

La Via Campesina Organizes International Caravans for Life, Resistance, and Environmental Justice in Mexico

Wednesday 17 November 2010, by [La Via Campesina](#) (Date first published: 11 November 2010).

Over a thousand women and men, farmers, indigenous people, urban and rural people affected by social and environmental destruction are planning to march in 5 caravans towards Cancun, Mexico, in protest against the indolence of the dominant countries and capitalists of the world gathering for the conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change from November 29 to December 10, 2010.

The caravans co-organised by the National Assembly of People Affected by the Environment and the international peasant's movement La Via Campesina and by a convergence of diverse social movements from the United States, Canada and Mexico will kick off in San Luis Potosi, Guadalajara, and Acapulco, joining other rural, urban and student movements in Mexico City on November 30 for a mass protest for environmental and social justice. Two other caravans will then depart from Oaxaca and Chiapas, all converging to Cancun on December 3 for the inauguration of the Farmer's and Indigenous Camp organized by La Via Campesina.

The caravans' journeys will bring local struggles against social and environmental injustices into the limelight as the global community convenes for the climate negotiations in Cancun. They will denounce the widespread apathy in the face of the current socio-environmental scandals, as well as the Mexican government's maneuvering to implement mega-projects for "Clean Development Mechanisms (MDL)" which in fact devastate communities and the environment. This is the case of the large industrial pig farms such as Smithfield, the production of agrofuels for airplanes, the "semi- remediation" of open-air garbage dumps, large hydro-dams and new GMO extensions.

In solidarity with this movement against corporate greed in the name of "climate change", Via Campesina farmers from around the world and other activists will join the caravans. According to Henry Saragih, general coordinator of La Via Campesina, "leaders from Asia will also march with the affected people of Mexico and North America. In my country Indonesia, people also lead hundreds even thousands of struggles, at local level, against commercial projects destroying people livelihoods and the environment".

Josie Riffaud, a Via Campesina farmer leader from France also insisted that "the solutions being discussed in the climate talks are very scary. We are being told that some projects will help solve the current climate chaos, but it is an illusion. We are seeing an increase of monoculture plantations, genetic engineering, agrofuels plantations, landgrabbing, all of this will further increase devastation and exclusion".

In Cancun, La Via Campesina and its allies will organise an "Alternative Global Forum for Life and Environmental and Social Justice", on December 4 through 10, and a mass mobilisation of peasants, indigenous and social movements on December 7. At the same time, in Cancun and around the world, thousands of people and organisation will mobilise creating "thousands of Cancuns" to

denounce the false solutions against climate change and to promote a real system change.

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**SUPPORT THE PRESENCE OF La Vía Campesina
AT THE CLIMATE SUMMIT IN CANCUN 2010
HELP THOUSANDS OF PEASANTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD**

Dear Friends of La Via Campesina:

As you know, we are organizing the presence of rural social movements from Mexico and around the world at the Cancun Global Climate Summit (COP-16). (see below) We will have six caravans from different parts of Mexico, passing through the sites of many emblematic struggles against environmental devastation on their way to the Cancun Summit.

We will have a forum and a mega-march in Mexico City on November 30. On December 2 we will open the national-international camp of peasants, indigenous peoples and their allies in Cancun, with thousands of people from Mexico and the world.

On December 4 to 10 the "Global Forum for the Earth and for our Peoples: Environmental and Social Justice Now!" will be held at the camp.

Many actions will be organized from the camp-Forum, including the mega-march in Cancun on December 7.

IT IS NOW NOVEMBER 11, THE CARAVANS START IN TWO WEEKS, AND WE ARE STILL SOME USD \$100,000 SHORT OF THE MINIMUM BUDGET NEEDED FOR THE HUNDREDS OF BUSES, THE TENTS, BEDDING, COMUNAL KITCHENS, FOOD, DRINKING WATER, SHOWERS, LATRINES, SOUND EQUIPMENT, ETC. THAT ARE A BASIC REQUISITE TO PULLING ALL OF THIS OFF.

WE ARE MAKING THIS URGENT APPEAL FOR DONATIONS NOW. PLEASE GIVE AS LITTLE OR AS MUCH AS YOU CAN SO THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLES WILL BE HEARD IN CANCUN. THANK YOU.

IN SOLIDARITY, VIA CAMPESINA

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