



# Monsanto, Walmart & the TPP

## Marching Against Monsanto and the Corporate Oligarchy

by James Bartoli

*Power is always gradually stealing away from the many to the few, because the few are more vigilant and consistent – Samuel Johnson, Adventurer #45 (March 27, 1753)*

The recent flood of bad press regarding Monsanto’s duplicity about its toxic seeds, the squelching of independent science, and its blatant corruption of politics from the town hall to the White House, has been nothing short of dizzying. On May 25th, people around the world opposed to Monsanto’s bully tactics and concerned about the safety of genetically modified organisms

(GMOs) in the global food supply will join a local ‘March Against Monsanto’ (MAM). Large numbers of discontented people will express their outrage at the corporate subversion of ‘good government’ and Monsanto’s lead position atop a de facto ‘foodopoly’.(1) They will shrug off the anesthetizing influence of the corporate media and come together in the streets to demand they no longer be made guinea pigs without their consent by the government-supported refusal to label foods containing GMOs.

Inside the USA, large numbers are deeply alarmed by the blatant and corrupting influence of the corporate-government revolving door - especially between Monsanto and the FDA. Outside of the USA, especially in the Global South, opposition to Monsanto is deeply rooted in smallholder struggles for food sovereignty and opposition to US government-supported “science diplomacy.” A May 2013 Food & Water Watch report, “Biotech Ambassadors,” used official cables published

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**W**e continue our focus on the crises we face everyday – and how we can make them go away.

## Organizing, Education and Crisis

Part 2 of the Sobreruedas Interview: **Claiming Space: Involve the Alternative**

*A vital Aboody, Genoveva Aguilar, Marilyn Armenta, and Sara Garcia are four of the organizers of the Sobreruedas en el Barrio: A Neighborhood Market. This interview was conducted (and later edited and translated) by Carlos Huerta and Nic Paget-Clarke on February 2, 2013 in Barrio Logan in San Diego, California.*

## Organizing and Education at the Same Time

*GDAF: Earlier, you mentioned gentrification, Walmart, high unemployment, and lack of access to products and food as some of the reasons the Sobreruedas is being put in place. Would you consider that there is a crisis in this neighborhood and what would be the crisis? Do you feel like the members of the community are aware of this?*

**Genoveva Aguilar:** I think that you saw how many people were there today, in the morning. There’s a lot of need. We have been facing the crisis since 10 years ago. No one is writing about it. No one is documenting it. The fact that Chicano Park was just considered a historical park, no one is even considering that this is a historical site (the Farmers’ Market). In other parts of the country in historical sites people invest in it. Put money in it.

It almost seems like it was planned. First, there was the displacement and a lot of people got gentrified because the

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## Marching Against Monsanto and the Corporate Oligarchy ... cont'd from p. 1, col. 1

by Wikileaks to demonstrate the unbroken 'bipartisan' continuity of using Washington's geopolitical muscle to aggressively advance the interests of agrichemical companies abroad with complete disregard for the economic and food security of the farmers and citizens in the targeted countries.(2) The near complete lack of mainstream media attention to such blatant corruption aptly shows the current extent of the corporate fusion with state power and the implosion of 'democracy' in the USA.

Close ties between the chemical industry and U.S. militarism developed rapidly after WWI on the initiative of the United States Chemical Warfare Service, then interested in allaying public opposition to chemical warfare by developing a peacetime agrichemical industry from the poison gases used in WWI. Monsanto and other chemical companies were firmly ensconced within the 'military-industrial' complex by the end of WWII, and reapplied their chemical warfare from humans to agricultural pests with government support on a truly global scale.(3) This merger of militarism and the food system has deepened to an obscene degree in the early 21st century - barely distinguishable from Bertram Gross' dystopian visions of "Friendly Fascism" and the "Inverted Totalitarianism" described by Sheldon Wolin.(4) Monsanto's ability to direct government power, and its willingness to hire mercenaries to spy on activist groups,(5) is mirrored by the government's subservience to a criminal banking elite and mainstream media complicity with the recent unconstitutional yet federally coordinated suppression of the Occupy movement.(6)

Foodopolists and the governments that serve them claim extending the model of industrialized agriculture will be necessary to feed the world's projected population growth. However, increased production is not the problem requiring resolution. They conveniently ignore that current global yields could already meet this projected demand if inequality did not ensure its maldistribution.(7) They also ignore how industrialized agriculture is dependent on already stressed and finite natural resources, thus making it environmentally unsustainable. Agroecological methods and the principles of food sovereignty offer the only sustainable alternative vision, something notably recognized by the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier De Schutter.

The Declaration of Nyéléni, issued by more than 500 representatives from over 80 countries in 2007, defined food sovereignty in contrast to the top-down 'new green revolution' proposals of financial elites and 'philanthropic' reformers: "Food sovereignty is different from food security in both approach and politics. Food security does not distinguish where food comes from, or the conditions under which it is produced and distributed. National food security targets are often met by sourcing food produced under environmentally destruc-

tive and exploitative conditions, and supported by subsidies and policies that destroy local food producers but benefit agribusiness corporations. Food sovereignty emphasizes ecologically appropriate production, distribution and consumption, social-economic justice and local food systems as ways to tackle hunger and poverty and guarantee sustainable food security for all peoples. It advocates trade and investment that serve the collective aspirations of society. It promotes community control of productive resources; agrarian reform and tenure security for small-scale producers; agroecology; biodiversity; local knowledge; the rights of peasants, women, indigenous peoples and workers; social protection and climate justice."(9)

Sadly, the MAM's proposed solutions lack such breadth of vision.(10) Until a few days before May 25th, after much push back from below, MAM had limited their messaging to demanding the corporate oligarchy be more transparent and considerate, without addressing the means aside from a diffuse public opinion by which pressure may be applied toward those goals. Hunger and structural inequality did not even appear to be on MAM's agenda, though inequality provides essential context and incentive for Monsanto's continued market dominance, while looming cuts to SNAP (food stamp) funding in the Farm Bill now in Congress give these issues incredible urgency. Belatedly (May 22), MAM/AntiMedia are now speaking like the food justice movement has been for years,

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Send submissions to: [foodassemblySD@gmail.com](mailto:foodassemblySD@gmail.com)

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<https://www.facebook.com/FoodAssemblySD>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/foodassembly>



Hundreds attended the Sobreruedas Opening on March 17. All are welcome on alternating Sundays at 30th and Imperial. (Still to come: 6/2, 6/16, 6/30, 7,14, 7/28, 8/11, 8/25, 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1 Photo by Nic Paget-Clarke.

### **Organizing, Education and Crisis ... cont'd from p. 1, col. 3**

rents went up. There was no decent rent for the people who moved to this community, especially working class. Now the jobs are leaving. Corporation jobs are being offered with Walmart. I don't know if you have walked by Imperial (Avenue) -- all the businesses are leaving.

By the attendance, you can see there is a lot of need. I think that is our work to make them conscious of how everything connects and how there is a relationship with the globalization that is going on worldwide. That needs to be more conscious. But we have the issue on ourselves so we need to start moving. We need to start organizing and educating at the same time.

I think the Zapatistas put it in a good way when they say, "Andando conscientizando", meaning we don't have time to educate, we have to be moving as we educate. And I think that is what is going on here. We have to be moving as we educate because the problem is already in.

People want to see results. People want to see something and be educated in the process. In a way, I think that is the best way people learn, too. It is a need. Also, a lot of people have lost their jobs. A lot of people in the community know how to do business, so they like the whole idea of being your own business owner.

And, just to share this story, (when) I announced it at Christ The King Catholic Church, even the priest recommended everybody should go and participate. This is what he said, "It is better to write checks from the front than from the back." This is what he said. "I would highly recommend you become your

own business owner and take this opportunity." And a lot of people came because of that. So even him, he is aware of what is going on.

**Sara Garcia:** Definitely, I think there is an economic crisis and this community is very affected. The families in this community already suffer from unemployment and they receive very few resources from the city or the state. There are not that many projects which are receiving support.

We believe that the Sobreruedas is a great opportunity, as Genoveva mentioned, to offer products at affordable prices and for the money to go directly into the community. The lack of employment affects people. We are struggling so that there can be more opportunities for employment within the community. If they are going to build new stores, or they already have, then that employment should be for people who live here -- not for those who come from outside -- and to make changes which benefit the community. I believe that the work that Casa de Vecinos Organizados is doing is such a step and we believe it is important.

### **Community gardens**

**GDAF:** At the beginning, when we first started meeting, we were also talking about the possibility of community gardens. How is that coming along? Is that considered part of the plan?

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## **Organizing, Education and Crisis ... cont'd from p. 3, col. 2**

**Avital Aboody:** We would still very much love to have a community garden in the neighborhood and just last week we drove around the neighborhood again trying to scout out some sites. As the Greater Logan Heights Community Partnership, we just joined the Community Budget Alliance which is a group of 30 non-profit organizations that work in underserved communities, that are trying to figure out how to get the needs of those communities into the budget -- to advocate for themselves in the city budget. I submitted a list of priorities of capital improvement projects in the neighborhood and put on there that we would really like to have some funding set aside to put a community garden in the neighborhood.

It's going to take a lot of work with the City to identify a space and figure out how we can prepare the land properly. If we were able to get some more firm partners in place both financially, and also groups that have experience doing gardens, I think we would like to put it back on the agenda.

Also, I know that you helped us organize a presenter to help people figure out how to do their own personal gardens and I think we should follow up on that. At least, start getting some people to be able to grow in their own gardens and then maybe start contributing that product to the Sobreruedas to build more consciousness about gardening in the community so that it will flow more naturally into a community garden when we are ready to set that space up.

### **A Space to Educate and Create More Leadership**

**GDAF:** *Besides making the Sobreruedas an opportunity for people to create their own businesses and selling products, what else do you see happening around the Sobreruedas?*

**Genoveva Aguilar:** We are taking the space of the Sobreruedas to have an opportunity to educate our community and develop more leadership. So, the first workshop we are going to have is employee's rights. The Employee Rights Center is providing the workshop. We are going to be doing a lot of employee's rights. A lot of unions already volunteered to do their workshops. We are doing tenant's rights, immigration rights -- keeping everybody informed about what is going on with immigration.

So, yes, the space in our community, Sobreruedas, is also a space to educate and create more leadership. We are providing a space in the Sobreruedas to make sure that happens.

**Avital Aboody:** Also, we circulated a survey around, that we need to get more responses to, but we are starting to gather information about what kinds of workshops people would be interested in attending. Some other responses so far, besides the workshops Geno mentioned, for which there is a lot of interest are: people are interested in cooking classes, and

fitness workshops, to cultivate consciousness around health in the community. We are open to having a whole variety of workshops and partnering with other organizations who might have ideas and what they would like to do in popular education in the community.

### **Barrio Logan and Barrio Sherman**

**GDAF:** *Can you clarify the name of the community.*

**Avital Aboody:** There are a lot of different names which people use to describe the area that we work in. The five neighborhoods are: Memorial, Stockton, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, and Sherman Heights. They are bordered by the 15 to the East, the 94 to the North, and the 5 to the South and West. That's the triangle area we are talking about. Some people refer to that whole area as Greater Logan Heights. Some people refer to it as the Historic Barrio district. Some people refer to it as the Central Village.

**Genoveva Aguilar:** For the people who grew up here in Barrio Logan and Barrio Sherman, it's never going to change. People are going to name it differently to fit their needs and their plans, but it's always going to be Barrio Logan and Barrio Sherman.

### **Involve the Alternative**

**GDAF:** *Is there something else you would like to add?*

**Genoveva Aguilar:** One of the things about the Sobreruedas is that it will provide opportunities for our community because it is part of not only Casas De Vecinos Organizados and, like Avital says, part of a Greater Logan Heights Partnership, and we have a great expert with Marilyn Armenta who is helping us with all the paperwork, but bottom-line, as a person who grew up in this neighborhood, I grew up living close to Farmers' Market where the new Walmart is going to be -- it used to be a Farmers' Market. It provided clothes, food to everybody. And everybody is like "Go to the farmers' market" or "I'll meet you at the farmers' market." Our identity and culture revolved around the location of the Farmers' Market. Now they are building a Walmart so I will hear for myself who has a nephew, growing up in this community, that all his culture and identity is involved around the WalMart, when a Walmart doesn't have good labor ethics.

I would rather have him say, "I will meet you at the Sobreruedas." "Let's have food at the Sobreruedas." Involve the alternative. We are providing alternatives in our community because this big corporation, not only does it not provide good jobs in our community, but it takes away our identity and the culture of our community. We want to create another option. ❖

# Community Notes

 by James Bartoli

## Stop TPP! – Raising Local Awareness

Round 17 of the TPP, Lima, Peru, May 15-24, 2013

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations remain high on the agenda of the USA-based financial elite. Advancing the TPP is central to elite efforts to curtail increasing popular demands for expanded democratic accountability of their activities as private investors and major stockholders of transnational corporations. The TPP would obstruct labor, health and safety initiatives elites believe harmful to profit by making them recognizable as ‘trade barriers’ under such ‘trade agreements’. Increasing private wealth’s ability to challenge national regulations in international tribunals staffed by specialist trade attorneys traversing the corporate-government revolving door, TPP proponents hope to bulwark the now discredited ‘market fundamentalist’ model of financial capitalism. Upon concluding the negotiations, political elites will foist it upon the people of the TPP nations through stealth and deceit, with the mainstream media an active part of the ‘public relations campaign’. Ongoing educational efforts and popular organizing are thus very important.

Local awareness raising began on the afternoon of Friday, May 10, 2013, with a sign and banner holding demonstration on the Robinson Street overpass of Highway 163 organized by Christina Imhoof of Women Occupy San Diego.

## Overpass Light Brigade – San Diego

The San Diego chapter of the Overpass Light Brigade struck again, on May 11, to raise awareness about the TPP. Beginning shortly after dusk, a handful of bright spirits illuminated part of the night for downtown bound traffic on Highway 163, while speaking to people walking along University Avenue about the little-known activities of the U.S. Trade Representative

## Coalition for Community and Labor Solidarity

The GDAF has joined CCLS’ local efforts supporting workers’ struggles against corporate exploitation, demanding a living wage, and opposing the ‘walmartization’ of local communities like Sherman Heights. Connecting the local and the international in anticipation of the Round 17 negotiations, the CCLS adopted a statement condemning the TPP that may be read online: <http://stoptpp.org/2013/05/12/coalition-for-community-and-labor-solidarity/>

The CCLS also held a successful fundraiser on May 17, at UFCW Local 135, where over \$2,000 was raised to support striking OurWalmart workers. Though it ironically labels its employees ‘associates’, Walmart aggressively opposes their efforts to independently associate and demand higher wages

and improved working conditions. With the Rana Plaza fire in Bangladesh fresh in daily news, and the blood of over 1,100 workers on the hands of transnational textile producers, retailers including Walmart, and consumers, the fundraiser was a poignant reflection of local resistance to the ugly underside of ‘global value chains’. Members of the GDAF Editorial Group participated, and shared a GDAF special edition by Arnie Sasaki of Moana Nui about Walmart and the TPP.

To make online donations to the CCLS-OurWalmart strike fund: <http://www.payitsquare.com/collect-page/12048>

## March Against Monsanto – May 25th

The rallying point is at the Bea Everson Fountain on the east side of El Prado in Balboa Park at 11:00 a.m. The organizers plan to conclude by holding a “people’s assembly for networking solutions and discussion” beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the World Beat Center.

Local Healthy Food, a new SD coalition, will be present wearing green and promoting a solution-focused message during the local MAM mobilization on May 25th. Local Healthy Food supports organic farms, farmers markets, food cooperatives, urban agriculture, and helping one another grow their own food. For more information: <http://localhealthyfood.org>

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## ... Marching Against Monsanto

*cont'd from p. 2, col. 2*

after initially dismissing calls from local organizers to broaden MAM’s messaging and include existing alternative solutions and international trade agreements like the TPP/TTIP. (11) Yet, although MAM does not bring food sovereignty to the conversation, we all benefit coming together in the streets, by expanding the discussions and building a stronger network to engage with the larger global movement. In a growing discussion, with less privileged voices front and center, we may really consider long term solutions that give global equity and sustainability equal importance alongside health and safety. A more locally rooted and internationally connected sustainable food system is already nascent at the grassroots level around the world - one that, when expanded and federated together across artificial borders, has the potential to replace industrial agriculture. For this better world to grow, however, it is crucial we join together with existing groups doing good work and also create our own groups to liberate more spaces - to scale-out sustainable food systems horizontally rather than scaling-up, vertically. Then, we may feed the world, improve health AND enhance democracy. ❖

*Endnotes can be found on page 11 of this newsletter’s PDFs at: [http://www.scribd.com/chuerta\\_696874](http://www.scribd.com/chuerta_696874)*

# Enough Of These Crises!

by Nic Paget-Clarke

Is there a food crisis in San Diego County? Yes, there is, and, unfortunately, it is just one of a mess of interrelated crises. For example, there are: the rising and permanent inequality between the rich and the poor (both locally and around the world); the ongoing collapse of the world economy which most recently began in 2008; and the rapidly increasing rate of human-made global climate change.

Behind all these crises, though, there may be one we least expect. For indeed, as we careen along in our hydrocarbon-powered cars, looking out at our hydrocarbon-powered agriculture and our polluted, crime- and war-torn cities, many of us are oblivious to what we see. Also, many of us are too busy to look. Many of us are too afraid to look. Perhaps the most debilitating crisis of all is the crisis of how we think.

We could, after all, simply decide to say “Enough!” and refuse to cooperate in the daily regeneration of these crises – though we would have to do it together. We could, together, coordinate the everyday bravery we muster to feed our children, to foster our relationships, to “earn” money to survive, to volunteer, to both participate and to struggle-on alone – and decide that these crises must end.

## Hunger and Poverty

But back to these other crises. Why is our food crisis so important? Well, to quote a friend of mine, the crisis with food hits home (whether you live in one or not). And for many, this food crisis is now life-threatening. This is not supposed to happen in the United States (though it always has). Indeed, large sections of our community are now food insecure. That is, they don’t know where their next meal is coming from.

According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition, half a million people in our county are food insecure. And, not surprisingly, this “insecurity” is directly related to poverty (low wages, no wages, no land, no home). Worse, according to the U.S. Census, this situation is hitting particularly hard among our children. 33% of Pacific Island children are in poverty, 32% of American Indian children, 24% of Hispanic/Latino children, 23% of African American children, and 13% of white children. (1)

Additionally, this is no passing phase. This poverty doesn’t improve with the ups and downs of Wall Street (though it has everything to do with the essence of Wall Street).

On March 17, 2013, the Brookings Institution released a study (2) of U.S. tax returns which indicates that the rising inequality in U.S. society is permanent. Reporting on this, an article (3) in *The New York Times* found this report particularly “striking” because the analysis was, “no Occupy Wall Street critique,” but one written by experts from the Federal Reserve

Board, the U.S. Treasury Department, and others. And, while noting that income earning has become more inclusive of women, that people of color are gaining more “demographic influence”, and that gays and lesbians are gaining full marriage rights, these more inclusive opportunities are simply integrated into this permanent economic divide. Rather, *The Times* wrote, “... the economic divide between the top and the bottom is becoming both wider and deeper.”

But don’t we hear in the media and from politicians that the economy is getting better? Well, yes we do, but better for who? *The New York Times* reports that corporations are increasing their wealth but they are not investing in new jobs. Citing an economist at Barclay’s Bank, *The New York Times* writes, “... corporate earnings have risen at an annualized rate of 20.1 percent since 2008 ... but disposable income inched ahead by 1.4 percent annually over the same period, after adjusting for inflation.” (4).

The context for this is U.S.-style austerity measures such as “sequestration” (700,000 jobs expected to be lost), the “Fiscal Cliff”, and ongoing, massive, state-by-state cutbacks.

## Austerity and Privatization

But our economy is not just a San Diego economy, or even simply a Californian, or a U.S. economy – it is a world economy. And the news from Europe, for example, continues to be grim. Country after country in Europe is teetering on the verge of economic collapse and the “solutions” are huge loans which come with strict rules demanding cutbacks, austerity measures, and the privatization of resources. These countries include Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, and now Slovenia.

Alejandro Nadal, an economist who writes for *La Jornada* in Mexico City, points out that ever since 1973 and Law 73-7 regarding the Bank of France there has been a very deliberate turning over of sovereign monetary policy to private banks (5) – groups of private banks with no particular country allegiance.

And this monetary policy shift has led to austerity and privatization being requirements for “country-saving” loans which are now part and parcel of an inexorable trend which is nothing less than the privatization of entire countries. Banks and their corporate allies caused, and now are taking advantage of, sovereign economic crises to further their banking and corporate wealth and power.

For this, the context is the neoliberal policies invented by Milton Friedman, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan - globalization, the “Washington Consensus,” “disaster capitalism”.

*please see p.7, col. 1*

## **Enough Of These Crises ... cont'd from p. 6, col. 2**

### **The TPP and Increasing Corporate Influence**

Meanwhile, in the Americas and the Far East, a different take on the same process is taking place. Here it is a vision, a plan-in-action called the TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In California, we know about NAFTA, the North America Free Trade Act, and now we are learning about the TPP. Under the 20-year-old NAFTA, millions of people have been driven off their land in Mexico by multinational corporate prices which undercut local farmers. And, while in Mexico many people came North to the U.S. and many moved to large cities like Mexico City, here, many jobs went South to U.S.-run *maquiladora* factories, where thousands work for low wages in unhealthy conditions. Now, we are discovering that the TPP is “NAFTA on Steroids.”

With at least 12 countries involved in secret TPP talks (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the U.S., and Vietnam), leaked documents and what is publicly revealed threaten a dark future. A future (a now) of corporate control of environmental, labor, freedom-of-information, and patent policies backed up by World Bank-associated courts where corporations are able to sue entire countries for damages and changes to sovereign laws. More foreboding yet, this primarily U.S.-sponsored super-Free Trade regime coincides with the U.S.'s openly-declared military shift from Europe and the Middle East to East Asia. A shift to guard sea routes, back up local regimes, and line up against the number two economic/military power in the world – China.

### **Industrial Agriculture and Climate Change**

Which brings us to one of the biggest crises of all – global climate change. There are varying estimates, but at least 45% of the greenhouse gases (GHG) which are causing climate change are attributable to industrial “Green Revolution” agriculture. Global climate warming impacts range from the rapid melting of both the North and South Poles’ ice sheets, to a rise in sea level, and changes in sea and weather currents. NASA warns of impacts in every region of the world.

“North America: Decreasing snowpack in the western mountains; ... increased frequency, intensity and duration of heat waves in cities that currently experience them.

“Latin America: Gradual replacement of tropical forest by savannah in eastern Amazonia; risk of significant biodiversity loss through species extinction in many tropical areas; significant changes in water availability for human consumption, agriculture and energy generation.

“Europe: Increased risk of inland flash floods; more frequent coastal flooding and increased erosion from storms and sea level rise; glacial retreat in mountainous areas; reduced snow cover and winter tourism; extensive species losses; reductions of crop productivity in southern Europe.

“Africa: By 2020, between 75 and 250 million people are projected to be exposed to increased water stress; yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 percent in some regions by 2020; agricultural production, including access to food, may be severely compromised.

“Asia: Freshwater availability projected to decrease in Central, South, East and Southeast Asia by the 2050s; coastal areas will be at risk due to increased flooding; death rate from disease associated with floods and droughts expected to rise in some regions.” (6)

Industrial agriculture-sourced GHGs are a result of both reliance on oil-based energy instead of the sun, and global production and distribution instead of local production and distribution. Specifically, that means using oil to manufacture fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other “inputs”. It means manufacturing and fueling industrial-sized harvesters and any number of other very expensive machines. It means transporting food around the world by plane, by truck, by ship (all of which need fuel) and having to refrigerate while travelling, while storing, while marketing. And all for the capital benefit of Monsanto, ADM, DuPont and others.

### **Towards a People’s Assembly**

These interrelated crises are capital-making projects for the wealthy few who own the world’s multinational corporations. They are impoverishing the world’s peoples and making our lives unbearable. Their culture confuses us, their wage schemes impoverish us, their Wall Street derivative-based scams gamble with both sovereign nations and individual families. Their extraction of resources, of the very life of Mother Earth, is making this planet uninhabitable. These crises are a way of life for some, a way of hunger, misery and death for most.

If we want, though, we can decide to end these crises. Together we could build a calm and peaceful world based on an understanding of biodiversity and an understanding that reciprocity and solidarity can be the cultural, economic, and environmental basis of what sustainability really is. We don’t have to define “development” and “growth” as stock market returns and an ever-increasing rate of capital accumulation at the expense of others. If we decide to, we can build local economies and networks of democratic communities. We can join together with the already growing food justice movement – and grow our own healthy food – feed our own community. We can join with the Indigenous people, family farmers and peasants of the world who are already organizing in their millions for food sovereignty, women’s equality, and land for those who work it.

We can talk to our neighbors around San Diego County about organizing a major People’s Assembly to decide what we want to do about food. ❖

*Endnotes can be found on page 12 of this newsletter’s PDFs at:  
[http://www.scribd.com/chuerta\\_696874](http://www.scribd.com/chuerta_696874)*

# Farm, Garden and Other Resources

## A Handy List for Bulletin Boards and Refrigerator Doors

List of resources compiled by Mariah Gayler and Carlos Huerta. We keep adding more. Please keep sending them in! If you are reading this online the links are live.

### Farms and Gardens

#### San Diego Farmers Markets

<http://sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php>

#### San Diego Farms (search by city or zip)

<http://www.localharvest.org/organic-farms/>

#### City Farmers Nursery, City Heights

<http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com>

#### Enchanted Garden Intentional Community, College Area

[http://www.lesliegoldman.com/Enchanted\\_Garden\\_Intentional\\_Community](http://www.lesliegoldman.com/Enchanted_Garden_Intentional_Community)

#### New Roots Community Farm, City Heights

<http://www.rescue.org/blog/farm>

#### Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center, National City

<http://olivewoodgardens.org>

#### Rosa Parks Community Garden, City Heights

<http://parks.sandi.net/Pages/Garden/home.html>

#### San Diego Peace Garden, City Heights

<http://www.sdpeacegarden.org>

#### Seeds at City Urban Farm, San Diego City College

<http://sdcity.edu/SeedsAtCity>

#### Suzie's Farm, Border Field State Park

<http://suziesfarm.com>

### Organizations

#### The Brighter Side Foundation

<http://thebrightersidefoundation.org>

#### California Rare Fruit Growers, San Diego & North County

<http://www.crfgsandiego.org>

#### Food First / The Institute for Food and Development

<http://www.foodfirst.org>

#### Greater Logan Heights Sobreruedas/ Community Market

<http://www.glhcp.org/archives/portfolio-items/clean-up-the-greater-logan-heights-region>

#### Grow Strong, City Heights and Kenya

<http://www.growstrong.org>

#### International Rescue Committee (IRC), City Heights

<http://www.rescue.org>

#### La Vía Campesina

<http://viacampesina.org/en/>

#### Local Healthy Food –

<http://localhealthyfood.org>

#### National Family Farm Coalition

<http://www.nffc.net>

#### Network for Healthy California

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CPNS/Pages/default.aspx>

### Organizations

#### People's Produce Project, Southeastern San Diego

<http://www.healthyworks.org/healthy-foods/peoples-produce>

#### Ocean Beach People's Food Co-Op, San Diego

<http://obpeoplesfood.coop>

#### San Diego Community Garden Network

<http://www.sandiegocommunitygardennetwork.org>

#### San Diego Edible Garden Society

<http://www.sdedible.org/>

#### San Diego Cultivating Food Justice

<http://www.sdfoodjustice.org>

#### San Diego Food Not Lawns

<http://www.sdfoodnotlawns.com>

#### San Diego Food Policy / 1 in 10 Coalition

<http://sdfoodpolicy.org>

#### San Diego County Food System Alliance

<http://aginnoventions.org/alliances/sandiego/>

#### San Diego Hunger Coalition

<http://www.sandiegohungercoalition.org>

#### San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project

<http://www.sandiegoroots.org/index.php>

#### Shakti Rising, Golden Hill

<http://shaktirising.org>

#### Slow Food Urban San Diego

<http://www.slowfoodurbansandiego.org>

#### Solana Center for Innovation, Encinitas

<http://www.solanacenter.org>

#### Squeeze Play!, San Diego County

<http://squeezeplayorganics.org/sandiego.html>

#### Victory Gardens San Diego

<http://www.victorygardenssandiego.com>

### Volunteer Opportunities & Resources

#### Aztlán Consciente – A Community Library

1835 Main St., San Diego [aztlanconsciente@gmail.com](mailto:aztlanconsciente@gmail.com)

#### Food Not Bombs

Food recovery (Tuesdays), Cooking and Serving (Wednesdays)  
<http://sdfnb.org> <http://fnbcityheights.wordpress.com>

#### Peace Garden, 3850 Westgate Pl, San Diego, CA 92105

Wed. (9-11am) & 2nd Sat. (9am-noon)

#### Wild Willow's Farm, San Ysidro/Imperial Beach

<http://www.sandiegoroots.org/farm/index.php>

1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays of the Month

#### World Beat Center Children's Garden

Sundays at noon.





## Walmart and the TPP

# If Walmart Were A Nation ...

by Arnie Saiki

On December 14th 2011, WalMart VP Angela Marshall Brown delivered testimony before a Congressional subcommittee on Trade highlighting WalMart's strong support for the **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement**. In her testimony she writes that "*WalMart encourages negotiators to secure liberal rules for retail and distribution rights with no limits on size, geographic location or merchandise assortment.*" This testimony reveals WalMart's **opposition to unions**, it's promotion of **deregulating tariff and transit costs** and may seek to allow more liberal regulations on the **dumping of goods in foreign markets**. If WalMart were a NATION would it be described as imperialist?

- WalMart boasts over **9,800 retail stores**, 69 banners in 28 countries

- Wal-Mart's 2011 fiscal year sales were at **\$419 billion**. This puts WalMart's GDP around the same as Austria's (ranked 28 out of 191 world economies).

- WalMart employs **2.1 million** associates. If referenced as a population, WalMart would be the 143rd most populated country in the world, between Lesotho and Latvia.

If WalMart were a country, the per capita income would be close to \$200,000 a year, twice as much as the highest ranked Qatar who has a population of 1.8 million. (U.S. is ranked 6th at \$48,400 for a population of 314M)

WalMart's **CEO Michael Duke's annual salary is \$35M** while the average WalMart employee makes only **\$11.75 an hour**, grossing \$20,744 a year, which for a one-earner household is **below the \$22,000 poverty line**.

Unlike Qatar's \$100,000 per capita income, WalMart's \$200,000 per capita income mostly goes to expanding their global supply chain, cutting into livelihoods of workers and undercutting the real costs of extracting and transporting environmental resources.

What Qatar and WalMart have in common is their ill treatment of labor. WalMart does not maintain living wage standards for its low-income labor, and promotes policies opposing labor unions.

**The 17th round of TPP negotiations will take place in Lima, Peru from May 15-24, 2013.** The TPP has been called the *North American Free Trade Agreement of the Pacific*, and a NAFTA on steroids—but since these negotiations are being held in secret, the public will not likely know anytime soon just how egregious this TPP free trade agreement is.

- Recently, *the TPP investor-state chapter was leaked*, revealing that investors will be given more rights to sue governments in third-party, secret tribunals over a variety of compensation rights that would include labor, health and environmental protections and regulations.

- **Canada, Mexico and Japan have now joined the TPP**, making it a 12 party partnership. This trade cooperation will comprise nearly 785 million people representing a GDP of nearly **\$26 trillion**.

- If WalMart were a country, its **economy** would exceed the economies of not only towns and most cities, but also small countries. WalMart's imposition for expanding the **global supply chain**, threatens communities, not just in the US, but internationally. (The global supply chain, represents the entire chain for creating goods in a market: the extraction of resources, shipping, manufacturing, packaging, warehousing and payment, the entire process whereby a good sits on a shelf waiting to be consumed. *What is not included in the accounting of the global supply chain, however, is the waste and the accounting of resource depletion and environmental degradation.*)

If WalMart were a nation, its influence in other countries would lead to **global WalMart-ization**. Local communities already have difficulty protecting our resources and businesses from large transnational industries and corporations. WalMart threatens our local businesses and communities. A TPP free trade agreement will further entrench WalMart's aggression. ❖

*This essay was originally produced by Imipono Projects for Moana Nui Action Alliance and is reprinted and updated with permission.*



# Si Wal-Mart fuera un país ...

por Arnie Saiki (traducción por Carlos Huerta)

El 14 de diciembre de 2011, WalMart VP Angela Marshall Brown entregó su testimonio ante un subcomité del Congreso sobre Comercio destacando el fuerte apoyo de Wal-Mart para el **Acuerdo de Libre Comercio Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)**. En su testimonio, ella escribe que “WalMart alienta negociadores para asegurar reglas liberales de los derechos comerciales y de distribución sin límite de tamaño, ubicación geográfica o surtido de mercancías.” Este testimonio pone de manifiesto la oposición de WalMart a los sindicatos, soportando la desregulación de los costos de aranceles y de tránsito y podrá tratar de permitir que las regulaciones más liberales sobre el vertimiento de productos en los mercados extranjeros. Si Wal-Mart fuera una nación se puede describir cómo imperialista?

Walmart cuenta con más de **9.800 tiendas**, 69 pancartas de 28 países. Las ventas del año fiscal 2011 fueron alrededor de **419 mil millones dólares**. Esto pone el PIB de WalMart alrededor de la misma de Austria (en el puesto 28 de 191 economías del mundo).

Walmart emplea a 2.1 millones de trabajadores. Si se hace referencia como población, WalMart sería el 143 °país más poblado del mundo, entre Lesotho y Letonia.

Salario anual del **CEO de Walmart Michael Duke es de \$ 35M**, mientras que el promedio de los empleados WalMart hace sólo \$ 11.75 por hora, ganando en total \$ 20.744 al año, el cual está por **debajo de la línea de pobreza para un hogar de una sola fuente de ingreso**.

A diferencia de los 100.000\$ de ingresos per cápita de Qatar, el ingreso per cápita WalMart \$ 200.000 se destina a la expansión de **su cadena de suministro global**, el corte en los medios de vida de los trabajadores y la subvaloración de los costos reales de la extracción y el transporte de los recursos ambientales.

Lo que Qatar y WalMart tienen en común es su mal tratamiento de los trabajadores. WalMart no mantiene normas salario digno por su trabajo de bajos ingresos, y promueve políticas opuestas sindicatos.

**La 17ª ronda de negociaciones del TPP se llevará a**

**cabo en Lima, Perú, del 15 hasta 24 mayo 2013**, los EE.UU. está llevando las negociaciones del TPP. El TPP ha sido llamado el *Acuerdo de Libre Comercio de América del Norte del Pacífico*, y el *NAFTA* con esteroides, pero ya que estas negociaciones se llevan a cabo en secreto, el público probablemente no saber pronto cuán atroz este tratado de libre comercio TPP es.

Recientemente, *el capítulo inversor-estado TPP se filtró*, revelando que los inversores recibirán más derechos a demandar a los gobiernos de terceros, tribunales secretos sobre una variedad de derechos de compensación que incluya protecciones y regulaciones laborales, de salud y ambientales.

Si Wal-Mart fuera un país, **su economía** sería superior a las economías no sólo de las ciudades y la mayoría de las ciudades, sino también los países pequeños. Imposición de WalMart para la expansión de la cadena de suministro global, amenaza a las comunidades, no sólo en los EE.UU., sino internacionalmente.

**La cadena de suministro global, representa a toda la cadena de creación de productos en un mercado:** la extracción de recursos, transporte, fabricación, envasado, almacenamiento y el pago, todo el proceso por el que un bien se sienta en un estante a la espera de ser consumidos. *Lo que no se incluye en la contabilidad de la cadena de suministro global, sin embargo, los residuos y la contabilización de agotamiento de los recursos y la degradación del medio ambiente.*

**Canadá, México y Japón se han unido a la TPP**, por lo que es una asociación de 12 partes, la cooperación comercial comprende ahora casi 785 millones las personas que representan un PIB de casi **\$26 billón**.

Si Wal-Mart fuera un país, su influencia en otros países llevaría a **WalMart mundialización**.

Las comunidades locales ya tienen dificultades para la protección de nuestros recursos y empresas de las grandes industrias y las empresas transnacionales. WalMart amenaza nuestras empresas y las comunidades locales. Con el respaldo de un acuerdo de libre comercio TPP será afianzar aún más la agresión de WalMart. ❖

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by James Bartoli

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