

OUR Walmart Members Hold Action to Protest Worker Retaliation



Ten recently fired Walmart workers hold a peaceful protest in front of Walmart offices in Washington, D.C., to call on Walmart to end retaliation against workers.

Last week, ten current or recently fired Walmart workers and OUR Walmart members were arrested in Washington, D.C. for peaceful civil disobedience near Walmart's downtown office. This action comes after the company fired or disciplined more than 70 workers for participating in a legally protected unfair labor practice strike in Bentonville, Ark., earlier this summer.

In June, members of the OUR Walmart sent civil rights movement-style caravans of workers from around the country to Walmart's annual shareholders' meeting in Bentonville to protest the retail giant's practice of retaliating against workers who speak out for change. Citing Walmart's \$16 billion in profits every year, OUR Walmart members called on the company to publicly commit to raising wages and increasing access to full-time hours so that no worker at Walmart makes less than \$25,000 per year.

"I went on a legally protected strike in June and travelled all the way to Walmart's headquarters in Arkansas to defend my coworkers' right to stand up. But when I got home, Walmart fired me. Since June, Walmart has fired or disciplined more than 70 of us for standing up," said Walmart worker Brandon Garrett.

In response to the worker retaliations and firings, actions will continue to intensify if Walmart does not reinstate workers or end retaliations. UFCW members are standing with OUR

Walmart as workers fight back against Walmart's illegal retaliation in a National Day of Action on September 5.

Members can also show their support for Walmart workers by signing the petition asking Walmart to respect workers' rights and pay a living wage at <http://bit.ly/150trkD>. **OP**

UFCW Locals 21 and 367 Hold Informational Pickets to Advocate for Grocery Workers



Hundreds of grocery workers will hold informational pickets at 38 grocery stores across the Seattle region to fight for workers' rights.

Grocery workers from UFCW Locals 21, 367 and Teamsters Local 38 will be joined by co-workers, elected officials, and community supporters in informational pickets held across the Seattle region. On August 28, workers from Fred Meyer, Safeway, QFC, and Albertsons will hold actions at 38 different grocery locations to draw attention to their fight for fair treatment, fair pay, and fair benefits.

Grocery store workers have been in contract negotiations since March. Despite more than 12 bargaining sessions and a first round of informational pickets in July, the companies have continued to stick to proposals that would stop providing health care coverage of employees working less than 30 hours a week, deny workers paid sick days, and cut pay including for those who work on holidays. A potential strike vote is set for the end of September depending on the progress of negotiations. **OP**

UFCW Members Commemorate March on Washington and Continue Fight for Social and Economic Justice



UFCW members traveled to Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

This past weekend, UFCW members traveled from across the country to Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The 1963 March on Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his inspirational “I Have a Dream” speech, was organized largely by civil rights and labor leader A. Philip Randolph and other black labor leaders. It was organized to promote freedom, economic equality and jobs, and paved the way for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The need to mobilize for freedom, jobs and equality has never been stronger, and UFCW members are honored to carry on the work of the 1963 activists by fighting for social and economic justice at the workplace and in communities.

The UFCW also released a statement honor of the anniversary of the march, saying, “In spite of the advances we have made since the March on Washington 50 years ago—including the election of our first African American president—the dream of freedom, economic equality and jobs has not been realized. The Great Recession has widened the gap between the rich and poor, and African American and Latino communities, in particular, have been hit the hardest by the economic downturn. These and other communities have also been the targets of voter suppression, and the recent Supreme Court decision to strike down key parts of the Voting Rights Act will undermine voting rights in future elections.”

On August 28, UFCW members will also participate in the “Let Freedom Ring” commemoration and call to action at the Lincoln Memorial. President Obama and former Presidents Clinton and Carter are scheduled to speak at the event. **OP**

Washington Post Interviews UFCW Minority Coalition President on his Experience at the March on Washington

The *Washington Post* featured Don Cash, President of the UFCW Minority Coalition, in their expanded coverage of the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington.



The full story can be read at <http://wapo.st/1daymsi> and it is excerpted here.

Printed in the Washington Post, UFCW Minority Coalition President Don Cash, reflects on his experience at the March on Washington.

Don Cash graduated from high school in June 1963 and decided on the spur of the moment to join the March on Washington when he finished his work shift at a nearby warehouse. The Baptist layman is the president of the UFCW Minority Coalition and a board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the NAACP.

What is your most lasting memory of your participating in the march?

I was just overwhelmed. I saw old women — at the time they appeared to me to be old; they had to be in their 40s and 50s — sitting on the curb wiping their faces, with straw hats. It was very, very hot.



It was just people everywhere. I had never seen that many folks where it was mixed, where it was black and white people, a very diverse crowd. Nobody was laughing dancing or joking. You could tell that it was very, very serious.

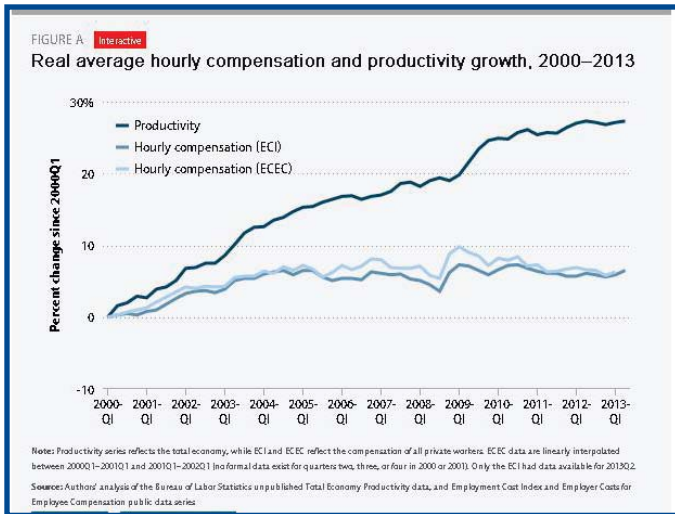
I had never experienced all of these people marching and walking in unison and orderly, quietly, people hugging. I saw no incident. None.

Dr. King spoke of his dream for America. Where do you think we are as a society in fulfilling that dream?

I think we got a long ways to go but I do think that there's been a lot of changes. I don't think you'll ever see what Martin Luther King dreamed in reality, in total. I think we'll always have to strive for perfection.

The dream that he had is a perfect world and I think that in order to be perfect, you have to continue to work at it. **OP**

Study Shows A Decade of Stagnant Wages Despite Productivity Growth



The latest EPI report shows that wages for middle-class workers have remained stagnant or even deflated in the past decade.

The latest report from the Economic Policy Institute shows that wages have remained stagnant or have even deflated for the majority of blue and white-collar Americans throughout the past decade.

Since the economy collapsed in 2008, most are beginning to see that the way to rebuild America's economy is to rebuild America's middle class—not tax cuts for the rich or trickle down policies.

Although more policy makers are agreeing that it's time to focus on the economic challenges of the middle class, there is a failure to fix the key problem that is hurting so many working-class Americans. Right now, overall growth is actually benefiting the richest households in the country, and companies that make billions of dollars annually, like Walmart and McDonalds, continue to make their executives rich, while the workers who make such businesses flourish earn starvation wages.

Growing income inequality in America must be reversed. The economy cannot recover if the rich continue to become richer, and the poor only poorer. That's why a raise in the minimum wage is essential. In the case of large retailers, whose CEO's rake in staggering amounts in earnings and bonuses each year, there is no excuse to not pay their employees enough to live on or to provide basic benefits.

The full report is available at <http://bit.ly/1761ZXe>. **OP**