

### TRW Workers Struggle:

At the end of January 2010, TRW workers traveled eight hours to demonstrate in the capital of Tamaulipas in support of their case. CJM members sent letters to President Calderón calling his attention to the TRW workers struggle and the failure of NAFTA. On February 3 and 5, TRW workers demonstrated in front of the Labor Department of Reynosa demanding that the Attorney General enforce the labor law. As a result, on February 10, the Labor Department gave the workers a document on government letterhead recognizing the TRW Workers' Coalition as the workers' representative instead of the



CTM official union. This was a major accomplishment in their struggle, setting an historic precedent in workers' struggles for labor rights in the maquiladora industry on the northern border of Mexico. Continued on page 7...



### International Labor Organization Complaint:

CJM again set an historic precedent by joining with the Telephone Workers' Union of Mexico, the Democratic Lawyers Association (ANAD), labor organizations, unions, and other allied organizations who are CJM members on February 22 to present a complaint to the Freedom of Association Committee of the International Labor

Organization (ILO) at its meeting in Mexico City.

The complaint focuses on violations of Mexican maquiladora workers' right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. CJM, maquiladora workers, and CJM member organizations compiled the evidence in the complaint from cases in the maquiladora industry located on the northern border of Mexico. The cases



date from 1994, the year the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect. Continued on page 9...

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- TRW Workers Coalition struggle	7
- CJM sets an historic precedent at the ILO	9
- Workers empowerment	11
- Interfaith Prayer for Peace	6
- Maquiladora workers' supporters in San Diego and Tijuana - Ollin Calli	4
- We are all migrants	8
- Community alternatives	11

### CJM on the West Coast -By Enrique Dávalos-

Several organizations affiliated with CJM challenge the maquiladoras on the West Coast. In Tijuana, the Collective Ollin Calli ("Collective in Motion" in Nahuatl) organizes workshops about labor rights and provides legal and political advice to maquiladora workers. For example, Ollin Calli advised Sharp workers who organized a walkout in September 2010. Despite Tijuana's terrible unemployment...

Continued on page 4.

## **CJM Board of Directors 2009-2012**

### **CJM Honorary Board members**

David Bacon- Journalist, writer, photographer and organizer-Berkeley, California

### **International organizations**

#### **Argentina**

Daniel Ximénez- Labor Study Workshop

#### **Brazil and Chile**

Sergio Bertoni / Ivan Saldias- TIE- Transnational Information Exchange \*

#### **Haiti**

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#### **Canadian organization**

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Carlos Marentes- Border Farmer Worker Project- El Paso, TX.

Delia Herrera- Garment Workers Center- LA

Elena Herrada- El Centro Obrero de Detroit, Detroit, MI

Enrique Dávalos- San Diego Maquiladora Workers Solidarity Network

Graciela Sánchez- Esperanza Peace and Justice Center- San Antonio, TX

Irma Avila, OSB- Sisters of Loretto- Englewood, Co

James Jordan- CLR- Campaign for Labor Rights, Washington, DC

Josè Moreno- LIUNA- Laborers International Union, Pleasanton, CA .

Continued page 4

## **THE COALITION FOR JUSTICE IN THE MAQUILADORAS**



*The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras (CJM) is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to democratic processes and coordination. CJM is composed of organizations and individuals in Mexico, the United States, Canada and other countries strategically linked to the struggle to defend workers' rights in the maquiladora industry in Mexico. CJM has members in Latin America, including Central America and the Caribbean, as well as other regions. Members represent organizations from faith, labor rights, environmental justice, community-based, women's' rights and immigrants' rights groups, as well as other sectors. Our goal is to work together to guarantee equality of opportunity for all, while being sensitive to the diverse cultures involved in CJM, as well as the need for pluralistic representation, and respect for the autonomy of CJM member groups.*

*Fundamental to CJM's mission is a commitment to improve working conditions and living standards for workers in the maquiladora industry. We strive in a coordinated and multi-disciplinary way for a better quality of life, sustainable development, social justice, human rights and environmental justice in communities.*

*Our actions are carried out wherever maquiladora companies and multinational corporations violate workers' rights or impact negatively the right of communities to protect and safeguard their environment.*

*We place special emphasis on defending the rights of women in the maquiladoras who suffer discrimination, humiliation, and sexual harassment. CJM will support workers' struggles on the shop floor and in the community.*

*Our activities consist of organizing, educating and consciousness raising, promoting self-reliance and solidarity among men and women workers and their communities, as well as exerting pressure on corporations, with the following objectives:*

- 1. To raise salaries so as to achieve greater economic and social justice;*
- 2. To improve and monitor the enforcement of occupational health and safety standards in the maquiladoras;*
- 3. To promote and strengthen democratic workers' organizations and the enforcements of core labor standards, including the right to freedom of association;*
- 4. To establish measures for the protection and restoration of the environment so as to improve the quality of life in communities where maquiladora plants are operating;*
- 5. To defend the rights of women workers, guaranteeing access to employment without discrimination, health, reproductive health, equity in the workplace, and equality in all aspects of life.*
- 6. To pressure maquiladora companies and multi-national corporations, using all appropriate means, to adopt socially responsible operating standards in order to ensure a healthy environment inside maquiladora plants and within communities, and a higher quality of life for the workers.*



## **A message from Amelia Simpson, CJM president:**

*It's been my honor to serve as president of CJM's board of directors during a year that brought us great outrage, sorrow and uncertainty, along with a strengthening of our resolve, our hopes, and our conviction that "another maquiladora is possible." I would like to recognize all the workers whose struggles define our organization, nourish us and give voice to those who have fallen along the way. I also want to recognize all of our supporters whose resources and*

*solidarity transform us into a permanent movement for international justice. CJM has overcome serious challenges this year, one of which was the health crisis that our executive director and compañera Martha suffered beginning in June. Fortunately, she can now declare herself a cancer survivor, she's returned to work and we can count on her tremendous skill and spirit to guide CJM in its third decade. We're moving forward, opening paths for a more just Mexico and a more just world. In solidarity.*

**Amelia Simpson**

## **Going Forward by Sr. Susan Mika**

### **Shareholder Actions**

*The religious groups continue to raise questions with corporations which have maquiladora factories. Efforts have been hampered in recent years by bankruptcies of Delphi, Visteon and General Motors. When a company is in bankruptcy, they need only deal with the bankruptcy judge – not the shareholders. ICCR members have continued to press companies to take responsibility for labor conditions in their supply chains by adopting codes of conduct based on the ILO core labor standards and to work with trade unions and non-governmental organizations to improve wages and working conditions globally. Whenever asked, the shareholders continue to support the workers.*

### **Trade Agreements**

*CJM has led the fight for 21 years on*

*what type of trade agreements might bring dignity and justice for workers. CJM developed talking points in a press release on August 17, 1991 and released the Maquiladora Standards of Conduct. This was breaking new ground. All these years later, we are still raising the concerns in the Standards:*

- Responsible practices for handling hazardous wastes and protecting the environment
- Health and safety practices
- Fair employment practices and standard of living
- Community impact

### **Purchasing Power Index**

*Many CEOs of companies are receiving exorbitant pay packages. In 2000, CJM, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) and the Center for Reflection, Action and Education (CREA) published a Purchasing Power Index Study which documented that the*



*workers needed four to five times the Mexican minimum wage to purchase basics. For the past 4 years, the religious and unions have asked that shareholders have a "Say on Executive Pay." Through the Dodd-Frank Bill which is now law in the U.S. that will be a reality.*

*In so many ways, the struggle is for the long term. We keep each other in prayer and continue to make progress every day.*

**The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras would like to thank all the volunteers who donated their time, efforts, resources and skills to CJM in the past year: Without your support we couldn't make it!**

### **Ollin Calli:**

*Cathie DeWeese-Parkinson  
Lynn DeWeese-Parkinson  
Dara Carpio  
Martin Arias  
Antonia Arias  
Margarita Avalos  
Mayoli*

### **Colectivo Chilpancingo:**

*Magdalena Cerda  
Lourdes y Lupita Luján  
Yesenia Palomares  
Eva y Ana Langarica  
Sonia Pérez  
Lucy Félix  
Myrna Flores  
Adela Martínez  
Magdalena Silva  
Karina Zavala*

### **San Diego Maquiladora**

**Solidarity Network**  
*Enrique Dávalos  
Crisalia González  
Lisa Schifrin  
Martin Arias  
Pam Barrat  
Ken Barrat  
Virginia Franco  
Fred Lonidier  
Herb Shore*

### **Also special thanks to:**

**Amelia Simpson-  
Environmental Health  
Coalition,  
for her leadership and  
commitment.**

### **Individuals:**

**Steve Aboytes  
Laura Weitzman  
Apolinar Martínez**



**CJM Board of Directors  
2009-2012**

**United States organizations**

Justin Vitiello- IWW- Industrial Workers of the World- Philadelphia, PH

Ray Figueroa- Salt of the Earth-Job with Justice- Arizona, AZ

Ruth Rosenbaum- Center for Reflection, Education and Action CREA

William Jungle- Latin American Solidarity Committee of the Western New York Peace Center, Buffalo, NY

**México Maquila workers and Grassroots' organizations**

Blanca E. Hermida- Blanca Navidad, Nuevo Laredo, Tamps\*

Carmen Valadez- Binational Collective Feminist- Tijuana, BC.

Edelmira Rodriguez -Independent Union of LAJAT Workers. Gómez Palacio, Dgo \*

Gerardo Juarez,-Workers in Struggle Committee- Cd. Juárez

Israel Monroy- Labor and Popular Defense Comité- Valle Hermoso, Tamps \*

Jaime Cota - Workers' Information Center Tijuana, B C

María del Refugio Guzmán Flores - Youth for Justice Río Bravo, Tamps

María Guadalupe Vázquez Camacho- KSS Workers' Coalition, Valle Hermoso, Tamps

Maria Luisa Becerra- CETRAC- Workers and Communities Center, Nuevo Laredo, Tamps

Teresa Chávez- DODS- Labor Rights and Union Democracy Reynosa, Tamps.

Continued on page 6

## **CJM in the West Coast - By Enrique Davalos-**

*(continued from front page).... more than 700 workers abandoned the production line demanding salary increases, transportation and an end to sexual harassment. After a day of struggle, the company was ready to negotiate with the workers. (OllinCalliCM.blogspot.com)*

*Also in Tijuana, the Chilpancingo Collective for Environmental Justice fights against the water, soil and air pollution in local communities by maquiladoras. The Chilpancingo Collective is currently fighting to stop the eighteen wheelers that carry maquiladora goods from using the streets of Colonia Chilpancingo and Colonia Murua as shortcuts. The drivers are trying to avoid Tijuana's chaotic traffic, but the truck emissions damage the respiratory system of residents, especially the children. (www.environmentalhealth.org/BorderEHC/index).*

*Both the Ollin Calli and Chilpancingo Collectives have created cooperatives that produce grocery recycling bags, clothes, jewelry, food and other products. These efforts encourage fair trade and alternative economies, and respect for the environment and Mother Earth. These small community-oriented businesses are centers of popular education. They are nuclei of activism fighting the maquiladoras, and also an effort to build a world without maquiladoras.*

North of the border, the San Diego Maquiladora Workers' Solidarity Network supports the Tijuana workers' struggles and organizing. By holding bi-national events and gatherings, the SD Network, Ollin Calli and the Collective Chilpancingo educate U.S. students and activists about the reality of Tijuana, Neoliberalism and the maquiladoras. These groups organize the "Tijuana maquiladora tours" that are attended by students, artists and activists in spite of the fear of traveling to Mexico and the prohibition by universities of students to go to Mexico (sdmaquila.org). The film Maquilapolis is a powerful documentary used to develop links and collaboration between activists and people of both sides of the border (www.maquilapolis.com). Violence, unemployment, urban volatility and super exploitation in Tijuana are obstacles to the education and organizing of workers, yet they are also opportunities to encourage social change, unity and imagination. The CJM West Coast organizations keep working for justice! Adelante.





**Dear friends and members,**

Once again, this is the time of the year when I have the opportunity to tell you that you mean so much to CJM, and to thank you for your longstanding support and commitment to social justice.

We have so much to be thankful for, yet it is difficult to keep the smiles on our faces and the joy and cheer in our hearts during the holiday season, when we look around us and when we think about what we have gone through or had happen to us.

What a challenging year 2010 has been! The economy has been shaking worldwide; the impunity of multinational corporations manifests itself at the Mexican border with massive layoffs and no severance payment, with the complicity of company-friendly unions and labor authorities, such as is the case with TRW in Reynosa. At the same time, violence by organized crime is extreme and out of control, and Mexico has become more militarized, frightening people and sacrificing more innocent victims than drug dealers. Personally, I faced the most unexpected and unpredictable challenge of my life when I was diagnosed with cancer this summer.

In the middle of worldwide turbulence, of people taking to the streets and rising up against governments that were cutting off jobs, health and education; in the middle of this, the inevitable collapse of an unsustainable global economy - I was in the limbo of uncertainty and fear about my illness. At the same time, CJM did not raise enough funds to fully cover staff expenses and it was necessary to cut health benefits, and eventually to let go of CJM's financial coordinator Alonzo Ugarte.

I was undergoing lab tests, treatments and three surgeries, fighting back not just cancer, but also the anguish of

not knowing the outcome. Meanwhile, the TRW workers were on the frontlines resisting the impacts of the dehumanizing economic system. The CJM grassroots organizations and volunteer members, along with CJM's president, carried on our mission and work during these past months.

I walked a path of illness, facing my own fears and weakness. I also tried to reconcile myself and be grateful to God, the universe, and mother nature for the marvelous opportunity of living these times; but most of all, for finding all you, friends, activists, allies and partners in my journey of life, who helped me so much to learn and to grow. I found out that I was very lucky having all of you in my life and that I was thankful for all those whose paths I crossed and that I did not regret any moment of the mission and path that I took in my journey of life. Instead, I thought that if I had another chance, I would take on the same mission. After all these months of illness, pain and anguish, here I am, ready to return all the love, friendship, support, and inspiration that I received during this time.

I want to thank, my partner; she was a very strong supporter and was at my side every moment during this time of darkness. And I want to acknowledge and thank all workers who are fighting back for their rights and dignity in the front lines, especially those of the TRW Workers' Coalition, who set a precedent when they were recognized as the workers' representative by the labor department. I also want to thanks to Edelmira Reyes and Israel Monroy, who had the courage to present their case and many other workers cases in our labor complaint to the ILO authorities on behalf of the CJM members, setting an historic precedent in the history of the labor movement on the northern border. I want to recognize the work and dedication of Estela Ríos from ANAD, who worked so professionally on the ILO complaint and in the Workers' Empowerment Program.

I also thank Israel Monroy for his dedication to the TRW workers struggle and the workers of the Blanca Navidad shanty town. I thank

Ernesto Lizcano, a TRW worker who represented CJM at North Vista College in San Antonio, Texas, Elena Félix and Yesenia Palomares who participated in an Encuentro in Mexico City, and Margarita Avalos and Maria del Refugio who represented CJM at meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina. These events demonstrate the success of CJM's leadership and workers' empowerment efforts. I send my appreciation to El Mañana, which organized the interfaith prayer for peace along with local organizations and which has been a strong supporter of CJM. I give my thanks to El Centro Obrero de Detroit and the San Diego Maquiladora Workers' Support Network, as well the Colectivo Chilpancingo and Ollin Calli. I give a special thanks to Sr Susan Mika and Sr Ruth Rosenbaum, ICCR, and to all the Sisters and religious organizations who make our work possible and who have been praying for my health. I would like to recognize the Latino American Project from TIE and so many other members, foundations, individual donors, and supporters who were ready and willing to respond and to wear the CJM t-shirt in this tough time. But especially I would like to thank Amelia Simpson, CJM President, for her leadership and commitment as an invaluable and tireless supporter. Thank you all for your work supporting CJM! I have no doubt that with our continued efforts someday our dreams for social justice and a better world will come true.

Martha A. Ojeda





**CJM Board of Directors  
2009-2012**

**México other organizations**

Elia Galindo -MUSA- Union Women Association Oaxaca

Lic. Guillermina Solis- Workers' Field- Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua

Lic. Estela Rios -ANAD- National Association of Democratic Lawyers, Mexico City\*

Martin Esparza -SME- Mexican Electrical Workers Union- México City.

Ninfa Deandar- El Mañana Newspaper, Nuevo Laredo, Tamps

Rosario Ortiz Magallon - RMS, Union Women's Network - Mexico, City

**CJM Officers 2009-2012**

President  
Amelia Simpson- Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, CA\*

Treasurer  
Lic. Estela Rios -ANAD- National Association of Democratic Lawyers, Mexico City\*

Secretary  
Israel Monroy Barron- Labor and Popular Defense Comité- Valle Hermoso, Tamps \*

**Sharp Tijuana workers walkout!**



By Ollin Calli- September 29, 7:00 p.m  
About 700 maquiladora workers walked out at the Sharp maquiladora in Rosarito, on the outskirts of Tijuana. The workers created a committee to talk with the company administration, the Labor Secretary and the union that "represents" them.



The managers of the Japanese company did not want to talk with the committee. Meanwhile,

an outsourcing company set up a booth next to the factory to hire people to replace the workers participating in the walkout. The police surrounded the workers, but did not interfere.



The workers committee passed out a flyer with their demands:

1. Wages increase according to the market, not fictional
2. Wages increase for 2010 and 2009, retroactive
3. Annual evaluation based on inflation and performance
5. Definition of promotions for wages increase
6. Assign budget for a real training for workers

7. A better labor atmosphere by training managers, supervisors and production lines' leaders in fair and equal labor relationships
8. Recognition of multiple abilities of workers showing their personal and economic development
9. Overtime work paid as that and not as worked "resting-time"

During night-time negotiations, the company offered a 4% wage increase. The workers agreed to return to work, but they are still dissatisfied. (OllinCalli.com.blogspot.com).



**Interfaith Prayer for Peace:**

CJM, El Mañana newspaper, a CJM Board member, and local organizations organized a Cross-Border Interfaith Prayer for Peace on September 19. The ecumenical ceremony was held in the Nuevo Laredo Cathedral. The bishop, Gustavo Rodríguez Vega, and the priest, Gianantonio Baggio from the Casa del Migrante in Nuevo Laredo, welcomed the Buddhist Lama Tsultim Sangpo, and Methodist, Evangelical, and Lutheran pastors and ministers as well. The Bishop celebrated mass, and each of the leaders of different faiths delivered a message for peace. At the end, white doves and balloons were released as symbols of peace. On October 23, on the other side of the river, people met at the park next to the river in Laredo, Texas, and lit

candles for a cross-border interfaith prayer for peace. Initially the plan included a ceremony to be held at the immigrant monument next to the river and the candles were to be released to float on the river in memory of the 72 undocumented people massacred in August in San Fernando, Tamaulipas. However, the government of Laredo, Texas, denied the permit for releasing candles on the water and the government of Laredo, Mexico, considered the activity too risky since the cartels control the riverbank for their business. However, on November 2, father Gianantonio Baggio from the Casa del Migrante in Nuevo Laredo honored the 72 undocumented people massacred in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, celebrating a mass at the immigrant monument and releasing flowers on the river instead of candles.

**TRW Workers' Struggle**  
(continued from front cover)....

On April 13 and 15, TRW workers demonstrated in front of the company facility and in front of the Reynosa Labor Department, demanding accountability from the TRW Corporation and from the labor board.



On May Day, the TRW Workers Coalition organized an Independent March for Jobs and Justice. The CTM union and police tried to stop them from marching, but despite harassment and blocked streets, the workers were able to get on stage, where they confronted the authorities and ghost unions who were proudly announcing the re-opening of the TRW plant with new workers at the lowest wages and no benefits. The TRW Workers' Coalition exposed them and demanded jobs with justice, enforcement of labor law, and accountability by the TRW corporation.



In July TRW workers mobilized and called for a final push in support of their legal case. CJM Action Committee members, the San Diego Maquiladora Workers' Solidarity Network, and TRW workers organized a "phone blast" campaign targeting

TRW headquarters and Mexican labor authorities on August 9, 2010. TRW headquarters management responded to CJM members with falsehoods, but as a result of the insistent phone calls, the CAB (labor board) President declared "I want to end this case as soon as possible because of the intensive mobilizations."



CJM and TRW workers organized the first Vigil and Press Conference for Justice on the border on August 28. The Vigil and a mass were held at the Guadalupe Parish in Reynosa, Mexico, preceded by a press conference. The workers made the following declarations to the media...



"We, the TRW Workers' Coalition, have been resisting the TRW Corporation's abuse for more than a year and a half in a labor dispute. Despite all the obstacles that we have faced, despite the corruption and impunity of the company, the government and the CTM union, we still believe in justice. Olga, a TRW Worker said, "We have been denied justice through the impunity of the TRW Company and through the corruption of our government that allows multinationals like

TRW to exploit workers." "It is time to get justice back!" TRW worker Ernesto Lizcano declared. "We challenge trw to respect workers' rights. TRW is a global corporation that is increasing poverty in our country with its unethical practices and impunity. Justice belongs to us and it's time to claim it--we are looking forward to a resolution with justice from the labor board!" said TRW worker Gumersinda de la Cruz.



While the workers were in the middle of the press conference affirming their claim to the right to work, suddenly bullets and explosions from a battle between cartels broke out in the main plaza. Workers ran through the gunfire into the church where Father Leopoldo González from Reynosa welcomed the workers and celebrated the mass and vigil for justice and against



violence. On September 31 the CAB absolved the TRW Corporation of any responsibility in the case. However, the President of the labor board declared to the media that the workers had the right to appeal the resolution. On October 27, while TRW workers were still preparing their appeal to the Supreme Court, Aristeo



Mejía, a young TRW worker, committed suicide in desperation because of his lack of employment. Aristeo was blacklisted by the company and could not endure the impunity of the corporation and the complicity of the management-friendly union and the government in dragging out the legal case. His death is an example of the desperation that workers are facing around the world. On



October 30 the TRW workers presented the appeal to the Supreme Court. On November 2 the workers celebrated the Day of the Dead with a march carrying a coffin and protesting against the labor department resolution. In the main plaza, they conducted a symbolic burying of impunity, corruption and complicity of the government, union and TRW Corporation. TRW workers are still waiting for the Supreme Court decision on their case. Continued on page 12





## **We Are All Migrants Campaign:**

CJM started collecting a database of churches and volunteer organizations in Mexico, Guatemala, and the US, where immigrants can receive support. The database can be used to report to families that migrants have crossed the Guatemala-Mexico and US-Mexican borders safely. CJM also collected a database of religious organizations that can provide support or legal advice at the US border and a list of the Mexican Consulates in the US. With this information in their hands, immigrants can find sources of support and legal advice should they face detention or deportation.

Copies of the data will be available and will be provided to the Casas del Migrante and volunteer organizations for distribution to immigrants. The plan is not just to provide migrants with guidance on churches or volunteer organizations where they can ask for support, but also to enable them to pass along information to their relatives. In this way, immigrants' families in Mexico or Guatemala will be able to track the route their relatives are following and find out whether their loved ones arrived safely in the U.S. The database includes the Casas del Migrante, sanctuaries, pastoral and community members committed to supporting immigrants' rights along the migrant routes in Mexico and at the borders.

In addition, CJM members' research identified Texas as one of the states with a growing business investment in detention centers. Immigration prisons have

expanded from 7,500 beds in 1995 to more than 30,000 in 2010. About one-third of the nation's immigrant detainees are held in Texas. Small towns like Laredo, la Villa, McAllen, East Hidalgo, Raymondville and Port Isabel are among the biggest detention centers. In East Hidalgo alone, the detention center houses 990 immigrant detainees.



## **We Are All Migrants Fundraising Auction**

David Bacon, a CJM Board member, is a distinguished photographer and a cross-cultural writer. He donated one of its most famous photographs of migrant workers—a portrait of labor in the onion fields of California—for the "We Are All Migrants" CJM fundraiser project. Fred Lonidier, another well-known photographer from San Diego, California and a cross-border organizer, donated a photograph of a maquiladora worker's child in a shanty town of Tijuana. The San Diego Maquiladora Workers' Solidarity Network, a member of which is a CJM Board member, coordinated the auction.



## **Corridor for Peace from Michigan to Central America:**

On August 24, seventy-two undocumented people from Brasil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were massacred in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, a small town located 160 km from the US border with Mexico. 14 of them were women and some were pregnant. The undocumented

people paid 3,000 dollars to be taken to the Mexico-US border, but when they reached San Fernando, they were intercepted by "Los Zetas," one of the drug cartels operating in Tamaulipas which is the border state with Texas.

The Zetas are former soldiers who deserted from the Mexican army and now are in the drug business, kidnapping, conducting extortions and human trafficking. 77 undocumented people were together in



this horrible nightmare the Zetas intercepted them and offered them jobs as "killers" (sicarios,) with a \$1,000 payment every two weeks. When the undocumented people refused to work for them, the Zetas killed them in an abandoned warehouse: 72 died, 3 disappeared, and Luis Freddy Lara, a 24-year-old young man from Ecuador, and another young man from Honduras, survived the terrible experience. According to them, a woman who was pregnant and accompanied by her little daughter could be among the three disappeared.



## **The Centro Obrero from Detroit,**

a member of which serves on CJM's Board, is working to support undocumented workers who are deported by immigration raids conducted

by ICE, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. CJM members are concerned about the risks that these workers face when they arrive at the Mexican border with no papers, no ID, and no money to travel to their home town. The concern is that they could easily become victims of organized crime, as happened in the case of an undocumented woman from Chiapas with



two daughters who lived in Detroit, Michigan, for six years. She was arrested in an ICE raid. The Centro Obrero helped with her deportation trial. She and her daughters were deported to Matamoros, Mexico, which is on the border with Brownsville, Texas. However, in order to arrive at her home in Chiapas, she had to cross the whole country from the northern border to the southern border of Mexico. CJM, the Centro Obrero, and grassroots CJM members in Mexico are working together to develop a Corridor for Peace. Through the Corridor, maquila workers and grassroots' CJM members located along the border will be at the bordercrossing to welcome people who the Centro Obrero has reported have been deported by ICE raids. The families of the maquila workers will feed the deportees and will give them information about risks and how to travel to their home towns safely.

Continued on page 9



Neoliberal policies over the past several decades have promoted economic integration at the regional levels by implementing free trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), signed by the US, Mexico, and Canada, as the alternative to national and sustainable development for developing countries.

The neoliberal economic model imposed a new labor culture of "flexibility" in labor relationships that has undermined workers' rights. Like many other developing countries, Mexico was eager to join the global economy and pay the price of complicity with the interests of multinational corporations: a cheap labor force and ghost unions that offer foreign investors protection contracts.

Located on the northern border of Mexico, in close proximity to US consumer markets, the maquiladoras typically sign collective bargaining contracts with ghost unions even before the multinational corporation has begun operations there. The ghost unions agree to protect the company, and exist only on paper because they are not elected by the workers. As result, the workers are not informed that they have a union or collective bargaining rights. Once the workers (most of whom are women) organize themselves to improve their salaries and worker conditions, they face harassment, repression, and arrest by corporations, ghost unions, and the government. Workers who speak out to defend their rights are labeled as trouble makers and may be blacklisted by the company. Blacklisting is a violation of workers' right to work, to freely associate, and to collectively bargain to improve their work conditions, as established in the Mexican Constitution, the Mexican Labor Law, and Conventions 87 and 98 of the ILO signed by Mexican government.

Although the Freedom of Association Committee of the International Labor Organization (ILO) met this year in Mexico, the Mexican government has refused to ratify ILO Convention 98.

### **We Are All Migrants Campaign :**

Continued from page 8... Corridor for Peace volunteers will be companions on the journey and help identify if check points

along the roads are being run by the cartels or the army. Corridor volunteers will give advice on what to say when the police, army or cartels board buses to question travelers and will

offer help until the deportees are safe at home with their families. At the end of the journey, Corridor of Peace volunteers will call the Centro Obrero in Detroit to report and return to the northern border.

## **International Labor Organization Complaint:**



CJM's commitment to workers' empowerment was affirmed when Edelmira Reyes, a former Lajat worker, and Israel Monroy from Labor Defense Committee, both CJM executive committee members, traveled to Mexico City to represent CJM and interact with the ILO's officers. They presented their own cases and explained how the corporations, Mexican labor authorities, and the CTM official union that represents the company instead of workers, harassed, repressed and fired workers. The complaint demonstrates a persistent and systematic pattern of violations to the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining as established in the Mexican Constitution, Federal Labor Law, and International Conventions 87 and 98 of the ILO as exemplified in the following cases: Sony, Han Young (Hyundai), Custom Trim (GM, Ford & Chrysler), DURO (GAP), LAJAT (Levi's), y KSS (GM, Ford & Chrysler).

The Attorney Estela Rios from the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (ANAD) in Mexico City developed the legal arguments of the case. She also has overseen the Labor Legal Advocates, who compiled the legal files from the labor department, testimonies, documents, newspapers and any other evidence of their cases.

The purpose of presenting the complaint is to denounce and redress violations of workers' rights by multinational corporations and the Mexican government, which protects management-friendly "ghost" unions and supports bargaining practices that fail to hold companies accountable. The complaint will provide an opportunity for maquiladora workers to secure enforcement of their rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining, rights that have been eroded within the context of neoliberal economic and political policies.



**Women's Leadership:**



*On February 20, 2010, Luz Elena Félix and Yesenia Palomares from the Colectivo Chilpancingo in Tijuana represented CJM in an International Encounter of Occupational Health organized by the Women's Union Network (RMS) in Mexico City.*

*On February 16-20, CJM and Magdalena Cerda from the Colectivo Chilpancingo in Tijuana participated as guest speakers during the "Week for Environmental Justice" organized by the University of Berkeley, California.*

*On March 8th, Maria del Refugio Briseño, a KSS former worker, represented CJM at the celebration of International*

*Women's Day organized by the Democratic Lawyers Association (ANAD) and the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME) in Mexico City.*

*On March 11, CJM, Melissa Forbi, a Rice University anthropologist, and Blanca Enriquez, a woman leader from the Blanca Navidad Community in Nuevo Laredo, participated in Women's Week in Nuevo Laredo. Blanca represented proudly all the women from her community and CJM members at this conference.*

*On December 6-14, Margarita Avalos from Ollin Calli in Tijuana, and Maria del Refugio Briseño, a former KSS worker from Valle Hermoso, will represent CJM in an International Encounter "Challenges and Openings for Labor Rights and Democracy" in Buenos Aires, Argentina.*



**CJM's DVD Video - Blades of Justice**

*Globalization sowed the seeds of want and rising aspirations for justice among Mexico's million plus maquiladora workers. Witness the harvest of grass roots women activists who tell their stories of abuse and exploitation and of courage and determination to confront multinational corporations, corrupt unions, and repression in order to build a movement. Place an order at the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras: 3611 Golden Tee Ln, Missouri City, TX 77459, or by email at: [cjm\\_cynthia@igc.org](mailto:cjm_cynthia@igc.org), or/ and [cjm\\_martha@igc.org](mailto:cjm_martha@igc.org). (210) 732 8957.*

**Blades of Justice DVD Video**



**An Acknowledgment of Gratitude to those who have gone;  
But a legacy for social change continues!**



*CJM would like to dedicate this edition to those CJM members and supporters who have gone. Their longstanding commitment, passion and dedication to workers' rights and social and economic justice will remain in our memories, hearts and in our daily work. We will keep praying for them as surely they are now in the light of heaven.*

*May they rest in Peace!*

**Barbara Zeluck  
Jon Smart  
Rev. James B. Benn**

**Alejandro Pérez  
Antonio Villalba  
Ray Figueroa**





## **Maquiladora Workers' Empowerment:**

CJM organized a regional workshop on Human Rights and Migration as part of the "We Are All Migrants: Today's Maquila Worker is Tomorrow's Undocumented Immigrant" campaign. Over 70 organizers from Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Laredo and Valle Hermosa attended the workshop which was held in Reynosa, Mexico, February 5-7, 2010. The workshop was taught by the Lawyer Estela Rios from ANAD, and Ursula Garcia from Mexico City.

The Human Right Promoters network is composed of maquiladora workers from the auto industry, electronics sector and public services. Workers from TRW, KSS, LG, Panasonic, Nokia, Copel, and Wal-Mart attended the workshop. The Human Rights Promoters Network went beyond our expectations because in the first workshop 30 workers were elected to be Human Rights Promoters; in the last two workshops more than seventy workers attended, so we extended the network.

The lawyers Estela and Ursula taught the workers about the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the U.S. Bill of Rights--especially the 1st, 4th, and 5th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The workers compared these rights with the Bill of Rights in the Mexican Constitution and they learned about the right to work, to a living wage, and the right to immigrate as human needs. They also learned about the rights to freedom of expression and association, and the right

to be heard in court and to call a lawyer. The workshops also addressed the roots of poverty and inequality in the economic system and free trade agreements.

The popular education dynamics that the lawyers used in the workshops led the workers to conclude that Human Rights are Universal Rights and that to immigrate is a survival need. They also learned that government has the social obligation to provide jobs, a living wage, education and health, but the current system has privatized social services, increasing poverty, unemployment, and leading to a worldwide economic crisis. Many workers agreed that it is better to look for alternatives in their own communities than to immigrate in this challenging time. They discussed some collective activities in the informal economy such as flea markets, soup kitchens, and chicken and pig farms.



On February 7-10, CJM organized a local workshop on mapping the process of production and developing leadership. Over 30 organizers from KSS, TRW, Coppel and LG attended the workshop, which was held in Valle Hermoso. The workshop was taught by Estela Rios from ANAD, and the anthropologist Adriana Monroy from Mexico City.

On July 2-5, CJM organized

a regional workshop in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, on "Claiming Human and Labor Rights in a Climate of Violence." Workers and Community organizers from the cities of Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Laredo, Matamoros and Valle Hermoso attended the workshop.

On September 11-13, CJM organized a regional workshop in the Laguna Region on Human Rights and Migration, as part of the "We Are All Migrants: Today's Maquila Worker is Tomorrow's Undocumented Immigrant" campaign.



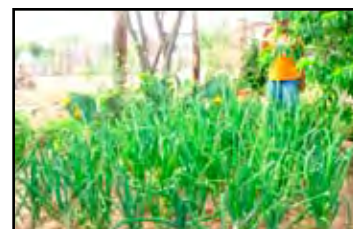
On October 6-10, CJM organized a regional workshop in the Laguna Region on "Claiming Human and Labor Rights in a Climate of Violence." Workers from Torreon and Gómez Palacios attended the workshop, commenting that the climate of violence is an issue of priority, because every time they go to work, they don't know if they will return home alive.

After their learning experience, they return to their communities as more strong, confident and effective leaders for social change. They are empowered to demand justice and to fight for their rights, jobs, and better living conditions on both sides of the border. They multiply their knowledge by educating people within and

beyond their communities about human rights and labor rights. Even children are learning about social issues and becoming the leaders for the next generation.



## **Community Alternatives:**



CJM continues supporting workers and communities in developing alternatives to the economic model such as the Blanca Navidad shanty town in Nuevo Laredo has developed. This past summer, the people in the community harvested onions from the community fields thanks to the "Community Onion Farm Project." They also are continuing to build the facility for their tortilla factory, which is almost completed.



**CJM's DVD Video –**  
*The Other Snail- Gender, migration, women's leadership, community organizing and community alternatives are the highlights of the Blanca Navidad shanty town in the northern border of Mexico. A*

*powerful exchange between women maquila workers on the north, and women of the indigenous communities in Chiapas, Mexico, addressing their struggles for land, water, health, education and jobs.*

*The Other Snail DVD Video*

Place an order at the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras: 3611 Golden Tee Ln, Missouri City, TX 77459, or by email at: [cjm\\_cynthia@igc.org](mailto:cjm_cynthia@igc.org), or/ and [cjm\\_martha@igc.org](mailto:cjm_martha@igc.org) (210) 732 8957, (210) 420 0724



**CJM Weaving the Social Movement:**

On January 23 to 29, 2010, Miguel Colunga from the Democratic Farmers Front from Chihuahua and Rogelio Gonzalez from Telephone Workers Local 16 from Nuevo Laredo, represented CJM at the Tenth Anniversary of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brasil.

On November 9-10, Jaime Ernesto Lizcano, a TRW worker, from Reynosa

represented CJM at North West Vista College in San Antonio, Texas

On December 6-14, Jaime Ernesto Lizcano, a TRW worker, and Israel Monroy from Labor and Popular Defense from Valle Hermoso will represent CJM at the International Encounter "Challenges and Openings for Labor Rights and Democracy" in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Labor International Tribunal:**

On April 29, Israel Monroy from Labor Defense Committee in Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas represented CJM at the International Tribunal organized by labor and union organizations from Mexico City (CILAS and ANAD, among them). Israel presented to the International Tribunal the compilation of cases on labor violations in

the maquiladora industry located on the northern border of Mexico since 1994. The International Tribunal addressed the violation of labor rights such as freedom of association of the Electrical Workers' (SME) of Mexico City and the Miners' Workers Union of Cananea.



**TRW Workers Struggle's Background:**  
 Continued from page 7...

TRW Automotive is a multinational corporation based in Livonia, Michigan. The company produces seatbelts for auto industry companies from the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. The workers of the TRW plant located in Del Norte Industrial Park of Reynosa, Mexico, have been organizing since spring 2009. The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras has supported these workers' efforts.

In March 2009, TRW management in Reynosa, Mexico transferred 600 workers to another TRW facility located at the other side of the city. In the TRW plant where they were to be relocated, the collective contract has lower salaries and labor conditions that are poor compared to the previous facility. In addition, the facility does not have enough space



to relocate assembly lines for 600 workers. The workers also have to travel two more hours to work, taking three different routes and investing forty percent of their salaries to arrive on time at the factory. Furthermore, the workers would have to wait for transportation after the night shift ends, from 1:45 a.m. until 5:00 a.m., because the last public transportation leaves at 1:00 a.m. and the workers' shift ends at 1:45 a.m. It is unacceptable that TRW, a plant that produces safety equipment, should expose its workers, most of them young women, to unsafe condition including forcing them to wait more than 3 hours in the early morning for transportation home.

The CTM union that holds the contract with TRW agreed to the relocation without taking into account the conditions mentioned above and without informing the workers. Due to the complicity of the CTM union and the company, the workers formed a Workers Coalition, in keeping with Mexican Labor law, to negotiate the relocation. TRW unjustifiably fired the members of the Coalition and circulated a blacklist of the workers, violating their right to jobs, to freedom of association and to collective bargaining, as established in the Labor Law and in the Mexican Constitution. TRW argued that they are justified because of the economic crisis, and that they have the support of the CTM union and

the local, state, and federal government's authority to fire the workers without severance payments.

Jaime Ernesto Lizcano, a TRW worker, traveled to Livonia, Michigan, to meet with TRW executives on Mexico Independence Day, September 16th, 2009, but instead of meeting with him, TRW management called the police to arrest Ernesto as well as CJM members and allies. Ernesto traveled through the US and Canada to gain support for workers, some of whom have 15 to 20 years seniority, while TRW argues that they are troublemakers. What they are doing is simply demanding justice.





# Acknowledgements

*The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, would like to thank all those individual donors, philanthropies, foundations, religious and members organizations, and all those who sponsored, led and volunteered to make CJM's work possible..*

*We want to let you know that thanks to all of you, CJM has been able to do its work, empowering, workers and women who are becoming agents for social change and transforming the realities in their workplaces and in their communities. Thousands of workers carry in their memories the fact that once they got involved with CJM and its members, their struggle was not alone and their lives were never the same.*

*Every CJM member has been committed to working towards a more just world, empowering women and maquila workers at the international level and educating consumers about their role in the global economy. CJM has been challenging corporations and governments, developing alliances across borders and sectors, supporting the responsible investment strategies of religious organizations and mobilizing and creating community-based alternatives to the current economic model. CJM's programs address the roots and consequences of neoliberal policies and free trade, and over the years we have built networks for a cross-border social movement for lives with hope and dignity.*

*All this has been possible thanks to all you! Our heartfelt thanks for your dedication and commitment.*

## Special Thanks to Our Sustainability Circle:

### *CJM's Religious Organizations*

- Benedictine Sisters
- Center for Reflection Education and Action (CREA)
- Dominican Sisters
- Domini Social Investments
- Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility ICCR
- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Sisters of Charity of Halifax
- Sisters of Loretto (Special Needs Fund)
- Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph
- Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother

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Barbara Zeluck  
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### *CJM's Labor Organizations*

Canadian Union Postal Workers

Laborer International Union of North America (LIUNA)

United Steel Workers of America Local 675

United University Professions

### *CJM's Members Organizations*

- Transnational Information Exchange (TIE)
- El Mañana Newspaper
- Environmental Health Coalition
- Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity
- San Diego Maquiladora Solidarity Network

**NORTHERN BORDER, TAMAULIPAS, NOVEMBER 2010- By Israel Monroy**



**Labor and Popular Defense Committee.**

The international war, led by the international power elite and enabled by the implementation of the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) in our country, brings a new agenda for the transnational corporations, but also a new offensive to our people to the detriment of our rights as human beings and as workers. The violence committed by

organized crime in our country has further aggravated the situation at national level, increasing the militarization of every city, village, and municipality. Militarization is a strategy to silence the voice of the social movement and to stop people organizing. Today more than ever, people are looking for alternatives to survive and to face international power.

However, as workers, we know that we have to RESIST and to ORGANIZE, to further extend our social response and to support people and workers.

**ORGANIZING AND RESISTANCE** must emerge from communities and from the needs of workers themselves. CJM has supported such organizing and resistance in recent years through the maquila workers' struggles, including in the strategic region of Tamaulipas, building the labor and social movement there.

But, surely we must also think about new ways of collective organizing, because the new scenarios in the struggle require them. We must extend our alliances to build collective power

for national and international resistance that can really affect the interests of transnational corporations; and to raise the true voice of the workers, create a collective movement of workers, communities, and the people. The experience that has been built over the years, in part by CJM and its members and grassroots organizations, is essential to move forward and advance the working class in our region, in our country, and internationally.



The outstanding collection **NAFTA From Below: Maquiladora Workers, Farmers, and Indigenous Communities Speak Out on the Impact of Free Trade in Mexico**, combines worker testimony with analytical and historical essays to provide a devastating picture of the effects of neoliberal international trade policies—culminating in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)—on

workers throughout Mexico. In testimonies from scores of maquiladora workers, campesinos, and indigenous communities from across Mexico, **NAFTA FROM BELOW** details the impact of free trade on those it has most severely affected. First-hand accounts of workers organizing for their rights, of farmers and indigenous peoples fighting to preserve their land, and of efforts north and south to build

alternatives document the courage of ordinary people who dare to join together and stand up for decent work conditions, fair salaries, a clean environment, and lives with dignity. Place an order at the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras: 3611 Golden Tee Ln, Missouri City, TX 77459, or by email at: [cjm\\_cynthia@igc.org](mailto:cjm_cynthia@igc.org), or/ and [cjm\\_martha@igc.org](mailto:cjm_martha@igc.org). (210) 732 8957, (210) 420 0724

**CJM Staff**



Raymond



Alonzo

CJM would like to thank the following former staff members:

Alonzo Ugarte - Finance Coordinator

Kathleen Nolle - Fundraising Coordinator

We appreciate the time and talent that they dedicated to CJM, making it possible to advance CJM's work. We wish them success in their projects and future.

CJM also would like to thank Emily Sugrue and Raymond, for enriching CJM with their talents, hard work, inspiration and dedication during their internships.



Kathleen and Emily



Cynthia and Raymond

CJM Deeply appreciates the hard work and dedication of Cynthia Uribe, CJM's Administration Coordinator.

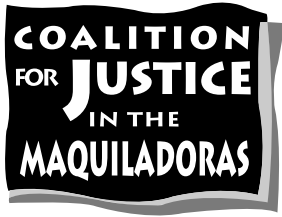
her commitment, talent and skills have been key to CJM's success in building a better world.

Thank you Cynthia for your patience and for your amazing work!



# CJM MEMBERS

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