

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

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HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLE



[**Power and impunity of transnational corporations stifles people's voices**](#)

The power and impunity of the transnationals are stifling the voices of the world's peoples

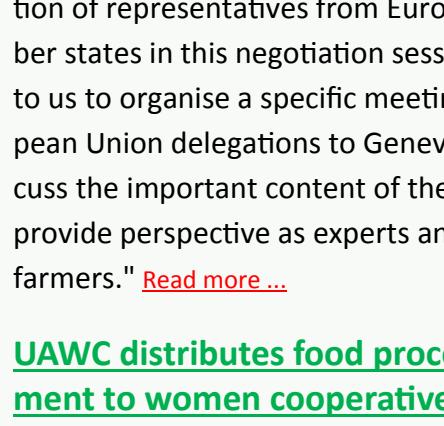
(Harare, 9th of July 2015) La Via Campesina strongly decries the fact that **international policies and legislative processes** which supposedly are decided upon democratically and by the citizens are increasingly **dominated by the interests of large multinational corporations**, with the connivance of the governing classes[1]. Furthermore, while existing structures allow the crimes committed by these same transnationals to go unpunished, there is a growing

incidence of criminalisation of those who are struggling in defence of human rights.

At the international, regional, national, and local levels, it is more and more apparent that **legislative frameworks are being designed, interpreted, and implemented so as to respond to the interests of large transnational companies** - to the detriment of the common good and despite the resistance of social movements and organisations that are seeking different paths. This situation is compounded by a lack of transparency towards civil society. [Read more...](#)

ARTICLES FROM THE REGIONS

[**Yes, there are peasants in Europe and their rights must be protected**](#)

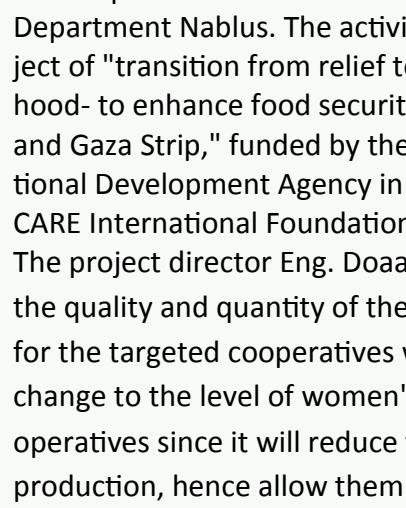


Press release (Geneva, June, 22 2015) - the European peasant organisations of the Via Campesina and their allies (FIAN, CETIM, Mundubat, Pain pour le Prochain) met in Geneva for three days at the beginning of June 2015 in order to meet with European representatives and discuss the new draft of the Declaration on the rights of peasants and other persons working in rural areas.

This workshop followed the second session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group for the United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants, which was held at the Human Rights Council in February this year. Florence Kroff of FIAN

Belgium explained, "In light of the poor participation of representatives from European Union member states in this negotiation session, it seemed vital to us to organise a specific meeting with the European Union delegations to Geneva, in order to discuss the important content of the Declaration and provide perspective as experts and as European farmers." [Read more ...](#)

[**UAWC distributes food processing equipment to women cooperatives**](#)

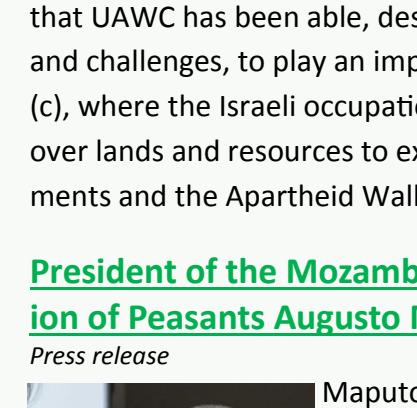


(Palestine, Ramallah, July 2015)- The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) distributed bread, sweets and pastry equipment to seven women's cooperatives in the Governorates of Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, with the participation of agricultural committees and representatives of local communities, the Agriculture Department of Bethlehem and the Agriculture Department Nablus. The activity was within the project of "transition from relief to sustainable livelihood- to enhance food security in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," funded by the Canadian International Development Agency in partnership with CARE International Foundation.

The project director Eng. Doaa' Zayed stressed that the quality and quantity of the supplied equipment for the targeted cooperatives will bring a tangible

change to the level of women's income in those cooperatives since it will reduce the time and effort of production, hence allow them to increase their production. [Read more ...](#)

[**More than 30,000 beneficiaries from UAWC's projects**](#)

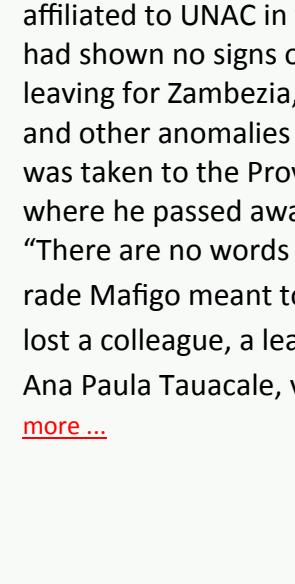


(Palestine, Ramallah, July 2015) The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) issued a report about the achievements and projects it conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last year. The report pointed that there were 30,184 beneficiaries from UAWC's projects in 2014. UAWC mentioned in its report that 15 projects have been implemented during 2014, including five relief projects that benefited 19,964 families affected by the latest Israeli occupation's aggression on Gaza Strip and 19 projects in the West Bank benefiting 10,220 poor and marginalized families in more than 152 villages and towns, particularly in areas "C", where the Israeli occupation has restrictions over national and international organizations work in these areas.

UAWC's acting director, Fuad Abu Saif, confirmed that UAWC has been able, despite all the obstacles and challenges, to play an important role in area (c), where the Israeli occupation has full control over lands and resources to expand their settlements and the Apartheid Wall. [Read more ...](#)

[**President of the Mozambique National Union of Peasants Augusto Mafigo dies**](#)

Press release



Maputo, August 5th 2015 – the National Union of Small-scale Farmers of Mozambique informs you that our president, comrade Augusto Mafigo, died this Wednesday morning. The incident occurred in the city of Quelimane, Zambezia province, where the small-scale farmer's leader was on another mobilisation and follow-up mission, together with the small-scale farmer associations affiliated to UNAC in that province. Mafigo, who had shown no signs of being severely ill days before leaving for Zambezia, suffered strong convulsions and other anomalies on Wednesday morning and was taken to the Provincial Quelimane hospital, where he passed away around 8.30am.

"There are no words to describe how much comrade Mafigo meant to us. It is a great loss. We have lost a colleague, a leader, a father, a hero", said

Ana Paula Tauacale, vice president of UNAC. [Read more ...](#)

VIA CAMPESINA TV

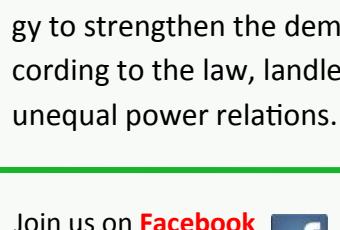
New Videos!

[**Chukki Nanjundaswamy interview on Connecting Small Farmers to Markets**](#)



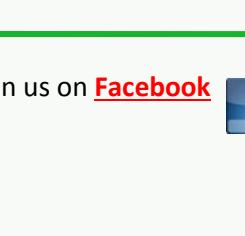
Listen to Chukki Nanjundaswamy (La Via Campesina) from India speak at an interview on Connecting Small Farmers to Markets. The meeting on this theme was held at FAO in Rome, June 2015. [Click here to watch video](#)

[**EU role in UN Treaty Process on TNC regulation**](#)



Anne Van Schaik speaks on the challenges being faced with the UN Treaty to regulate TNCs. Read more from: Read more: <http://www.treatymovement.com/> and <http://www.stopcorporateimpunity.org/> [Click here to watch video](#)

[**Right to Land and Seed**](#)



Food sovereignty in times of climate change (Bangladesh)

Food sovereignty is the main political demand of the landless and peasant movement in Bangladesh in times of climate change and intensifying land conflicts. The concept of food sovereignty is based on the right to grow their own food, with own seeds and in an ecologically sustainable way of farming. The peasant movement fights for a revolutionary land reform and self-determined food production, in order to improve and guarantee the local and national food supply. One strategy to strengthen the demand for food sovereignty is the occupation of land by groups of small farmers. According to the law, landless farmers have a right to land which often isn't enforced due to corruption and unequal power relations. [Click here to watch video](#)

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