

AMERICANS UNITE! MARCH FOR COMPASSION AND SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

THE ECONOMIC ASSAULT CONTINUES ON AMERICA! AMERICANS UNITE to demand our economic human rights. Hundreds will take to the streets for an 8-Day March from San Jose to San Francisco. We are marching for our lives!

Oakland, CA, October 19, 2001: As the economic assault on America continues, Americans unite and stand strong for Economic Human Rights! As the world focuses on the War on Terrorism and leaders encourage Americans to buy, the War on the Poor continues in America as jobs are being cut, money is being poured into war and corporate bailout and people are finding it harder and harder to pay for the basic necessities of life. On October 28th, poor people, nurses, union members, janitors, the homeless, those being affected by the current recession, students, churches, the Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP), the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC) the Community Homeless Alliance Ministry (CHAM), and organizations throughout the Bay Area are taking to the streets! We are uniting for an 8-Day March for Compassion and Spiritual Renewal from San Jose to San Francisco to continue the fight for our lives! As poor and working people in the United States are working harder for less and as our economic human rights continue to be trampled on in the richest country in the world, we are uniting to demand affordable housing, jobs at a truly living wage and Just Health Care.

We will begin Marching on Sunday, October 28 at the First Christian Church in San Jose (80 South 5th Street) at 12 noon. We will stay in Churches and at Universities along the way and will be marching into San Francisco for a rally at the Civic Center on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at 2pm.

Ethel Long-Scott, executive director of WEAP states "This March is a continuation of the efforts we have made to organize across the state of California throughout our 20 years, including Bus Tours, Oakland Marches, Tribunals and Protests. We are marching representing the 80 million people and growing that continue to suffer in poverty." Poor people have been increasingly dying on the streets of this country due to

lack of health care, rise in the cost of housing, lay-offs and a decrease in living wage jobs. When the government is confronted on this, endless excuses are made. Yet, miraculously the same government can come up with 40 Billion dollars within days to bail out corporations and fight this "war on terrorism."

In 1948, the United States signed the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which states that food, housing, health care, education and living wage jobs are basic human rights. Fifty-three years later the number of people in this country that cannot afford the basic necessities of life is rapidly increasing. We will document, educate and protest that poverty is an economic human rights violation. This documentation will be used in the Petition brought to the United Nations, charging the United States with violating these economic human rights. Delegations from Poor People's Economic Human Rights Committees throughout the state (San Diego, San Jose, Merced, Sacramento, Chico, Oakland, and Arcata) will be joining the March, bringing with them documentation of economic human rights abuses in their local areas!

Reverend Scott Wagers from CHAM in San Jose states, "We cannot continue to live in a world of economic apartheid. The rich continue to get richer, while the majority are struggling to survive." We are Marching because we have buried too many of our family members, friends and loved ones due to poverty. We are marching because we deserve, as every human being does, to have adequate housing, enough food to eat, a good education, access to health care and a living wage job that supports us and our families. We are marching to take back our humanity and our dignity and to continue to build this movement to end poverty. In the richest country in the world, we will settle for nothing less.