

national rally saturday, march 12 12pm

outside yum! brands offices 1441 gardiner lane - louisville, ky

actor and activist martin sheen comes to louisville...

...to join florida tomato pickers and thousands of their supporters in calling on yum! brands, the world's largest fast food corporation, to take responsibility for the sweatshop-like conditions in their supply chain.

armworkers who pick tomatoes for Taco Bell and Yum! Brands work in sweatshop conditions, earning 40-45 cents for every 32 lb. bucket they pick - a wage that has remained essentially the same for over 25 years. At this rate, they must pick and haul 2 tons of tomatoes to earn \$50 in one day. They receive no benefits, are denied, by law, the right to form a union, and often have to work overtime with no overtime pay. According to the Department of Labor, farmworkers earn a median income of \$7,500 per year.

In 2001, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a Florida-based farmworker organization, launched a national boycott of Taco Bell, calling on the fast food company to take responsibility for the human rights abuses in its supply chain. To date, Taco Bell and Yum! Brands (owner of Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Long John Silver's and A&W Restaurants) have yet to take concrete steps to ensure that

the tomatoes they use in their products are free of sweatshop labor.

Support for the Taco Bell boycott is expanding at a rapid pace across the country, particularly on college campuses, where the "Boot the Bell" campaign has become one of the fastest growing movements for social justice today. Most recently, UCLA and the University of Notre Dame have moved to end their relationships with Taco Bell in response to student support for the boycott.

The boycott has been endorsed by the National Council of Churches, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, Alliance of Baptists, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Pax Christi USA, as well as numerous regional and local religious bodies. Individual endorsers include: the Honorable Mary Robinson, Martin Sheen, Kerry Kennedy, Bonnie Raitt, Susan Sarandon, Dolores Huerta, Howard Zinn and Edward James Olmos.



