On Thursday, November 20, 2014 President Obama announced his executive order on immigration. The President’s executive order will allow undocumented immigrants, who have lived in the United States for at least five years and have children who are US citizens or Legal Permanent Residents, to temporarily work and live in the United States without fear of deportation as long as they pass a criminal background check, pay all of their taxes, and pay a fee. The executive order also expands the pool of people eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to include those who arrived before Jan. 1, 2010 without any age limitation.

We support the fact that this order will allow a portion of the undocumented population a period of relief from the fear of deportation that they live with every day. However, we are disappointed with the limits to this action. Most of our members will not qualify for this relief even though they have been working and paying taxes in the United States for many years. For those that will qualify, the order is still discriminatory. Undocumented immigrants who qualify for the temporary deportation relief will continue to be excluded from the Affordable Care Act.

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To Tell the Truth

BY: NELSON CARRASQUILLO, GENERAL COORDINATOR

“No, we do not want to catch up with anyone. What we want to do is to go forward all the time, night and day, in the company of Man, in the company of all men. The caravan should not be stretched out, for in that case each line will hardly see those who precede it; and men who no longer recognize each other meet less and less together, and talk to each other less and less.”

- Franz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth, 1961

“In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

- George Orwell, 1984

Double speak is what you need to know in order to understand the reality of the migrant community in the United States. Listen carefully to what is being said, translate it to the opposite, and finally you will understand the reality and what it really means. There is much talk about addressing the “broken immigration system,” but actions show that many want to keep it exactly the way that is it now.

President Obama’s announcement focused on giving some undocumented immigrants deportation relief for possibly the next three years. Ideally during that time Congress will come to an agreement and pass a comprehensive immigration reform law that would ensure that the migrant community has the opportunity to stay and live in peace. Nice idea, right? Only in dreamland.

Our membership knows what the reality is all too well. The migrant community lives it every day. They know what it means to be living as a “criminal,” persecuted and exploited. They have learned that in order to survive they have to be invisible and keep their heads down, and hopefully by surviving, their children can have a chance for a better life.

We live in challenging times as we in our communities and families, and within ourselves, face the option of either accepting the reality of things as they are or acknowledging the need to stand up and fight. We need to turn resistance to a real effort to change the circumstances that currently dominate.

So let’s walk the walk and together in our resistance make the necessary change for ourselves, our children, and all human beings. It is upon those who are safe to recognize that there is need for change and to tell the truth.
CATA Statement… Continued from page 1

The claim is that this order will temporarily protect around 5 million undocumented immigrants from deportation, including the expanded eligible population for the DACA program. However, that does not mean that all 5+ million will apply due to the fact that this order has a very unclear future. Justifiably, many undocumented immigrants fear that putting their name on a list for temporary relief will lead to negative consequences when the President leaves office and should his order be overturned by the next President.

We at CATA understand that the presence of undocumented workers in the U.S. not only contributes to the betterment of civil society but is a crucial element for the viability of our broken food system. For example, New Jersey would lose $24.2 billion in economic activity and about 103,898 jobs if all unauthorized immigrants were removed. Our society and, in particular, the corporate agricultural and food industries, takes advantage of the vulnerability of the undocumented population in order to maintain low salaries and increase profits. Although undocumented immigrants contribute financially through purchasing and living costs, they are systemically kept in poverty. This order does very little to address any of those issues.

While this executive order is a step in the right direction, it is far from addressing the real problems; it is merely a small band-aid on the gaping wound that is our broken immigration system. The President is right to address this issue, but much more needs to be done. Congress needs to stop focusing on petty politics and come up with a genuine, comprehensive solution. We will continue to push for a path to citizenship as a solution to the presence of more than 11 million undocumented people. The principle which immigration policy should be based on is the fulfillment of the human rights and dignity of every person. We affirm that the struggle goes beyond the recognition of the basic human rights of migrants and workers. The struggle is to challenge society to not be guided by fear and intolerance, but by the recognition of the value and inherent dignity of human life.

AJP in 2014!

The Agricultural Justice Project and the Food Justice Certified Label have had an exciting year. Here are just a few highlights!

- The Food Justice Certified Label received top notch honors and national recognition from two independent reviews by Consumers Union and the Domestic Fair Trade Association. Check out these websites to read those reviews and look up reviews of other labels and certification.
  * Domestic Fair Trade Association: http://fairfacts.thedfta.org/

- New Farms and Businesses were certified in the northeast! Among those certified were GreenStar Natural Foods Coop, Piggery Butcher and Local Grocer, and West Haven Farm in Ithaca, New York.

- The “Hungry for Justice: Spotlight on the South” Documentary by Little Bean Productions was shown around the country as efforts to education and recruit consumers, farmers, and farmworkers on the Food Justice Certified Label stepped up! You can watch the 20-minute film here: http://vimeo.com/94461946

Members of the Agrarian Action Network at a November AJP event to educate and recruit local farms and businesses for Food Justice certification in western Massachusetts.
CATA members held many events over the course of the year to fundraise for the CATA radio station including the very first CATA Dance!

CATA organizers supported a group of bakery workers who were unjustly fired. Activities included an online petition and rallies at the company and with supporters in Philadelphia.

Thank you for your continued support of CATA’s work!
At CATA’s General Assembly, members talked about the reality facing undocumented immigrants today and what they need to do to fight for change and for justice. They also elected a new Board of Directors to lead them in that fight.

CATA’s community gardens continued to grow with members planting and harvesting from organic gardens in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

CATA staff and members dialogued with many groups of students this year, educating them on the issues facing migrant workers and how they can advocate for a more just food system at their college or university.

CATA continued to empower workers through health and safety trainings and advocacy trips, making sure that their voice is heard.
The deadline for the public comment period on changes to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) was August 18, 2014. CATA submitted a comprehensive comment highlighting the toxic realities of our members. In addition, CATA supporters submitted nearly 200 comments and we also influenced other organizations, individual experts, and lawmakers to submit comments emphasizing stronger protections for farmworkers. Now that the deadline has passed, we are looking forward to putting strategic pressure on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take action on much the needed reforms.

Recently, we went to Washington D.C. and met with EPA leadership in charge of the WPS. In regards to pesticide exposure, we shared farmworker stories and our 35+ years of experience organizing in the fields. To our benefit, the EPA leadership informed us about the status and timeline of the WPS implementation process. The EPA is currently reviewing public comments and, using this information, will be putting together the final rule soon. Among other details, we came out of the meeting knowing that the final rule of the WPS will be published in May 2015. We will use the information from the meeting to strengthen our campaign.

Continuing our dialogue with the EPA, next month we are planning a pesticide training to be observed by EPA staff members. Given that some staff members have never seen a pesticide training, this will provide CATA the opportunity to demonstrate the reality of farmworkers in this regard.

A way to stay engaged with this issue is through our postcards campaign. Concerned members have the opportunity to write a message about their opinion on or experience with the WPS on a postcard and send it to the EPA. This is another way that CATA is putting pressure on the responsible government officials. To receive a postcard and share your opinion or experience, please contact us for more information.

In addition to the EPA, CATA has also approached the

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**What is the WPS?**

The Working Protection Standard (WPS) is the primary set of federal regulations aimed at reducing the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers. Administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the WPS requires agricultural establishments that grow and harvest for commercial production to comply with safety measures such as pesticide safety training for farmworkers, notification of pesticide applications, and emergency medical assistance. Yet protections to workers afforded by the WPS are fundamentally inadequate. In fact, the EPA admitted that even when there is full compliance with the WPS, “risks to workers still exceed EPA’s level of concern.”
Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) to better address worker safety. OSHA is the government agency that is responsible for providing and enforcing safe and healthy working conditions. CATA has a meeting with OSHA later this month to discuss OSHA’s jurisdiction to protect farmworkers when the EPA fails to do so.

Besides meeting with government officials in Washington D.C., we will be engaging the community with various actions as we approach the May deadline. While it is important to put pressure on government agencies in Washington D.C., it is not the only action we should take or the principal one. True power comes from the people and our community. If we want changes to the WPS and other aspects of our lives, not only do we have to demand them, but we also have to create the conditions for change to occur. Only collective power from the community enables us to create genuine changes. We are calling on you to act and participate!
Yes, I want to be part of the farmworkers’ struggle for justice!

Here is my donation of:
$30____ $50____ $75____
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