

June, 2012
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sister/Brother XXXX,

We are writing from Justice for Migrant workers, a volunteer-run non-profit collective that strives to promote the rights of migrant workers. As students, community, and labour activists, we seek to build relationships of trust with migrant workers, support and empower them to address work-place issues, and amplify their voices within Canada's public sphere and decision-making domain. We do this through community outreach in migrant communities in rural Ontario, providing information to migrant workers about their rights, and engaging in ongoing training of legal issues affecting migrant workers.

Since 1966, thousands of workers from Latin America, the Caribbean and South and East Asia come into Canada seeking employment on Canadian farms. The conditions of their contract gives access to basic social resources such as Employment Insurance and some provisions of the Employment Standard act. However, workers are subject to low pay, long hours and dangerous working and living conditions that often lead to injury and even death. The exclusion from basic human rights legislation such as Health and Safety, and the explicit prohibition from collective bargaining, makes workers extremely vulnerable.

Six months ago 11 people died near Hampstead Ontario in one of Ontario's most tragic traffic accidents. The accident claimed the lives of 9 migrant workers from Peru, and two Canadian workers in accident that was felt across the world. To commemorate the sixth month anniversary Community allies, migrant workers and Justicia for Migrant Workers (J4MW) will be organizing a vigil on July 22, 2012. The tentative agenda is to meet in Kitchener and as a caravan drive from Kitchener to the accident site. Our Objective is to remember the victims, support the survivors and to demand justice so accidents like this never happen again.

We are asking that your organization make a donation to help with our costs. Any amount is welcome. If your organization would like to arrange a presentation about this issue for your members, please let us know. You may mail a cheque to,

Justicia for Migrant Workers
c/o Workers' Action Centre
720 Spadina Avenue, Suite 223
Toronto ON
M5S 2T9

Sincerely,

Tzazná Miranda Leal
Community organizer
Justicia for Migrant Workers
j4mw.on@gmail.com