



STOP PATAKI'S ATTACKS ON OUR HEALTH

SUPPORT the HUNGER STRIKE

AND TAKE A STAND FOR OUR HEALTH & OUR LIVES

MAY 6-13, 2003

IN FRONT OF GOVERNOR PATAKI'S OFFICE * 633 THIRD AVENUE

B/W 40TH & 41ST * NEW YORK CITY

On May 6, injured workers—hurt by the toxic fallout of September 11 or injured on the job—will embark on a seven-day hunger strike. The Hunger Strikers, like so many of us, worked hard to provide for their families and to keep this country going. But instead of a better life, our health and our lives have been destroyed by Pataki. Pataki's policies have been promoting: longer work hours and a failing Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) that delays and denies benefits and medical treatment for those injured on the job. After 9/11, many families have suffered health and economic problems; Pataki abandoned them. Now he plans to slash vital health programs that injured and low-income workers have had to rely on like Medicaid, SSI, and Family Health Plus.

Low-income communities and 9/11 victims tried to bring their health concerns to Pataki's attention, but he ignored them, and even escalated his 'rob the poor, feed the rich' agenda. The hunger strike is a brave act of resistance at a time when the government is starving us—denying our basic needs and right to live healthy lives—to fund war abroad. It represents the pure determination of workers who have been stripped to the bone and have nothing left except their will to fight for justice. Together with the hunger strikers, we demand our human right to health, to dignity, and to our lives.

SUPPORT THE HUNGER STRIKE & DEMAND THAT PATAKI TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO:

1. Overhaul the WCB system so that decisions are made in 3 months, interim benefits are granted within a week, and the minimum benefit rate is raised (currently it is \$40 a week).
2. Expand Family Health Plus so that all New Yorkers can enjoy health care.
3. Provide a long-term study and treatment program for those affected by the 9/11 toxic air.
4. Ensure that workers have the right to decline overtime hours if they choose to.

I injured my knee in 1995. Not receiving any Workers' Comp benefits, I was forced to find another job even though I was in pain. After working for a couple of years, I got injured again. Now I can't work and am still waiting on two Workers' Comp cases. My husband is forced to work three jobs and my sons work long hours to support our family. I'm hunger striking because we've suffered too much, and I've taken part in too many protests and even an international lawsuit against Pataki, and there's been no response. We need changes now.

— Maria Reyes, Injured garment worker and hunger striker

It's About TIME! Campaign for Workers' Health and Safety
sponsored by *National Mobilization Against SweatShops (NMASS),
Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, and Workers Awaaz*
Contact It's About TIME! c/o NMASS: 718-625-9091 www.nmass.org
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YOUR SUPPORT IS URGENTLY NEEDED!

- ✓ Call us with ideas about how to support the hunger strike.
- ✓ Bring family, friends and organizations to picket, rally, or stand in vigil with the hunger strikers.
- ✓ Donate or fundraise for the It's About TIME! Campaign for Workers' Health & Safety