

DIGNIFIED AND FAIR WORK FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

We are meeting in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico on April 28, 29, and 30 of this year to commemorate May 1, International Labor Day, as organizations dedicated to defending human rights for migrant workers and their families as from Guatemala, Mexico and the United States.

We demand the following of these countries:

1. Public policies that respect the dignity and human rights of all migrant workers.
2. The implementation, strengthening and/or ratification of international norms, treaties and agreements as a standard that guarantees respect for the human rights of migrant workers.
3. The halt of criminalization and persecution of migrant workers, either in their country of origin, in transit or at their destination. This includes labeling them as terrorists, gang members, or drug traffickers.
4. Those who commit racist offenses, or are violent toward migrant workers should be punished accordingly. Family members of migrant workers who are deceased or unaccounted for should be compensated fairly.
5. The promotion of policies are in favor of migrant workers and their families, specifically on the bordering areas of the United States, Mexico and Central America. These policies should be initiated and supported by all levels of government within and across these nations.
6. The authorities and government officials should fulfill their responsibilities stated by human rights policies. For example, the military and law enforcement personnel do not have the authority to apprehend migrant workers. Government authorities must respect the physical, moral and psychological integrity of all migrant workers.
7. Laws and national policies should be adjusted to mirror international agreements and treaties in order to protect the dignity and human rights of all migrant workers; we emphatically urge the United States to approve and ratify these legal instruments.
8. The United States, Mexico, and Guatemala should request international observers to verify the compliance and observance of human rights within the border zones, as outlined in these international agreements and treaties.
9. The governments in this region have the responsibility to develop protection policies against unfair treatment of people and to implement sanctions against those who bear responsibility, in compliance with laws and treaties on Human

Rights, thus guaranteeing the protection of these victims. We therefore demand that the United States government apply the same guarantees that exist for visa H-2A to visa H-2B, in order to prevent the grave violations of the rights of temporary/seasonal migrant workers that have been occurring up to this date.

10. The behest of the governments responsible for labor issues must guarantee the observance of laws that ensure the protection of migrant workers, especially with regards to the enforcement of labor agreements outside of the home country.

We continue dreaming of a different world for all migrant workers, with more humane laws and just policies. We are truly united in the struggle of working people across the world, and especially with migrant workers and their families.

Signatories:

FRENTE AUTENTICO DE TRABAJO -FST-; CENTRO PASTORAL DE ATENCION AL MIGRANTE -CPAM- Guatemala; RED DE DEFENSORES COMUNITARIOS POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS; CENTRO REGIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS "BARTOLOME CARRASCO" AC; PASTORAL DE MOVILIDAD HUMANA, Diócesis de San Marcos; PASTORAL SOCIAL, Diócesis de Huehuetenango; GLOBAL WORKERS JUSTICE ALLIANCE; CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS "FRAY MATIAS DE CORDOVA" AC, Tapachula, Chiapas; CASA DE MIGRANTE, TECUN UMAN, San Marcos, Guatemala; PASTORAL DE MOVILIDAD HUMANA, Conferencia Episcopal de Guatemala; FRENTE INDIGENA DE ORGANIZACIONES BINACIONALES; CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS NU'U JI KANDII; PASTORAL SOCIAL DE MOVILIDAD HUMANA, México; PROCURADURIA DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, Chiquimula, Guatemala.

Tapachula, México, April 30, 2008