

'War' Continues > In what way is this benefiting the victims of prohibition and the activists who have suffered and sacrificed for decades looking for justice and freedom? ...The civil liberty advocates, the lawyers, the people who represent marginalized, indigenous, youth, the poor, all the victims of prohibition, we are not celebrating today. Where is our apology, where is our amnesty?" Sound familiar?

The Drug Policy Alliance posted a report in 2016 which stated that at least 500-thousand people have been arrested and thousands incarcerated for marijuana possession or marijuana-related crimes. While only a handful of counties in CA (including Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles) attempted to give preference in opportunity to victims of the war on drugs via 'equity programs' in their county's legalization process, yet reportedly unsuccessful in effect at least in Oakland due to residency requirements. "The program aims to address inequity in the local cannabis industry by prioritizing permit issuance to those with roots in certain identified Oakland neighborhoods that have been historically impacted by disproportionate drug law enforcement, and to members of the Oakland community that have been arrested and convicted of cannabis crimes in Oakland in the last 20 years. The law moves qualifying Equity Applicants to the front of the cannabis permitting line, and it also creates access to approximately \$3.4 million in earmarked interest-free business loans and other assistance," Reports Cannalawblog.com

In Humboldt and Mendocino, where many farming victims of this war reside, no equity programs exist, let alone basic consideration for their lives. Inspiring cultivators to come into compliance is the claimed goal of the County. If that were the case, it would be as simple as reducing the fees (on the low end it costs about 10-20k), make it more comprehensive, user friendly, shorten and simplify the process, don't show big-pocket favorites, and if people in charge of the process would cease being caught up in corruption and scandals, people would be more likely to trust you with their lives.

Could it be more obvious that this attack against small farmers needs to change? The state is on fire, which is said to be the "new normal" according to Governor J. Brown. While news outlets are reporting on this year's fires extensively, no one is connecting the dots between climate change and homesteading lifestyles, simultaneously under fire. Rural artisanal lifestyles, where people produce small-scale variety crops sustainably at home, is one solution to oil extraction and mega agro-chemical crop's exacerbation of climate change. There is incredible value both locally and globally in small farms, they need a hand not an abatement notice.

Every single person in Humboldt is benefitted by farmers whether they realize this or not, from butchers to teachers to shop owners, priests, obviously police (millions seized in civil forfeiture alone this year). No matter what you do or believe, you too are living off of the fruits of the underground cannabis economy: Remember that last recession that mysteriously didn't hit Humboldt and Mendocino as hard as the rest of the entire country? I sense the next approaching recession's local impact will not be so favorable as a consequence of Our County's ever-changing rules, oppression of small farmers and an impossible permit process working to exclude the majority; and It's already begun. Check out local property magazines riddled with, "Reduced Price" listings. This devastation of small farmers impacts everyone, including and especially permit holders, as their property values will plummet too.

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So I sit, light up my freely grown authentically organic cannabis given to me by not corporate cultivators, turn up **Rod and the Ideals** to drown out choppers, -and contemplate this most recent war against the people. He nailed it:

"World class hypocrisy is getting the better of me, won't these powers that be destroying the earth air and sea... Maxxam logging company, they are masters of deceit and treachery... corporate mentality, murders in the first degree."

Jody Emery a Canadian cannabis rights activist and politician, reported in June when Canada became the second country in the world to legalize cannabis,

"I'm trying so hard to see the positive [in legalization in Canada] but the police across this country are celebrating the fact that they get hundreds of millions of dollars of EXTRA Marijuana law enforcement funds on top of the nearly billion dollars we see already spent

-Shakti

LANDOWNER MURDERS CAMPESENO LEADERS

~ Venezuela ~

"Today landowner Ricardo Mora's hitmen murder Lucha Campesina spokesperson Parra Reyes and two other Campesinos in the farm La Escondida-Barinas. Barinas: Land of hitmen and large estates?"

Campesino platform **Lucha Campesina**, via Twitter, Denounced the murders saying hooded hitmen allegedly paid for by landowner **Ricardo Mora** were responsible:

Later Constituent Assemblywoman **Enma Ortega** confirmed Campesino leaders **Reyes Parra** and **Pedro Vielma** were among the victims. The Three Campesino leaders were murdered on the La Escondida estate, in the state of Barinas, Venezuela hours after president **Nicolas Maduro** met with them in Caracas to hear their demands following a 21-day march.

The Campesinos of the council **Los Lanceros de la Pescalinera de Zamora** were awarded the La Escondida farm in May, and have since then reported harassment and armed attacks by Mora, who claimed ownership of the lands.

The killings took place after president Maduro issued an order to return to the Campesinos the lands that had been granted to them during the government of former president Hugo Chavez. The properties were taken from Campesinos by wealthy landowners who often enjoy the favorable rulings from judges overseeing agrarian issues in Venezuela.

Maduro also ordered a profound restructuring of the legal framework that regulates agricultural work and the justice system relating to agrarian matters. He also announced he would hold a meeting with the country's attorney general and truth commission to fast-track action on the murder some 300 Campesino leaders since 2001 when the plan for redistribution of lands began.

"We demand justice. No more impunity," the Campesinos said through social media.

The three Campesinos murdered had participated in the first stretch of the Campesino March, that walked for 400 kilometers.

- telesurtv.net




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-MLK

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