## **DON'T BUY DRISCOLL'S BERRIES**

We are here today in solidarity with farmworker families fighting for a union contract at Sakuma Brothers berry farm, a 1,500 acre industrial agriculture corporation in Burlington WA, and the 80,000 farmworkers who are fighting for a union contract in San Quintin, Mexico.

Over the summer of 2013, three hundred farmworkers went on strike for their rights at Sakuma Brothers farm. They called for an end to systematic wage theft, particularly from youth workers, substandard housing, racist harassment from their supervisors, and denial of lunch and rest breaks among other demands.

At first, Sakuma negotiated with the workers' elected negotiating committee, but then broke agreements they had reached, including going back on a new pay rate per pound of berries Sakuma and the workers had agreed on. In addition, Sakuma sent private security forces to the workers' camps and the fields, which a Skagit County judge ruled to be a violation of Washington State labor law. After Sakuma broke their side of the agreements, the farmworkers, through their union Familias Unidas Por La Justicia (Families United for Justice) asked the public to boycott Sakuma Bros Berry Farm until the labor dispute is resolved and the workers have a contract recognizing their union.

Sakuma responded to the public boycott by moving the majority of their production under the Driscoll's label. Driscoll's is a multi national berry selling corporation who sources from farms all over the world including San Quintin Mexico where 80,000 farmworkers went on strike



in March of 2015 to demand an end to being paid 7 dollars a day, widespread sexual abuse of women in the fields, and illegal child labor they are still fighting for a union contract.

Since Familias Unidas called for a boycott in 2013 they have been successful at fighting Sakuma's attempts to crush their union through illegal retaliatory practices. In the summer of 2014 Sakuma sent letters to workers saying that if they had missed 5 days or more (ie: went on strike) they were no longer eligible to work for the company and changed the housing rules to exclude workers with children and spouses who weren't working (ie the whole union). Familias Unidas sued

Sakuma over these practices and a Skagit County judge found them to be retaliatory and illegal.

In 2014 Sakuma also attempted to replace the entire union workforce with an application for 436 H2A guestworkers, which Familias Unidas members and supporters successfully blocked in an historic effort where they used massive direct actions at the department of labor, and public meetings where Sakuma was present among other tactics that were successful at getting Sakuma to withdraw their application for H-2A Guestworkers due to massive public pressure.

This year Sakuma did not apply for H2A workers and has rehired many of the union members, but the new corporate CEO Danny Weeden who was hired this winter is continuing the company's practice of refusing to negotiate a union contract with Familias Unidas por la Justicia and is trying to convince the public that they have met the workers' demands.

Now is the time to act in solidarity with farmworker families and Boycott Driscoll's berries! Familias Unidas's struggle is a historic one that has the potential to transform the deeply exploitative treatment of farmworkers in Washington state where there is only one farm with a union contract in the entire state! Because Driscoll's is a global corporation FUJ and the workers in San Quintin need solidarity from consumers and organizers from beyond Washington state.

Call Sakuma's CEO Danny Weeden and urge him to negotiate with Familias Unidas por la Justicia 360 757 6611

Call Costco Corporate headquarters and urge Jeff Lyons to stop buying Driscoll's Berries **425 311 8100** 

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If you are interested in forming a boycott committee where you live email BoycottCoordination@gmail.com or call 206 272 0154

