to nonviolence" after recent anti-strike 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 on Thursday night while he was leaving a picket line at the Giumarra Vineyards in Arvin, 50 miles south of here.

Ernest Baclig, 64, of Fresno and Bayani Avincula, 20, of Delano, were booked on suspicion of murder. They will be 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

since Aug. 1, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the California Attorney General's office have begun investigations into the picket line violence. On Friday, Senator John V. Tunney, Democrat of California, wired Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson urging that he take "strenuous Federal actions to prevent further violence" in the strike.

The strike started in this area at the beginning of this month when contract renewal negotiations between the United Farm Workers and 29 growers of table grapes broke down. Since then the growers have signed contracts with the rival International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

On Friday evening, Mr. Chavez announced that the union's executive board had voted to suspend all picketing for the next three or four days. It would be "insane and suicidal to send our people back to the picket lines without Federal protection," he said.

The union's chief counsel,

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 to the teamster contracts. Two weeks ago, John J. Giumarra, 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.



United Press International  
César Chavez leading a supermarket boycott last Wednesday in Los Angeles.