



La Via Campesina share this newsletter of January 2015, which is the collective effort of organizations that are part of our movement worldwide. Subscribe [HERE](#).

**HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLES**

**Peasant and Small-Scale Agriculture vs. Climate-Smart Agriculture**



A delegation from the Latin American Coordination of Rural Organisations (CLOC) and the Via Campesina International participated in the Peoples' Summit on Climate Change in Lima, which culminated, on December 10th, in a march of 10,000 people through the centre of the city. At the closing ceremony, Diego Montón, the representative of the CLOC Secretariat, declared, "We, women and men, peasants and small farmers, have a long history of struggle. We have been struggling against evictions, against land clearances, against the large mining companies that pollute our water, against the contamination that is caused by toxic chemical inputs, against the destruction of our food production systems." Furthermore, Montón added, "We leave here with a task ahead of us ... we have to see that all over the world our peoples are in the streets - saying No to capitalism and Yes to our proposal, which is Good Living (Buen Vivir), which is popular socialism, a model in which life, diversity, culture, and pluralism take precedence over capital and money."

[Read more: Peasant and Small-Scale Agriculture vs....](#)

**ARTICLES FROM THE REGION**

**Statement on Solidarity Mission with Palestinian Farmers**



Elaborated by SOC, EHNE-Bizkaia, ELB, VSF-Justicia Global Alimentaria, Mundubat, Bizilur, UztaroKoopt, and Mikelazulo.

During the first nine days of November, a number of representatives of social and political movements, trade unions, and farmers' organisations from Euskal Herria and Andalucía (Spain) visited Palestine, in response to an appeal from La Via Campesina. The group's mission was to monitor human rights violations in the region, especially with regard to the rural majority, who are both the country's economic motor and the main target of the Israeli Zionist regime's colonialist policies.

Through the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) in Palestine and its local committees, we were able to observe the methodical depravity of Israel's treatment of Palestine society in general and of the rural majority in particular. This treatment shows a disregard for all the rules of international humanitarian law as well as for the obligations that the 4th Geneva Convention imposes on Israel, as an occupying power, with respect to the Palestinian population under occupation. As of today, in its criminal construction, Israel is employing policies and measures that constitute Apartheid, a situation that is being denounced by the principal human rights bodies of the United Nations and by Palestinian - as well as Israeli - social organisations. Apartheid in Palestine manifests itself in a political, economic, and social system that is dominated by discrimination and oppression, a system in which freedom of movement is forbidden and territory is appropriated in order to consolidate the existence of the Israeli State.

[Read more: Statement on Solidarity Mission with...](#)

**Stop the Free Trade Agreements**

Citizen mobilization prevented a multilateral free-trade agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in particular for agricultural products. In response, the European Union (EU) is going to negotiate bilateral free-trade agreements in all directions. They would like to drive agriculture and the food industry to the most unbridled heights of liberalism. [Download the brochure to read more!](#) DEFEND EMPLOYMENT, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, PEASANT FARMING AND LIFE OF ALL TERRITORIES!

**Food sovereignty: 5 steps to cool the planet and feed its people**

*Between 44% and 57% of all GHG emissions come from the global food system*

1. Deforestation: 15-18% Before the planting starts, the bulldozers do their job. Worldwide, industrial agriculture is pushing into savannas, wetlands and forests, ploughing under huge amounts of land. The FAO says the expansion of the agricultural frontier accounts for 70-90% of global deforestation, at least half of that for the production of a few agricultural commodities for export. Agriculture's contribution to deforestation thus accounts for 15-18% of global GHG emissions.

[Read more: Food sovereignty: 5 steps to cool the planet...](#)

**Via Campesina solidarity visit to Douro small wine growers**

[\(Download full report\)](#)

(Porto, Portugal, 25 November 2014) On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, following meetings of the LVC International Coordinating Committee (ICC) and the International Operative Secretariat (IOS), a La Via Campesina delegation, comprising 87 participants from 25 countries, visited vineyards owned by family farmers in the demarcated region of the Douro district. This field visit was organized by Confederação Nacional da Agricultura (CNA) and guided by one of its member organisations, AVIDOURO, an association of small wine growers.

According to La Via Campesina member organisation CNA, an association representing Portuguese small to medium farmers, the biggest share of the subsidies paid in Portugal, about 70%, is received by only 5% of the farms. The remaining 30% is shared by the other 95% of farms, of which small and medium farms constitute the majority. Small and medium farmers, on the other hand, are heavily taxed.

[Read more: Via Campesina solidarity visit to Douro small...](#)



**Building Bridges with MST**

India, January 16, 2015) In the past year, LVC India built solidarity through three knowledge exchanges with our comrades from the Landless Workers Movement (MST), in Brazil. This came as a beneficial follow-up to our work in 2013 (see story [here](#) about the trip to Bihar shared with Karnataka Farmers).

In March, we hosted Adalberto "Pardal" Martins for ten days traveling throughout Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, and Karnataka. Pardal is a long-time member of MST, and has contributed in many areas, including the organization of production and cooperatives, agroecology, and political training. His visit occurred at the timely juncture of the political division of Andhra Pradesh into two states – Andhra and Telengana. Telengana was born of a historical struggle for land against feudal landlords, one of many commonalities with the narrative of the Landless Workers Movement of Brazil.

[Read more: Building Bridges with MST](#)

**Femicide and Impunity: A humanitarian crisis in Central America, and a growing problem worldwide**

El Salvador has had the highest rate of femicide in the world, with 2, 250 femicides between 2010 and 2013. Guatemala has the third and Honduras the seventh highest rate of femicides. In Guatemala, only 2% of murdered women's cases were investigated in 2013 and likewise in Honduras less than 2% were investigated. For cases that somehow make it to court in Guatemala, 90% of defendants are not convicted. It is much the same in El Salvador. In 2014 alone, between January and October, over 300 bodies of young women between the ages of 12 and 18 years old have been found in unmarked common graves.

[Read more: Femicide and Impunity: A humanitarian crisis in...](#)

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**No Land No Food No Life**



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