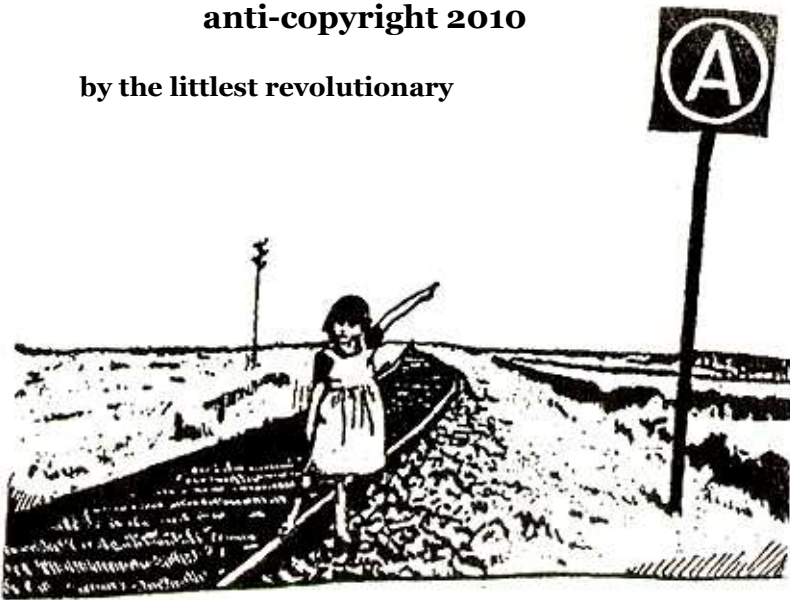


united fruit corruption:

anti-copyright 2010

by the littlest revolutionary



what chiquita, dole, and
fresh express are up to

what's up with bananas:

Chiquita, as you may know, is one of the largest sellers of bananas in the United States. They allow you to buy cheap bananas daily at grocery stores around the country. What you may not know, however, is that they have a history rooted in **imperialism and terror**.

Please note as you read, Chiquita is a faction of the United Fruit Company, which includes other brands like Dole and Fresh Express. While I will focus on Chiquita -- bananas, in particular -- what I describe goes for *all* United Fruit Company products.

The United Fruit Company was the primary financier of United States colonization of Latin America in the 1800's. As a result, the company owns the majority of the land there, turning many natives into landless peasants. The UFC **exploits** the land and the people to get *you* bananas, but at what price?

Take Guatemala, where 70% of the land is owned by 2.2% of the population (most of which is United Fruit plantations). The UFC owns the country's telephone and telegraph facilities, the only important Atlantic harbor, and has established a monopoly over all the banana exports. This is very problematic, given that the UFC also has ties to the Dulles brothers, State Department officials, congressmen, and the American Ambassador to the United Nations. Ruling Guatemala economically, while maintaining good relations with so many political insiders in the US, **United Fruit can get away with almost anything**.

“Chiquita in the dock for murder” an editorial by W. T. Whitney Jr., published on Agencia Prensa Rural: Desde Colombia con las comunidades campesinas en resistencia on December 20, 2007.

Accessible online at
www.prensarural.org/spip/spip.php?article934

“Guatemala 1953-1954: While the world watched” an excerpt from the book **Killing Hope** by William Blum.

Excerpt accessible online at
www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Blum/Guatemala_KH.html

Information on the book, as well as other excerpts can be found at killinghope.org (you can also order the book here if it isn't available at a bookstore near you).

www.chiquitacorruption.blogspot.com has all of this information, as well as sticker images.

references and further reading:

“Chiquita case puts big firms on notice: The company’s admission that it paid Colombian paramilitaries \$1.7 million has sparked outrage in Colombia” an article in the Christian Science Monitor by Sibylla Brodzinsky, published April 11, 2007.

Accessible online at
www.csmonitor.com/2007/0411/p01s03-woam.html

“Banana Republic: Chertoff, Chiquita, and Right-Wing Death Squads” an editorial written by Chris Floyd, published on Dandelion Salad on August 2, 2007.

Accessible online at
dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2007/08/02/banana-republic-chertoff-chiquita-and-right-wing-death-squads-by-chris-floyd/

“In Terrorism-Law Case, Chiquita Points to U.S.: Firm Says It Awaited Justice Dept. Advice” an article in the Washington Post by Carol D. Leonnig, published August 2, 2007.

Accessible online at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/01/AR2007080102601_pf.html

In the 1950's, Guatemala democratically elected a new leader, Jacobo Arbenz. Arbenz sought land reform, under which the land would be redistributed to the peasants. Arbenz was willing to compensate United Fruit for the land they would lose, but the company requested a whopping \$16 million, infinitely more than the land originally cost them (nothing). Meanwhile, the CIA had marked Arbenz as a communist, setting him up as a target to take down. When the CIA arranged to send arms to right-wing officers in the Guatemalan army, **the UFC donated \$64,000** -- cash. This ultimately led to a **military coup** followed by years of **mass-murder** in Guatemala -- all for your bananas.

If you're still not convinced, let's look at Colombia. United Fruit paid the right-wing United Self Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC, in Spanish) -- considered a **terrorist** organization -- around \$1.7 million for protection from left-wing militias. This was recent, too: the payments started in 1997 and are documented as continuing until at least 2006. **United Fruit also smuggled in thousands of weapons** for paramilitaries to fund operations against peasants, union workers and rivals. The AUC, now financed by Chiquita (which is financed by **you**), is responsible for **killing as many as 10,000 Colombians** over a period of 10 years. Between 1997 and 2004, the AUC was behind the **2,700 murders** in the banana growing region that supplied Chiquita with \$49.4 million dollars. The AUC was also found to have seized vast amounts of land for Chiquita.

And don't even get me started on Dole, the owner of whom (a Mr. Sanford B.) was put in place as president of

a provisional government after the US overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani in Hawai'i. Queen Lili had proposed a constitution that would return power to native Hawaiians, but her efforts were only met by guns. The US organized a coup d'état and forced the King to sign a Bayonet Constitution, eliminating the Hawai'ian monarchy and putting US business men in power (United Fruit).

Chiquita -- and Dole, and the United Fruit Company as a whole -- has a history of taking land by force, leaving its victims poor, landless, or **dead** in a ruthless pursuit for profit and monetary gain. When you buy a banana, you are supporting this murder and oppression. Silence is consent. **Still want that banana?**

what to do about it:

Boycott the company. Supporting a corporation is the same as supporting their politics. By buying and eating United Fruit Company products, you are supporting the company's policies regarding Latin America. So if you disagree with their business tactics, tell them! Start by boycotting the brand. United Fruit encompasses all Chiquita, Dole, and Fresh Express brands. This includes more than just bananas: pineapples, Dole "fruit cups," avocados and all other products under the brand name are equally corrupt.

P.S. Stop putting banana stickers on your forehead. You look dumb.

Raise consciousness. Educating others is extremely important. Raising consciousness about the unethical practices of Chiquita and all associated brands is the first step to change. Bad mouth the company. Reprint this zine and distribute it. Go to the banana section of a grocery store and loudly discuss the corruption with a friend.

Sticker the bananas. What is Chiquita famous for? Banana stickers: ones that spout phrases like "raised with tender loving care" and other appalling lies. Photoshop a Chiquita sticker with the truth, print lots of little stickers out on sticker paper, then cut them out in ovals. Take those stickers to the store and stick them right where they belong: on the corrupt product itself.

If you don't want to photoshop your own stickers, go to www.chiquitacorruption.blogspot.com for pre-shopped images like this:

