

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

February 17 is the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a time when our communities of faith participate in much soul-searching and repentance. In our preparation, we are joining together with many members of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to write letters to Dole Fruit Company, Del Monte Foods, Chiquita Brands International, Dow Chemical, Shell Oil, Occidental Petroleum, OxyChem Corporation and AMVAC Chemical in empathy for members of the Nemagon camp.

We are also writing to you and other government leaders on behalf of the banana workers afflicted by the pesticide Nemagon, also called DBCP, who are living in the Nemagon camp located in the heart of Managua, Nicaragua, across from the National Assembly Building. These people are camping –under terrible conditions—to raise awareness of their plight. They are asking for health care, a living pension of \$200.00 per month per worker and regulations on transnational corporations so they cannot use deadly chemicals on unknowing workers—all in the name of business.

On March 11, 2005, approximately 2,500 farm workers and their families walked some 200 km from the Chinandega region of Nicaragua to Managua where they are now. They are ill, without homes or a way to support themselves. While working the banana fields of Nicaragua, they were exposed to Nemagon when applying the pesticide to the banana plant in order to kill rootworms or nematodes which damage and cause discoloration in bananas. They were not told of the danger or that they needed to cover themselves, as it is too hot for workers to wear much protective clothing.

They were given “Death’s Dew,” as they call it, knowingly by the companies. In the United States, DBCP was found to be a harmful pesticide in the 1950’s. The chemical was banned from further production in the US in 1979. Through the 1980’s some 24 million pounds of Nemagon was exported to Nicaragua and other places such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, the Philippines , the Caribbean, and the Ivory Coast. Result? The banana workers of Nicaragua and those in the other countries are living lives of great horror because of their exposure to DBCP.

Some of us have walked through the streets of the Nemagon camp. We saw adults and children living in make-shift cardboard and black plastic tents. Still, the people in the camp told us that they “love their American sisters and brothers.” They are a passionate and loving people.

The companies that we have listed do many wonderful things to raise the quality of our lives. We have read their ethical values and corporate promises and we WANT to BELIEVE that they take their words to heart. We are asking them to reflect on how they can raise the quality of life for the Nicaraguan people of the Nemagon camp. We know letters of protest have been written before and while some money has been paid out, most of the people have not been helped. It saddens us to know that there have been unethical dealings that have clouded the pursuit of justice for the people of the camp.

We are writing you, Mr. President and asking that you look to these people with compassion and find a way that the judicial complications between countries and corporations be cleared away so that the diligent workers of the Nemagon camp can live the rest of their lives in peace and dignity. We do

not believe that it is right for the workers to live in a camp of plastic and cardboard because of the selfish decisions of American corporations. We want those sick to be given medical care. We want their children to know a home. We want the parents to be able to look into the eyes of their children with dignity.

While we all prepare for this season of reflection, the people living in the Nemagon camp continue to live under inhumane conditions and wait for justice. We hope and pray that you will consider our message.

We want America to be the kind of leader that we believe it can be under you, Mr. President!—a just, ethical leader of integrity.

Shalom--in Justice and in Peace,

Vice President Joe Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Biden,

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We are writing you, Mr. Biden and asking that you look to these people with compassion and find a way that the judicial complications between countries and corporations be cleared away so that the diligent workers of the Nemagon camp can live the rest of their lives in peace and dignity. We do not believe that it is right for the workers to live in a camp of plastic and cardboard because of the selfish decisions of American corporations. We want those sick to be given medical care. We want their children to know a home. We want the parents to be able to look into the eyes of their

children with dignity.

While we all prepare for this season of reflection, the people living in the Nemaqon camp continue to live under inhumane conditions and wait for justice. We hope and pray that you will consider our message.

We want America to be the kind of leader that we believe it can be under you and President Obama!—a just, ethical leader of integrity.

Shalom--in Justice and in Peace,

Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton
Department of State
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Madam Secretary,

February 17 is the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a time when our communities of faith participate in much soul-searching and repentance. In our preparation, we are joining together with many members of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to write letters to Dole Fruit Company, Del Monte Foods, Chiquita Brands International, Dow Chemical, Shell Oil, Occidental Petroleum, OxyChem Corporation and AMVAC Chemical in empathy for members of the Nemagon camp.

We are also writing to you and other government leaders on behalf of the banana workers afflicted by the pesticide Nemagon, also called DBCP, who are living in the Nemagon camp located in the heart of Managua, Nicaragua, across from the National Assembly Building. These people are camping—under terrible conditions—to raise awareness of their plight. They are asking for health care, a living pension of \$200.00 per month per worker and regulations on transnational corporations so they cannot use deadly chemicals on unknowing workers—all in the name of business.

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We are writing you, Ms. Clinton and asking that you look to these people with compassion and find a way that the judicial complications between countries and corporations be cleared away so that the diligent workers of the Nemagon camp can live the rest of their lives in peace and dignity. We do not believe that it is right for the workers to live in a camp of plastic and cardboard because of

the selfish decisions of American corporations. We want those sick to be given medical care. We want their children to know a home. We want the parents to be able to look into the eyes of their children with dignity.

While we all prepare for this season of reflection, the people living in the Nemagon camp continue to live under inhumane conditions and wait for justice. We hope and pray that you will consider our message.

We want America to be the kind of leader that we believe it can be under you and the Obama administration!—a just, ethical leader of integrity.

Shalom--in Justice and in Peace,

First Lady Michelle Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear First Lady Obama,

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We are also writing to you, the President and other government leaders on behalf of the banana workers afflicted by the pesticide Nemagon, also called DBCP, who are living in the Nemagon camp located in the heart of Managua, Nicaragua, across from the National Assembly Building. These people are camping –under terrible conditions–to raise awareness of their plight. They are asking for health care, a living pension of \$200.00 per month per worker and regulations on transnational corporations so they cannot use deadly chemicals on unknowing workers—all in the name of business.

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their children to know a home. We want the parents to be able to look into the eyes of their children with dignity.

While we all prepare for this season of reflection, the people living in the Nemagon camp continue to live under inhumane conditions and wait for justice. We hope and pray that you will consider our message and be an instrument of peace for these people. Ms. Obama, we have watched you become involved in so many aspects of our country. We are proud that you are First Lady. There are women in Nicaragua who are working hard to build good lives for themselves and their families. You would be proud of them. We hope that you will help do what you can to bring justice for the people of the Nemagon camp.

We want America to be the kind of leader that we believe it can be under you, your husband, President Obama and his administration!—a just, ethical leader of integrity.

Shalom--in Justice and in Peace,

Ambassador Robert J. Callahan
U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ambassador Callahan,

February 17 is the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a time when our communities of faith participate in much soul-searching and repentance. In our preparation, we are joining together with many members of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to write letters to Dole Fruit Company, Del Monte Foods, Chiquita Brands International, Dow Chemical, Shell Oil, Occidental Petroleum, OxyChem Corporation and AMVAC Chemical in empathy for members of the Nemagon camp.

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We are writing you, Mr. Ambassador and asking that you look to these people with compassion and find a way that the judicial complications between countries and corporations be cleared away so that the diligent workers of the Nemagon camp can live the rest of their lives in peace and dignity. We do not believe that it is right for the workers to live in a camp of plastic and cardboard because

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Shalom--in Justice and in Peace,

Ambassador Arturo Cruz Sequeira, Jr.
Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United States
1627 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ambassador Arturo Cruz Sequeira, Jr.,

February 17 is the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a time when our communities of faith participate in much soul-searching and repentance. In our preparation, we are joining together with many members of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to write letters to Dole Fruit Company, Del Monte Foods, Chiquita Brands International, Dow Chemical, Shell Oil, Occidental Petroleum, OxyChem Corporation and AMVAC Chemical in empathy for members of the Nemagon camp.

We are also writing to you and other government leaders on behalf of the banana workers afflicted by the pesticide Nemagon, also called DBCP, who are living in the Nemagon camp located in the heart of Managua, in your country. As you know, these people are camping—under terrible conditions—to raise awareness of their plight. They are asking for health care, a living pension of \$200.00 per month per worker and regulations on transnational corporations so they cannot use deadly chemicals on unknowing workers—all in the name of business.

We are sure that you know the history: On March 11, 2005, approximately 2,500 farm workers who were afflicted by DBCP and their families walked some 200 km from the Chinandega region of Nicaragua to Managua where they are now. They are ill, without homes or a way to support themselves. While working the banana fields of Nicaragua, they were exposed to Nemagon when applying the pesticide to the banana plant in order to kill rootworms or nematodes which damage and cause discoloration in bananas. They were not told of the danger or that they needed to cover themselves, as it is too hot for workers to wear much protective clothing.

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Some of us have walked through the streets of the Nemagon camp. We saw adults and children living in make-shift cardboard and black plastic tents. Still, the people in the camp told us that they “love their American sisters and brothers.” They are a passionate and loving people. We love Nicaragua!

The companies that we have listed do many wonderful things to raise the quality of our lives. We have read their ethical values and corporate promises and we WANT to BELIEVE that they take their words to heart. We are asking them to reflect on how they can raise the quality of life for the Nicaraguan people of the Nemagon camp. We know letters of protest have been written before and while some money has been paid out, most of the people have not been helped. It saddens us to know that there have been unethical dealings that have clouded the pursuit of justice for the people of the camp.

We are writing you, Mr. Ambassador, and asking that you look to these people with compassion and find a way that the judicial complications between countries and corporations be cleared away so that the diligent workers of the Nemagon camp can live the rest of their lives in peace and dignity. We hope and pray that past politics will not cloud perceptions so that just and moral action can be

taken. We do not believe that it is right for the workers to live in a camp of plastic and cardboard because of the selfish decisions of American corporations. We want those sick to be given medical care. We want their children to know a home. We want the parents to be able to look into the eyes of their children with dignity.

While we all prepare for this season of reflection, the people living in the Nemagon camp continue to live under inhumane conditions and wait for justice. We hope and pray that you will consider our message.

We seek to build a bridge between the United States and Nicaragua.

Shalom--in Justice and in Peace,

Andrew Liveris, Chairman, CEO & President
The Dow Chemical Company
2030 Dow Center
Midland, MI 48674

Simon Henry, Chief Financial Officer
Malcolm Brinded, Executive Director
Marvin Odum, Upstream Americas Director
Mark Williams, Downstream Director
Shell Oil Company Headquarters
910 Louisiana St
Houston, TX 77002

Ray Irani, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Occidental Petroleum
10889 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Chuck Anderson, President
OxyChem Corporation Headquarters
5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 2200
Dallas, TX 75244-6119

Eric Wintemute, Chief Executive Officer & President
AMVAC Chemical Corporation Los Angeles
4100 E Washington Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90023

Dear Sirs,

February 17 is the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a time when our communities of faith participate in much soul-searching and repentance. In our preparation, we are joining together with many members of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to write letters to your companies on behalf of the banana workers living in the Nemagon Camp, located in the heart of Managua, Nicaragua, across from the National Assembly Building. These people are camping there to raise awareness and to ask for help. As you have probably heard, while working in the banana fields of Nicaragua, they were exposed to the dangerous chemical DBCP (Nemagon). We write to you asking your companies, once again, to review your part in their great loss and move forward on a path to fulfill what they are asking: health care, a pension for a decent living and regulations so that this kind of thing will not happen again.

We are sure you know the history. "Death's Dew," as they call it, was found to be a harmful pesticide in the 1950's. The chemical was banned from further production in the US in 1979. The chemical could not be used here, so it was exported to Nicaragua and other places such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, the Philippines, the Caribbean, and the Ivory Coast. Result? The banana workers of Nicaragua and those in other places are living lives of great horror because of their exposure to DBCP.

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Your companies do many wonderful things to raise the quality of our lives. We read your ethical values and corporate promises and we WANT to BELIEVE that you take your words to heart. Please reflect on how you can raise the quality of their lives. While we all prepare for this season of reflection, the people living in the Nemagon camp continue to live under inhumane conditions and wait for justice. We hope and pray that you will do what is right.

Shalom--in Justice and in Peace,

Sylvain Cuperlier, Vice President
Dir. of Worldwide Corp. Social Responsibility
Dole Food Company, Inc.
One Dole Drive
Westlake Village, CA 91362

Fernando Aguirre, Chairman, Pres. & CEO
Chiquita Brands International
Corporate Headquarters
250 East Fifth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Del Monte Produce
c/o Phillip Brazlavsky
Associate General Counsel
241 Sevilla Avenue, Penthouse
Coral Gables, FL 33134

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