#### **CESAR E. CHAVEZ**

#### LA PAZ KEENE, CALIFORNIA 93531

August, 1973

Dear Friend:

For over eighty years no one was able to organize a farm workers union for the poorest working people in the U.S. Finally in the '60's we did it. Now our still small, honest and democratic union is under brutal attack.

The friends of President Nixon, the huge corporate farm interests, have made an alliance with the goliath Teamsters Union to crush our struggling Farm Workers Union. While we were in negotiations to renew contracts covering thousands of farm workers in California, the Teamsters' leaders conspired with the growers to deny workers the representation they want. Naturally the growers welcomed the Teamsters because they willingly made concessions we resolutely reject (among other things the Teamster contracts do not guarantee job security, seniority, hiring hall or protection against pesticides). We enrage the farm corporations because we threaten their feudal power; we threaten their 19th Century conditions. We embarass the Teamsters because we, unlike they, do not sign sweetheart contracts (backdoor deals in which the workers have no say).

Farm workers deserve honest representation. They have been the most wretched, mercilessly exploited working people in the nation. They would fare better on welfare. But they want to work, even at "stoop labor" in sun-baked fields. Their wages average a little less than \$50 a week in the holocaust of today's inflation.

In spite of our limited resources we can win a fair fight with the Teamsters, the growers and...yes...the White House. But the Teamsters' leaders with their multi-millions, use ruthless measures, including violence, to cripple us - against the wishes of many members of the Teamsters' rank and file. The California Supreme Court, in a landmark decision in December, 1972 voting six to one in our favor, declared "the field workers desired to be represented by the Farm Workers Union rather than the Teamsters."

We represent the workers. A commission of distinguished religious and lay leaders, including Monsigneur George Higgins, Louise Davidson, Vice-President of Church Women United and Congressman Edward R. Roybal (D. Calif.) went into the fields on April 10, 1973 and found in a survey over 85% of the workers favored the Farm Workers Union.

The people continue to show their support for the Farm Workers Union by striking, manning picket lines - often with guns pointed at

them - and being arrested and jailed. Judges, conspiring with growers, have issued unconstitutional injunctions making our non-violent picket lines ineffective and for the first time we have had to turn to acts of civil disobedience. At this very moment dozens of priests, nuns and other clergy along with hundreds of farm workers are in jail. Over the past four weeks close to 4,000 have been arrested for non-violent action and many others have been beaten by Teamsters and local law enforcement officers.

Our fight is more than the passion of a small, struggling union. There are 3,000,000 desperately exploited farm workers waiting to be organized and brought into the life and activity of progressive America. Our drive is a potent anti-poverty force using no government funds. The Farm Workers Union unites brown, black and white in a common cause.

To survive we need your involvement - you who have supported us before and you who perhaps will be giving for the first time. The AFL-CIO is helping us but we still need your support for our strikes, boycotts and other organizing. We need legal defense, bail funds, medical care, and food and shelter for farm workers and their families, and we ask that you boycott all iceberg lettuce and grapes which do not bear our label - the black Aztec Eagle - but if in doubt please don't buy any.

We are facing great odds, but we can win our struggle for human dignity and basic rights. We are hopeful that decent people such as yourself will join with us. Please share our committment and faith by sending your check...a symbol of democracy and decency...today. Every contribution makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.

VIVA LA JUSTICIA!

Cesar E. Chavez

Please make checks payable to: UNITED FARM WORKERS, AFL-CIO. (Receipts will be sent on request.)



## Urgent! We need your help now more Than ever.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1973

# The New York Times

### Chavez Is Starting a Fast to Affirm Nonviolence

Special to The New York Times

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 antistrike activity and the death last week of two members of Mr. Chavez's union and injuries tomany others.

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

#### '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."

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 at-

tempted 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 New York Times

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1973

## MORE FOLLOWERS: OF CHAVEZ SEIZED

**Hundreds Arrested on Coast** in Dispute With Teamsters

> By EARL CALDWELL Special to The New York Times

BAKERSFIELD, Calif., July -Across the San Joaquin Valley farm workers again arrested by the hundreds today as they continued to defy court orders in pressing their strike against grape growers.

In the vineyards and orchards around Fresno, more than 450 striking workers were arrested. In Tulare County, 100 more workers were arrested before noon. And here in Kern County, where nearly 500 workers were jailed yesterday, sheriff's deputies were unable to make additional arrests because the jails were already filled beyond capacity...

The injunctions—obtained by the growers—that had angered the striking members of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers are those that prohibit them from using bullhorns for more than one hour a day, from picketing within 15 feet from picketing within 15 feet of the vineyards and from having pickets closer than 100

feet apart.

The regulation that bans the use of bullhorns is particularly disturbing to the union. The bullhorns are used by the strikers to explain to those workers who cross their picket lines why the strike has been called, what the issues are, and also to attempt to talk them into walking off their jobs and joining the strikers...



Cesar Chavez

#### Chavez Repeats Defiance

While the growers talked of the action they might take, Mr. Chavez was reiterating his position that he did not consider defiance of the injunctions was hreaking the law. He said that the injunctions were uncon-stitutional and that the restrictions they placed on his union were part of an effort by the courts to help break the strike

Mr. Chavez, the 46-year-old labor leader who is a disciple of nonviolence, also disclosed that he met last night with representatives of the Justice Department who mhe asked to come here and investigate union complaints that the courts, the sheriff's department and the district attorney's office are all involved in a conspiracy to deny the farm workers their civil rights.

'Right to Have a Union'

"There have been too many violations for this to have been

coincidence," Mr. Chavez said. "We have every right to have a union." ...

Mr. Chavez has said that the agreements between the teamsters and the growers con-stituted "sweetheart contracts" and said that the teamsters were acting as a company accused He teamsters of going along with a

plan to destroy his union.

Mr. Chayez said that his union had been involved in a long fight to unionize the grape industry and said that the members were prepared for another long fight ..

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1973

Frank Fitzimmons, president of the Teamsters Union, says he has met several times with George Meany, president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., in an effort to settle the dispute between the teamsters and Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers. But Mr. Fitzsimmons says he has no insimmons says ne nas no intention of assenting to a meeting with Mr. Chavez. "I wouldn't sit with Chavez," he said. "I wouldn't dignify he said." he said. "I wouldn't dignify him by appearing in the same meeting with him." Mr. Chavez has accused the heart contracts" with growers previously under contract with the farm workers. with the farm workers.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1973

It seems certain that a great deal of public sympathy will go to the farm workers union, the David to the Teamsters' Goliath.

Msgr. George C. Higgins of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, a veteran labor expert and respected mediator, wrote last week that "the Teamsters—in a moment of sheer madness which they will most certainly live to regret—have decided, in flagrant violation of trade union ethics, to destroy the United Farm Workers which alone can legitimately claim to represent the workers in the field "

-PHILIP SHABECOFF

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1973

### Inquiry Renewed on Alleged Payoffs to Teamsters

By PHILIP SHABECOFF Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 12-The Justice Department will seek in California next week on criminal charges alleging illegal cash payments to the union authorities disclosed today.

The department is expected Thursday to hear testimony on officials, informed Government members of the rival United be justified. Farm Workers.

The Government sources also to reconvene a Federal grand reported that the Federal Bu-said that the F.B.I. was also jury in San Francisco next reau of Investigation was looking for information that gathering information about al- might link the alleged violence indictments of teamster's union allegations that lettuce growers legations of teamster violence by teamster employes in Coaofficials and lettuce growers gave large amounts of cash to in the vineyards of Coachella with allegations of illegal local teamster officials in 1970 Valley of California to deter-payments to the teamsters for for the purpose of paying mine whether intervention by the hiring of "security guards" to intimidate the Justice Department would in the lettuce fields around

The Government Salinas, Calif., in 1970.

DELANO, Calif. (AP) - A United Farm Workers Union member was critically injured while sheriff's deputies were breaking up a brawl outside a. bar early Tuesday, officers

Nagi Baifullah, 24, was hurt after throwing a beer bottle which hit Deputy Gilbert Cooper above the right eye, the sheriff's report said.

Baifullah tripped and banged his head on the pavement after Cooper hit him on the shoulder with his flashlight as Baifullah

fled, Lt. Frank Beane said. The union contended Baifullah's wound was to the back of the head, indicating it was caused by the flashlight.

"There's a pattern of excessive force being used by the sheriff," said union attorney Jerry Cohen. "If their skin is a different color, they are going to use excessive force because they are racists. They're bound to kill a farm worker before they're through."

Baifullah, an Arab who lives at UFW headquarters in Keene, was listed in very critical condition later at Kern

General Hospital.

Deputies placed a hold against him for investigation of assaulting a peace officer. Three UFW members were among five others booked on investigation of misdemeanor charges after deputies were called to quell the incident in which they said rocks and beer bottles were being thrown outside a Lamont bar.

Lamont is one of the Kern County areas involved in UFW's tense farm labor strike to regain contracts that

expired this year.

Meanwhile, the Teamsters union has replaced the veteran organizer whose signing of farm labor contracts here sparked an abrupt, angry walkout from peace talks by UFW leader Cesar Chavez.

James Smith, a Teamsters official more than 25 years, was removed as chief area onganizer for allegedly disobeying orders from Western Conference of

Teamsters President Eniar Mohn to avoid signing contracts during peace thepacts. negotiations with Chavez last week The intercent

Smith has been returned to his previous post with a Teamsters local in George Meany gives Sacramento, union spokesmen said Tuesday

Chavez broke off talks with with us." the Teamsters on Friday after learning Smith and growers Macias, said he was instructed signed Thursday night to withdraw Teamsters

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Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons later repudiated.

Chavez told newsmend in Fresno Tuesday he will bewilling to return to peace talks when AFL-CIO President "assurances" that the Teamsters won't play games

Smith's replacement, Cono-

organizers from the Delano area and not service the disputed pacts...

On the picket lines, Kern County sheriff's deputies reported at least 650 were marching in the Delano area and Tulare officials said 1,000 pickets were reported in the nearby Richgrove area. The UFW announced it is increasing its picketing here as the table grape harvest nears

its peak.

Fresno County deputies said almost all pickets arrested earlier were freed from the county jail following the signing of a release order by Superior Court Judge Denver C. Peckinpah on Monday. They included 76-year-old Dorothy Day, editor of the Catholic Worker, and almost 60 priests and nuns who had been in the county jail and on a fast for almest two weeks

## Pickets From Page 1

strikers when the first grape strike started in 1965 and both he and his wife have been active union members.

"He was a very honest, simple man who was very loyal to the union and very hardworking," Chavez said. "He spent most of his life in agriculture."

There has been bitter rivalry between the UFW and the Teamsters Union for contracts covering thousands of California farm workers.

The UFW strike started when contract talks broke off with 29 table grape growers in the Delano area. Failure to renew UFW contracts leaves the producers of 40 per cent of California's table grape crop free to negotiate with the Teamsters.

Jasar /

# Chavez Asks Withdrawal Of Pickets After Slaying

By JOE BIGHAM

DELANO, Calif.(AP) — Cesar Chavez says he will urge his striking United Farm Workers Union to call off their pickets in the wake of the first fatality in the long-simmering dispute with grape growers and the rival Teamsters Union.

"There has been a siege of terror. The

"There has been a siege of terror. The police, the growers and the Teamsters have joined hands in brutal repression of our strike," Chavez said after Thursday's shooting death of a veteran UFW picket.

Chavez said he would urge the union's executive board to call off picketing until government protection can be provided because "we don't want any more people hurt."

"The workers were very upset," the union leader said. "We met with them and told them to remain cool, that the approach of nonviolence is the only way to, do it."

Juan De La Cruz, 60, was shot in the chest by someone firing from a passing pickup truck as pickets dispersed at a picket line in Arvin, 50 miles south of here:

Witnesses at the Giumarra Vineyards copied the vehicle's license number, and police later arrested Ernest Baclig, 64, of Fresno, and Bayani Advincula, 20, of Delano and booked them for investigation of murder. The two were farm workers at Dalton Richardson Farms.

It was the first picket line death since the farm workers struck July 29 over refusal of grape growers to renew UFW contracts. Three UFW members have been injured in other bursts of gunfire, and there have been numerous violent clashes on the picket lines.

De La Cruz, a native of Mexico, lived in Arvin with his wife and son in a green, one-story home. He was one of the original

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