

Think Sweatshops Only Exist in Other Countries?

Farmworkers labor for sub-poverty wages without the right to organize, the right to overtime pay, or benefits of any kind. Pickers for Florida-based tomato companies earn 40-45 cents for every 32-lb. bucket of tomatoes that they pick. At this rate, a farmworker must pick 2 tons of tomatoes to earn just \$50 in one day. In the most most extreme cases, workers endure situations of modern-day slavery.

Think Again.

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The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), an organization of mainly Mexican, Guatemalan and Haitian farmworkers, has been organizing for over a decade to end sweatshop conditions in Florida's fields. After a four-year boycott, the CIW reached an unprecedented agreement with Taco Bell in 2005 that established important new precedents for corporate social responsibility in the fast-food industry.

Following the boycott victory, the CIW turned to fast-food giant McDonald's.

But rather than work with the CIW to expand the precedents established through the boycott, McDonald's has taken a path that threatens to undercut the wage gains won by farmworkers in the Taco Bell Boycott and push workers back away from the table where decisions are made that affect their lives.

McDonald's clearly knows how to do better. The fast-food giant recently announced an agreement to purchase only fair-trade coffee for over 650 of its restaurants. Yet McDonald's refuses to pay even a penny more per pound for its tomatoes so that Florida farmworkers can earn a better wage. Likewise, McDonald's requires its toy suppliers in China to respect internationally recognized labor rights, including the right to overtime pay and the right to organize, but refuses to require its tomato suppliers in Florida to respect those same fundamental rights.

Join the CIW in demanding that McDonald's treat farmworkers with respect, demand truly humane labor standards of its suppliers, and pay a fairer price for tomatoes in order to address farmworker poverty – poverty which has helped pad McDonald's profits for more than 50 years.

Sweatshops and Slavery DO exist in the fields of the United States.

BUT THEY DON'T HAVE TO CONTINUE.

For more information, visit www.ciw-online.org
or send us an e-mail at workers@ciw-online.org

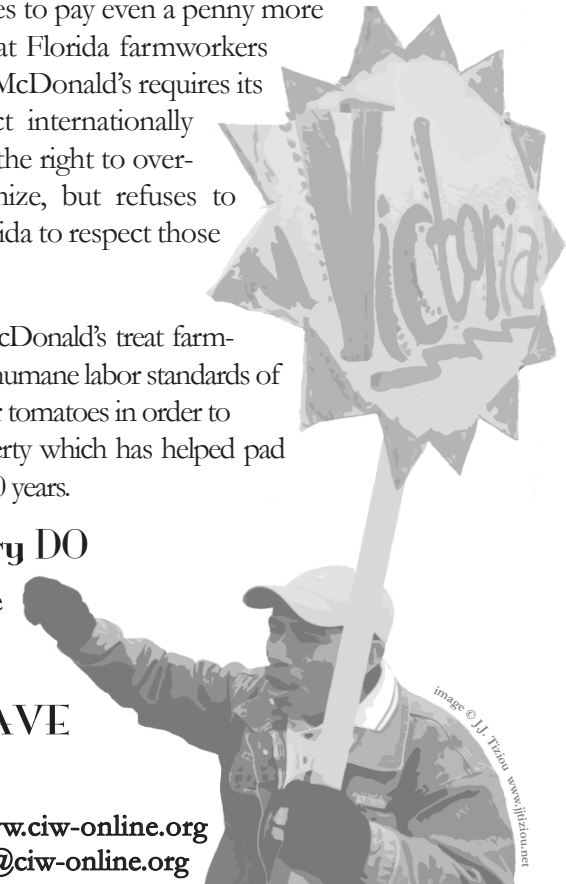


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