



# FAIR FOOD ACROSS BORDERS CAMPAIGN

The Fair Food Across Borders (FFAB) Campaign's goal is to make visible the human rights abuses suffered by migrant farmworkers in Mexican agribusiness camps. We will expose the serious human rights conditions of agribusiness practices in Mexico regarding health, education, housing, pesticide use, child labor and labor rights.

The Fair Food Across Borders Campaign is a project of the Chiapas Media Project/ Promedios



CMP/Promedios is an award winning, bi-national partnership that provides video equipment, computers and training enabling marginalized indigenous and campesino communities in Southern Mexico to create their own media. CMP/Promedios has created together with the Zapatista communities in Chiapas four Regional Media Centers where the communities produce their own video and audio productions as well as have satellite internet access. Since 2000, CMP/Promedios has been producing videos covering important human rights issues in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. CMP/Promedios has presented videos at numerous universities, museums, and film and video festivals around the world.

## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FOOD COMES FROM?

Did you know that many of the fruits and vegetables we eat in the U.S. come from Northern Mexico? Here are some facts about the conditions faced by farmworkers who harvest much of our food:

- There are estimated to be over one million migrant farmworkers in Mexico. The majority come from Southern Mexican states like Oaxaca and Guerrero. They are forced to leave their communities because they have no other way to support their families
- Workers are recruited by contractors in their communities of origin and often transported under very dangerous conditions.
- Many of these workers are indigenous and speak languages such as Mixteco, Nàhuatl, Zapoteco, and Tlapaneco.
- There are hundreds of trans-national agribusiness camps in Northern Mexico, in states like Sinaloa, Sonora and Baja California. They grow a large variety of produce from tomatoes to watermelon. The vast majority of the crops harvested are for export to the U.S. and Canada.
- During the 2007–2008 harvest season, more than 790,000 tons of fruits and vegetables were exported from Sinaloa —the vast majority of these crops came to the U.S. The main crop is tomatoes, followed by bell peppers and cucumbers.
- For six to eight months, migrant families live in small, crowded shacks made of sheet metal and wood, often with no access to clean water or other basic services.
- Most migrant farmworkers are surviving under precarious working conditions, receiving very low wages and no labor protections.
- Child labor is widespread in the camps. About 20% of the labor force are children under 14 years of age. About 374,000 children between the ages of 6 and 14 work in fields harvested for export.
- Pay by piece-rate dominates, which forces workers to work as much as 12 hours per day.
- The health problems of the workers include malnutrition and chronic-degenerative illnesses because of their constant exposure to dangerous pesticides.
- There are many documented cases of children and adults losing limbs and lives to work-related accidents and illnesses in the fields.
- This internal migration has not improved the marginalization and extreme poverty in which these families live. They often return home with barely enough money saved to get them through till they return again to the camps six months later.

**For further information contact Fair Food Across Borders:  
info@fairfoodab.org www.fairfoodab.org**

The DVD, *Paying the Price: Migrant Workers in the Toxic Fields of Sinaloa* can be purchased via [www.fairfoodab.org](http://www.fairfoodab.org) or [www.chiapasmediaproject.org](http://www.chiapasmediaproject.org)