

Here are some more articles and replies. In order to simplify, our comments are written in Times New Roman and in block while the letters and articles are in Arial.

Where Do Your Nuts Come From?

A serious ecological question, both Pistachios Nuts and Almonds are native right across Western Asia from the Himalayan foothills of Afghanistan right over to Greece, Turkey, Syria and Iran etc. Both trees in these countries provide vast swathes of habitat for Insects, various Shrikes, Wild Hogs to the Asiatic Cheetah etc., as well as protecting the land from desertification. The \$multi-billion industry however, that once provided the locals with wealth and employment, giving the trees themselves economic value, has now all but vanished from the western markets.

Today it is almost impossible to buy Iranian Pistachios etc. in the UK. The US. having started wars in most of these countries together with trade sanctions and everything else, are now busy, very busy as it happens, sealing the deal by flood-ing the nut market with their own homegrown Pistachios and Almonds, literally pushing the original countries out of the market. Those of you who have read our Plant Forests and Make a Fortune paper will know this to be only the tip, with Rubber grown in S.E. Asia that could be funding and expanding Amazonia and Vanilla cultivation taking place in Madagascar instead of Mexico etc., etc., etc., etc. If we are going to run campaigns on any of these issues then I guess the US. market is as good a place as any to start (please see the second attached, Where Do Your Nuts Come From?). Oh! if anyone thinks we're being unfair to the Americans then their Pecan Nuts and Maple Syrup are just fine.

The [Pistachio] Nut Case

I. Identification

In 1996, Israel was faced with a problem; one of its major trading partners, the US, presented Israeli officials with damaging evidence regarding ineffective import practices over inspection of pistachio nuts. The US provided evidence that large volumes of Iranian pistachio nuts were entering the Israeli market illegally through a third trading partner, the European Union. The politics and economics of the pistachio case shall be discussed in more detail below in order to provide a greater understanding of the significance of the case to US-Israeli relations.

1. The Issue

The US and Israel have always had strong political ties. The US was one of the first nations to recognize Israeli independence in 1947 and has continued to support Israel both politically and militarily in its conflicts with neighboring countries. The two countries have remained politically and militarily linked and the partnership expanded in the early 1980s to include trade. Through many years of tough negotiations to lower trading barriers and open up domestic markets (especially agricultural products), the US and Israel came to a mutually favorable trade agreement in 1985 (US-Israeli FTA). However, in early September 1996, the trading partnership that took years to build was under great tension. Israel found itself faced with growing allegations regarding its trade practices. The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, with the help of US pistachio growers, presented Israeli Ministry officials with mounds of evidence against Israeli import inspection; the US provided evidence that the import inspection process was inefficient because it allowed Iranian pistachio nuts to enter the country undetected. Israeli law prohibits the importation of goods and services from Iran, thus not only effecting US interests but violating Israeli national law. Three important questions can be derived and answered from this pistachio case: 1. What were the US's allegations and solutions to the Israeli import inspection problem? 2. How did it affect the US-Israeli political and economic partnership? and 3. Why was the US so devoted to making sure Israel changed its inspection practices?

2. Description

Israel, as one of the largest markets for pistachio nuts, was and still remains a focal point of interest for US trade objectives. Since the 1985 US-Israeli Free Trade Agreement and the 1994 WTO/GATT Uruguay Round Agreement, the US has been working hard to develop a closer trading relationship with Israel. The evidence collected by the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service and various US pistachio growers organizations, predominately the California Pistachio Commission, focused on the various reasons why Israel needed to rethink their import inspection procedures. Import of Iranian pistachios not only challenged Israeli law; but since they were sold at a 20% discount in the Israeli market, undermined the world price (Staff, 11/19/96). According to USDA data, Israeli importers purchased approximately \$10 million worth of Iranian pistachios annually because of the reduced price (Tirschwell, 1997). In effect, the discounted Iranian pistachios sold in the Israeli market not only undermined

the world price but also US opportunities to compete. How could US pistachio growers compete with this reduced price set by the Iranian exporters? The reduced price and high domestic demand for the Persian pistachio nuts created unfair competition for US pistachio exporters/growers and strained trading relations between the US and Israel.

Initially, Israeli officials acted swiftly by putting together an investigation team to look at the US allegations and evidence. The Journal of Commerce ran headlines reading "Israel Probes Allegations of Indirect Trade with Iran" in early November which demonstrated the Israeli's commitment to trying to get to the bottom of the situation. However, the Israelis explained to US officials that the main problem with the import inspection procedure was the port authorities only kept records on embarkation ports. There are no records that can trace the origin of the good or service entering the country. For this reason, the evidence produced by the US that most of the imports came from the European Union did not surprise Israeli officials. Israel and the European Union negotiated a free trade agreement opening up trade; Israel was more willing to accept imports that came from EU member countries (Tirschwell, 1997). What evidence did US officials have that lead them to believe Iranian pistachios were being imported into Israel via the EU? The main fact is that European nations are on friendly terms with Iran and have open trade agreements. Next, most of the pistachio exports originated from Northern European nations. If pistachio exports came from Greece and Italy (two countries with favorable climates for growing pistachios), then the imports into Israel could have been pistachios from Southern European pistachio growers. However, the US discovered and presented to the Israelis evidence that proved to the contrary. The US provided statistics that over 70% of pistachio imports originated in Northern European nations, such as Germany and Great Britain (Staff, 11/19/96). Pistachio nuts require a warm but desert like climate to grow. Northern European countries do not have the appropriate climate to grow pistachio nuts; plus, these nations import pistachios from Iran. The USDA found that in 1995 alone more than 5 million pounds of pistachios, worth around \$14 million, were imported from Northern European countries into Israel (Staff, 11/19/96). As more and more evidence kept piling up, the Israeli government finally realized that Iran, an enemy of the state, had infiltrated their markets. In order to salvage the US-Israeli trading partnership, Israeli officials began to recognize the need for tougher import inspection standards.

The History of the Disputed Nut

Pistachio nuts originally came from the Holy Lands of the Middle East, growing wild in the high desert areas that covered the region. The pistachio made its way over to the US in the 1880s, imported by American traders to satisfy the growing Middle Eastern population in the states. However it was not until the 1930s, due to the efforts of US scientist William E. Whitehorse, that the first pistachio production began in America. In 1929, he spent six months in Persia studying and collecting seeds in order to produce a distinct type of pistachio nut to bring back to the US (www.pistachios.org). By the 1930s, his efforts succeeded and trial plantings began in the desert regions of California. Since it takes a good 7 - 10 years for pistachio trees to mature, the first trial plantings did not look promising. It was not until the early 1950s, with the emergence of the Kerman pistachio tree, that pistachio production became a reality. [The name Kerman comes from the plains in Iran, where the pistachio seeds collected by Dr.

Whitehouse were found]. Pistachio production in California flourished during the 1950's and continued to gain strength and recognition throughout the 60's and 79's. By the 1990s, the US climbed the charts to become the world's second largest producer and exporter of pistachio nuts. To illustrate the rapid development of California's pistachio production, in 1976 the first commercial crop harvested approximately 1.5 million pounds on less than 1500 acres of land (www.pistachios.org/industry.html). Today, there are over eighty-two thousand acres harvesting more than one hundred times the amount of pistachio's averaged in 1976 (www.pistachios.org/industry.html). The US demonstrated in a short period of time its ability as a pistachio producer to compete domestically and internationally with producers around the world.

US Solutions to the Israeli Nut Problem

Israel claimed early on in the case that they could not determine the origin of the pistachio nuts entering the country since most were imported from Europe. The US pointed out three different ways the Israeli inspection system could determine the origin of imported pistachio nuts. According to research compiled by the USDA and US pistachio growers, Israel could determine the origin of a pistachio nut through 1. visual identification, 2. volume and 3. chemical (Tirschwell, 1997). Due to the small number of countries that produce and export pistachio nuts, it is relatively easy to narrow down and identify the origin of the imported nut. Pistachio nuts are grown around the world, specifically in Greece, Italy, Syria, Turkey, Iran and the US. The last two countries listed are the two largest and most competitive producers and exporters in the pistachio industry, Iran ranked number one. These two giants, in the industry, hold 70% of the world production of pistachio nuts (Tirschwell, 1997). The last type of identification available deals with a chemical test of the pistachio nuts. The US Customs Agency developed, in the 1980s, a chemical test for the purpose of insuring that Iranian pistachios did not enter the country. It was discovered during the early 1980s that large quantities of Iranian pistachios were entering the country illegally, violating the numerous trade embargoes against Iran (Tirschwell, 1997). The chemical test basically determined the type of soil and weather conditions used to produce the pistachio nuts. Iranian and US (specifically California) climates and soil differ greatly, helping to prove that designing a simple chemical test can easily solve the problem of illegal pistachio imports.

US-Israeli Free Trade Agreement of 1985 and the Effects of the Uruguay Round Talks in 1994

In 1985, the US and Israel came to an agreement that would slowly open up their domestic markets and create a closer union between the two countries, both politically and economically. However, under Article VI, Israel was able to maintain some control over agricultural imports from the US. US exports of fresh produce and processed foods were barred from Israeli markets (State Department, 1999). In 1995, the trade relationship between the two countries progressed even further as Israel participated and signed on to the Uruguay Round Table Talks that set up the WTO (World Trade Organization). These negotiations committed members of the GATT/WTO to the abolition of almost all import quotas and a reduction of tariff rates on trading partners

over time, to increase competition. Therefore Article VI of the US-Israeli FTA was in violation of the WTO negotiations, and in 1996, US and Israeli officials revised the FTA. This revision allowed the bilateral free trade agreement to be compatible with the WTO multilateral agreement. The new five-year agreement on Food and Agriculture

committed Israel to reducing its quota restrictions on food and agriculture, in other words opening its market up to US commodities (State Dept., 1999). US agricultural exports were now able to enter Israel without any quota restrictions. In the case of US nut exports (including pistachios), Israel eliminated all duties on imports from the US as of January 1995; this gave the US a considerable comparative advantage compared to other Israeli trading partners. For instance, the European Union still had to pay close to 15% duty tax on nut imports and other nations, such as Turkey, had to pay a duty tax approximately as high as 22.5% (State Dept., 1999).

California Pistachio Commission

The California Pistachio Commission emerged in 1981, as an organization whose main mission was to assist pistachio grower members from California. The CPC continues in the 90s to promote and support marketing endeavors, public relations, and government relations (<http://www.pistachios.org>). It also works to obtain funding for special research projects that focus on improving production. The Commission's work on government relations, especially on the federal level, helps to ensure US pistachio growers' interests are noted and dealt with appropriately. For instance, over the years CPC has worked hard to maintain the US pistachio industry's competitiveness in domestic and world markets. By lobbying the federal government in the interests of its members and providing other services, it helped expand the exporting opportunities of its members. The pistachio case is a perfect example of the power and influence the CPC has within the federal government (Tirschwell, 1997). By working with the USDA, the CPC represented the US pistachio growers interests and was able to bring about the necessary changes to increase its exporting opportunities in Israel and around the world.

Iran and US

The pistachio case touches more than one nerve in the economic and political spheres, especially when the explosive relationship between the US and Iran is taken into consideration. Since the late 70's, the US and Iran have not been on friendly terms. During the Carter Administration, the US broke diplomatic ties with Iran entirely due to the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran and the detaining of American citizens (Brunner, 1999). **Carter later instituted an economic boycott on all products from Iran.** The tense history continues as in 1984 Iran was added to a list of states who were involved in terrorism around the world. This prohibited the sale of weapons or financial loans to Iran from the US and other international organizations, basically ending all assistance to the nation (Office of Press Secretary, 1996). The US was not finished with Iran; in 1987, the government extended sanctions against Iran that continued to prohibit the importation of goods and services from the enemy nation. **President Clinton, in 1996, continued the tradition by prohibiting all financial and commercial transactions with Iran** (OPS, 1996). As Israel is added into the equation, the pistachio situation becomes tenser. **By Israeli trading unknowingly with Iran, it not only violated**

Israeli national law (which deems Iran as an enemy of the state) but raised questions concerning the US-Israeli economic and political partnership. As a main receiver of US military and non-military aid, Israel should be concerned with the issue, even if it is as small as pistachio nut imports.

Source TED Case Studies

And so, this is the situation. The USDA, together with the California Pistachio Commission, whose main mission was to assist Pistachio Growers in California, in other words stifle out completely all competition from Iran, then went on to almost completely take over the whole market. The species that live in the native Pistachio forests of Iran and elsewhere were now under increasing threat from all the horrors like felling, farming and nibbling from goats etc., together with the distinct possibilities of desertification for the entire region becoming a decided reality, and the problems don't end there.

In California where both of these nuts are grown they're having to import huge truckloads of bees from one side of the country to the other in order to cope with the pollination of these orchards, having wiped their own bees out with all the GMOs. and pesticides they so routinely squirt around in that place.

"The bloom will come and go quickly," said Trent, who works for the Bakersfield-based bee broker Scientific Ag Co. "The question is, will the almond seeds get set? It depends if you have enough of a workforce of bees." That has growers concerned as nomadic beekeepers from across the country converge on the state with their semi-trucks, delivering billions of bees to the orchards for the annual pollination. Most almond trees depend on bees to transfer pollen from the flower of one tree variety to the flower of another variety before fertilization, which leads to the development of seeds.

California's orchards provide about 80 percent of the global almond supply. And with almond acreage increasing steadily in recent years, the bees must now pollinate 760,000 acres of trees. The number of bees needed is expected to increase as almond demand grows and orchards continue to expand. Already, more than half of the country's honeybees are brought to California at the end of February for almond pollination, which requires about 1.5 million hives from out of state, and another 500,000 from elsewhere in the state. Honeybees are preferred for commercial-scale pollination because they are social, build larger colonies than other bees, and their hives can easily be moved.

Bee brokers, beekeepers and almond growers around the state say there's a shortage of healthy honeybees for this year's pollination, especially after colony collapse disorder took a higher toll this winter. The disorder, in which honey bees suddenly disappear or die, wipes out thousands of colonies each year. The shortage has some growers scrambling for bees — even sub-performers — as trees are about to bloom, driving up bee prices again this year, to an all-time high of more than \$200 per colony.

Source MSN News

It is almost unbelievable that the US. would create such a fiasco in the first place. But with this we end up with desertification on one landmass and the need for carrying their ecology around in trucks on the other.

Please see the links below.

<http://www.rashapistachio.com/contact-us>

<http://www1.american.edu/TED/pistachio.htm>

<http://www.vosizneias.com/124386/2013/02/17/turlock-ca-fewer-bees-in-us-a-threat-to-worlds-almond-supply/>

From: info@rashapistachio.com
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Date: Wed, 24 Dec 2014 09:16:07 +0330
Subject: RE: Pistachios

Dear Sir,

I read the information. I am wondering how you can help me. Please introduce yourself completely. I can ask our UK agent to contact you if needed. He is resident in London.

Best Regards,

Senior Sales Manager

Rasha Pistachio Co.

From: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
To: info@rashapistachio.com
Sent: Sun, 28 Dec 2014 12:48:28 +0000
Subject: 'Pistachios.'

Dear Sirs,

To continue with the letter I sent the other week, please see the two attached. I should point out that our concerns are primarily with the native pistachio forests rather than the more manicured orchards you seem to run, but the fact that we both oppose the American market should at least give us some common ground to work with.

This report will be sent out in about two weeks from now and I will be sending you both a copy.

Yours sincerely.

From: ali@rashapistachio.com
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Mon, 29 Dec 2014 21:54:28 +0000
Subject: 'Pistachios.'

Dear Robert,

Thanks for your emails. I found them very interesting and informative, please keep me updated with the news and articles.

Could you also send me some more information on what exactly you do on the campaigns?

Warm Regards,

Ali Hosseini, Sales Manager

Rasha Pistachio Co.

Mob (UK): +44 (0) 7429296556

Mob (IRAN): +98 (0) 9123201945

www.rashapistachio.com

From: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
To: ali@rashapistachio.com
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2014 11:35:24 +0000
Subject: 'Pistachios.'

Dear Ali,

Your details are on our mailing list. As I send stuff over it'll give you some idea of what we're about. The pistachio campaign will be launched around 14 days from now and hopefully as a result we can put more trade heading towards Iran's markets.

We have a very strong case. Species loss and desertification are two very good reasons for a switch in trade from US. to Iran. Whether or not this happens remains to be seen but to do nothing is hardly an option.

Yours sincerely,



If you've not already done so, or even if you have, please write your letters to the contact below. The people who put these billboards out there have declared war on the wolf so we have declared war on them. Do all you can and send this contact out to anyone that might be interested. Thank you.

wareidentsagainstwolves@gmail.com

Please also write to these contacts below. The Fish & Wildlife Service are the ones who ultimately make the decisions as to whether hunting's allowed or not.

Thank you.

nathan_zorich@fws.gov; melanie_steinkamp@fws.gov; william_ritchie@fws.gov; jennifer_a_wheeler@fws.gov;
doug_forsell@fws.gov; angela_matz@fws.gov; ken_goddard@fws.gov; larry_martin@fws.gov;
sheldon_myerchin@fws.gov; lori_nordstrom@fws.gov

Green Neocolonialism, Afro-Brazilian Rebellion in Brazil

Sunday, 28 December 2014 00:00

By Santiago Navarro F., Renata Bessi and Translated by Miriam Taylor, Truthout | News Analysis



Eucalyptus plantations belonging to the company Fibria Celulose. (Photo: Santiago Navarro F)

The Afro-Brazilian Quilombola people were forced from their land in Brazil in order to make way for eucalyptus plantations, which produce toilet paper destined for Western markets. But they are resisting by replanting native trees and food crops, and working for a post-eucalyptus reality.

The principal use for the cellulose found in eucalyptus plants in Brazil is disposable paper products, such as toilet paper and paper towels - products most in demand in first-world markets. Yet these types of paper products generate social and environmental impacts in places in Brazil where many communities have never even had access to them.

The region known as Sape do Norte, which includes the cities of Sao Mateus and Conceicao da Barra, in the state of Espirito Santo, in Brazil, has been heavily affected by eucalyptus plantations. In Sao Mateus, for example, the plantations occupy 70 percent of the territory. From Vitoria, the capital of Espirito Santo, to Sao Mateus, a stretch of close to 300 kilometers in length is covered by eucalyptus trees. In some places, small remnants of the native forest and its biodiversity can be seen, but only for a few hectares, quickly passed by in a car.

"There were monoculture plantations in unlikely places, near springs and in zones where aquifers are replenished. The forests along the riverbank were cut down; the path of the water was cut off; lakes were filled in with dirt - and the biodiversity of the Atlantic forests was decimated with insecticides and herbicides."

This area is also a symbol of Afro-Brazilian resistance; it is the land of the Quilombolas. The name Quilombola comes from the Kimbundu language, one of the Bantu languages widely spoken in Angola. Places where rebel or fugitive slaves lived were called quilombo - in hidden corners of the city or out in the countryside. From there the word Quilombola is derived, used in Brazil to describe a rebellious person of African descent.

"Quilombola is a specific type of person of African descent. They were brought from Africa during colonial times like the others, but they refused to submit to slavery and represented Black resistance. They built communities, called quilombos, fleeing from slavery in Brazil, living in isolated communities made up of 20 or 30 families, where they lived autonomously. Their descendants stayed in those in these places," Marcelo Calazans told Truthout. He works with the Federation of Organizations for Social and Educational Assistance (FASE), an organization that has worked for 30 years on issues related to the impacts of eucalyptus cultivation in the state of Espirito Santo.

In Sao Mateus, there was a port where people recently brought from Africa were bought and sold. Many of them fled the ships before they reached the docks. They escaped and sought refuge in the forests. Slaves were emancipated in 1888, but emancipation was not accompanied by measures that would have permitted Afro-Brazilian communities to continue living in rural zones. A century later, these communities were legally recognized in the 1988 constitution, although it did not guarantee the preservation of the quilombo territories. With or without official recognition, a large number of these communities survived in rural areas, as evidenced by the communities of Sape do Norte.

It is a forest without flowers, without smells, without animals; not a single bird flies through this place.

In the 1960s, with the arrival of the eucalyptus cellulose extraction industry, the Quilombolas suffered a new blow and families were forced to abandon their land, some moving to the big cities in search of survival, where they ended up in the huge favelas, or slums. It is estimated that before the arrival of eucalyptus, there were around 15,000 Quilombola families. Today that number has dropped to 1,200 families who reorganized themselves into 32 communities in Sape do Norte. These Quilombola descendants are dispersed in communities isolated from one another by eucalyptus plantations, living under the pressure of the cellulose industry and its effects.

"There were monoculture plantations in unlikely places, near springs and in zones where aquifers are replenished. The forests along the riverbank were cut down; the path of the water was cut off; lakes were filled in with dirt - and the biodiversity of the Atlantic forests was decimated with insecticides and herbicides. This in turn made

agricultural cultivation impossible, unless pesticides were used," according to Simone Batista Ferreira, a researcher with the geography department of the Federal University of Espirito Santo.

A Global Leader in Cellulose Extraction

The company Aracruz Celulose arrived in Espirito Santo in the 1960s. It was initially made up of shareholders such as Souza Cruz (a subsidiary of British American Tobacco), the Lorentzen family Group - which is connected to Norwegian royalty - and the Safra Group, with each having 28 percent ownership. The Brazilian state was a partner through its purchase of stock through the National Economic Development Bank (BNDE) - now referred to as the BNDES - for a share later reduced to 12 percent. In 2009, Aracruz Celulose changed its name and Fibria Celulose was born, the result of the merger of Aracruz Celulose and Votorantim Celulose and Paper (VCP). Today, Fibria is considered a global leader in the production of eucalyptus cellulose. It is the only company in the global forestry industry that is listed on the Dow Jones index and traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Lifeless Forests

It is a forest without flowers, without smells, without animals; not a single bird flies through this place - a dubious forest, of a uniform green color, full of emaciated trees with thin, tall trunks that look like shaky pillars. In Ecuador, eucalyptus plantations are known as silent forests because there are no birds. In Chile, they are called military forests because, aside from their green characteristic military-uniform hue, the trees are planted in rigid lines. In Brazil, they are called "green deserts" because they contain no life.

Brazil is the fourth largest producer of cellulose worldwide, after Canada, the United States and China. According to the 2014 report on the Brazilian Tree and Forest Industry (IBA), with statistics from 2013, the area where forests were cultivated in Brazil reached 7.6 million hectares in 2013. Eucalyptus represents 72 percent of the total, with a total area of just under 5.5 million hectares. In 2013, 15.1 million tons of cellulose and 10.4 million tons of paper were produced. The industry's objective is to reach production levels of 22 million tons of cellulose in Brazil by the year 2020.



Paper factory in the city of Aracruz. (Photo: Santiago Navarro F)

International Demand

According to economist Helder Gomes, a member of the Alert Against the Green Desert Network, in the 1960s, international markets were under pressure due to increased demand for pulp and paper and the difficulty of widening production in countries where eucalyptus had traditionally been produced. "In the 1960s, studies done by the FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization] indicated the difficulty of expanding production in producing countries, due to the availability of land in central countries, the long period of maturation and the pressure from social movements against the rise in contaminating emissions and against the expansion of monocultures," Gomes told Truthout.

This forced international bodies, such as the FAO itself, Gomes said, to begin subsidizing the expansion of forestry programs in countries like Brazil, where there were favorable ecological conditions for the rapid growth of forests, available land, an abundance of cheap labor, and government policies that would benefit and support the industry.

Destruction

Aracruz Celulose is directly responsible for the destruction of at least 43,000 hectares of tropical rainforest in the municipality of Aracruz. It is a municipality that, in addition to the plantations, is home to three of the primary factories that process tree cellulose.

"Of the 40 indigenous communities that existed during the first years of this industry, only six remained."

This destruction was documented in an environmental impact evaluation report completed by the Technological Institute of the Espirito Santo State University in 1988, which was required in order for the company to obtain the permits for its first production expansion. According to the report, "through aerial photograph analysis obtained at the start of the 1970s, it was found that 30 percent of the surface of Aracruz was covered by native forests, which were then substituted for homogeneous eucalyptus trees."

Aracruz did not only destroy the forest, but also forced the communities that lived there to leave. "Of the 40 indigenous communities that existed during the first years of this industry, only six remained," said Sebastiao Ribeiro Filho, a lawyer and member of the Alert Against the Green Desert Network.

Toxic Bleach

The chain of production of cellulose, beyond creating homogeneous landscapes, also produces noxious smells. While walking through the city of Aracruz, the air is suddenly filled with an acidic stench. "It's bleach!" said FASE's Calazans, who tells us why it smells like it does. "In order to bleach the paper, millions of liters of chemicals are required, among them hydrogen peroxide and bleach, which are prohibited in many countries. There is no strict regulation of their use. Afterward, the waste goes directly to the sea."

"The World Trade Organization, the World Bank and governments that promote this system, which only a few multinational corporations benefit from, are causing an economic genocide and destroying traditional agriculture, and this means the destruction of entire towns and communities."

According to Luiz Alberto Loureiro, a former employee of Aracruz Celulose, the plantations are constantly attacked by pests and other plant species that have to be combated using chemicals such as Glifosato or Mirex. The insecticide is prohibited in all its formulations and uses because it is harmful to human health and to the environment. "The workers die of poisoning and from accidents, and they don't talk about this," Loureiro said. "Employees don't receive training regarding [the risk of] poisoning and many times they bring their work clothes home and wash them with their children's clothes."

A quilombola woman grinds coffee. (Photo: Santiago Navarro F) Daniela Meirelles, a member of FASE, who has given workshops to women's groups made up of women who work for cellulose companies, adds that the company promotes gender equality by giving employment opportunities to women, but at a cost. "Fibria, with the intention of integrating women into production, promotes a gender policy in order to contract Quilombola women. The thing is that the work consists of fumigating the trees, without the protection and information needed about the chemicals being used," Meirelles told Truthout.

Employment Promises

According to Sebastiao Pinheiro, agronomist and professor at the Rio Grande do Sul University, eucalyptus plantations do not generate employment; they actually destroy the source of employment for thousands of families. "The green deserts do not create jobs. Four hundred hectares of eucalyptus would be required to create one job. In family or small-scale agriculture, 10 people are required for one hectare. The World Trade Organization, the World Bank and governments that promote this system, which only a few multinational corporations benefit from, are causing an economic genocide and destroying traditional agriculture, and this means the destruction of entire towns and communities," Pinheiro told Truthout.



Fibria Celulose company. (Photo: Santiago Navarro F)

Memory of Destruction

"I remember the Atlantic forests. We lived off of agriculture in the countryside, and from hunting. I also remember when the company arrived. The devastation was not tree by tree; it was done using giant chains 100 meters long pulled by tractors, destroying everything in its path. Each link in the chain must have weighed 100 kilograms. There were trees with huge diameters that couldn't withstand the chains," John Ramos de Souza said. He is Quilombola and from the Angelim 1 community. "I saw many monstrous things done by the company. I saw without understanding, without knowing what the consequences would be, and now we are paying the price."

The National Public Ministry, in November 2014, suspended one of the credit lines of Fibria as a cautionary measure. It was the one from the federal government's National Economic and Social Development Bank that went to the Quilombola zone in northern Espirito Santo. Fibria is being accused of fraud for the way it obtained land for its plantations. According to the lawsuit, at the beginning of 1970, former employees of the company claimed to be small-scale farmers before the state government in Espirito Santo, with the goal of obtaining titles for the "unused" land. Afterward, the employees transferred these property titles for land located between Conceicao da Barra and Sao Mateus, to Fibria. In the majority of cases, the period in which the areas remained legal property of the employees didn't last even a week before they were transferred.

Quilombolas Resist Eucalyptus

ARUE Ticumbi. ARUE Ticumbi.

What did the people do wrong?

What did the people do that was so wrong?

These questions are part of a song that was sung by African descendants during the time of slavery and that the Quilombolas of Barra da Conceicao maintain as a tradition in a ritual called Ticumbi. In the song, they ask Saint Benito the causes of all the loss they have suffered: the loss of their land, the forests and the water resources.

Today, the song seems to gain another dimension in Ticumbi master Souza's voice: one of resistance. The culture of his ancestors serves as a point of strength in order to resist new forms of slavery, this time due to the neocolonialism of eucalyptus. "We are communities cut off by eucalyptus and we are here resisting," Souza said.

He tells the story of his father, who, in the 1960s and '70s was forced off his land twice, which is where he obtained subsistence for his family. "The people who claimed to be the owners of the land showed up and pressured us to leave. At that time we were afraid and we left. It was more difficult to confront. And that was how the land was transferred to the company [Aracruz]," he said.

"We have no time to lose. Our path against eucalyptus means returning to the land that belonged to our ancestors and continuing to grow food."

Resistance is no longer sufficient, according to Vando Falcao Souza, John Ramos da Souza's son. Advancing is crucial. "We have no time to lose. Our path against eucalyptus means returning to the land that belonged to our ancestors and continuing to grow food," he tells Truthout.

Angelim 1 is a place of land recovery for the Quilombola families. After the clear-cutting of trees by the company, families returned to the area and began a process of soil regeneration. "After 40 years of planting eucalyptus in the same place, a transition process is necessary. The soil is very dry; it rains and the water disappears. Many said that we wouldn't be able to plant anything, but we are seeing that with patience and a lot of work it is possible. In five years I think we will be able to make it so that the soil is how it was before the eucalyptus were planted," said Falcao.

New plants have already started to flower, and they call them the transition to a post-eucalyptus time. Generally, the transition is started with plants such as watermelon, yucca, pumpkin and beans. "Corn and coffee still won't grow. We are already growing various species of beans and we are starting to sell them in small markets in the community. The goal is to form a sort of cooperative here," he said.

Leaving the Senzalas

A few kilometers from Angelim 1, land recuperation is also taking place in Linharinho. There, the transition effort is to plant according to an agroecological model in order to

recuperate the soil, which means planting food crops along with native forest species. "After clearing the land of eucalyptus, the technique is to plant trees from a native forest that are brought from other places, and around these trees, other crops such as beans and pumpkins are planted. This is how we are going to rebuild the forest and the harvest at the same time. The process is slow, it will require even six or seven years for the wild animals to return again and for the water resources to recover," Antonio Rodrigues de Oliveira, who is Quilombola, told Truthout.

"What we are doing here is what our ancestors did. They fled from conditions of slavery and created conditions for life in isolated places. They opened clearings and produced from the earth."

Rodrigues says that he arrived in this place with few resources, with only his head held high, his hands, and the necessary courage. "We can't expect anything from the government, or from the corporations, or from anyone. We have to take up the hoe, go into the land, build a hut, dig a well . . . carry water, even push with a donkey if necessary. Never again will we die of hunger . . . no, no, we will not die. We will go slowly because we don't have infrastructure, but we will do it," he said.

He also says that the situation is difficult and he remembers that the company arrived to plant eucalyptus even in the cemetery where his grandparents were buried. "They left us with almost nothing, just some adapted rodents, wild pigs and armadillos living as we lived, migrating and searching for what was necessary to survive." He believes, however, that there is no time to complain; it is time to work hard and rebuild what has been destroyed.

He doesn't hesitate to compare the situation in his community to that of his ancestors. "What we are doing here is what our ancestors did. They fled from conditions of slavery, known as Senzala [the place where slaves were held as prisoners on huge plantations] and created conditions for life in isolated places. They opened clearings and produced from the earth. Here is a Quilombo, the place of liberation," said Rodrigues, who has worked on various plantations and at one point migrated to the city.

Culture of Transition

Within the cellulose industry complex, the number of eucalyptus trees that are harvested every day establishes the rhythm and velocity of production. In order to operate at maximum production levels, a culture of homogenization must prevail. Flat land, long trees that are thin and without branches, and soil free of impediments are key. Here, diversity is an obstacle.

"Perhaps in 100 years, a Quilombola individual will look at the eucalyptus plantation and say that it is a forest, because he won't have the reference of what a native forest is. The cellulose company knows that if this memory is broken, there will be no more problems with resistance."

Joao Guimaraes, also from Angelim 1, tells Truthout that it is necessary to build the knowledge that will allow a cultural shift in the transition to a post-eucalyptus reality. "We can no longer live lamenting the disappearance of the river and the fresh water spring that dried up and the trees that disappeared, the birds that have left. The Atlantic Forest is gone now, and we have to regenerate it. These 40 years of eucalyptus plantations will not be forgotten overnight, which is why we have to work hard, experimenting with how it is that we are going to go about this recovery, with trial and error, in order to build transitional knowledge," Guimaraes said.

The land that has been retaken is part of this process. "These areas are serving so that we can create this understanding of the transition. We live with certain amounts of tension due to the fact that this land is being disputed and they could force us to leave at whatever time the company requests it. But we have no other option. As they advance with their modern machines, our form of insurgence is to plant food with our hoes. It's slow, but we are recuperating the land and our independence," he said.

This is the first generation that is retaking land primarily for the production of food. "It is the memory of the oldest ones that is strengthening our struggle," Guimaraes told Truthout.

The Struggle for Memory

One of the controversies at play is the memory of what the Atlantic Forest used to be and the passing on of this memory to the younger generations. "Perhaps in 100 years, a Quilombola individual will look at the eucalyptus plantation and say that it is a forest, because he won't have the reference of what a native forest is," Calazans said. "The cellulose company knows that if this memory is broken, there will be no more problems with resistance."

The generation of people in the state of Espirito Santo that remember the Atlantic Forest will be gone within the next 30 years. "These people have seen and lived in the forest. If they die and we still have not transitioned beyond eucalyptus back to native forests and traditional agriculture," said Calazans, "it will never happen."

"Memory assures the dream of these territories. The day that memory dies completely, we will no longer be able to think in a post-eucalyptus time," he added. "We have to invest in building understanding of this transition. These next three decades are strategically important in this fight."

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<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/28232-green-neocolonialism-afro-brazilian-rebellion-in-brazil>

To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Thank you for signing Tell Yahoo! Japan to Stop Selling Whale Meat!
Sent: Wed, 31 Dec 2014 02:07:48 -0800
From: petitions@care2team.com

People still consume whale meat in Japan, despite international backlash and an international ban enacted in 1986. A loophole that allows whale meat used in "scientific research" to be sold for profit allows the practice to continue.

Recently, a California sushi restaurant called "The Hump" was caught illegally serving endangered Sei whale meat. The restaurant owner admitted that he was aware his chefs were serving the meat and that they knew it was illegal.

Most large tech companies, including Japan's Amazon.com and Google Shopping Japan, have stopped selling whale meat. Yahoo! Japan is the only remaining tech company that still does. They host over 1,000 whale meat offerings, including minke whales caught in the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary, and endangered fin and sei whales caught in the Northwest Pacific. Please sign the petition to urge Yahoo! Japan to stop selling whale meat!

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/617/071/394/tell-yahoo-japan-to-stop-selling-whale-meat/>

<http://news.discovery.com/animals/california-sushi-bar-caught-selling-whale-meat.htm>

Please tell Yahoo in no uncertain terms that it is unacceptable to sell whale meat. Thank you.

uk-pr@yahoo-inc.com;

.....
From: mangroveap@olympus.net
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Tue, 30 Dec 2014 22:44:21 -0800
Subject: Mangroves

Please view links. Thank you.

<http://questionyourshrimp.com> <http://mangroveactionproject.org>

From: andrew.long@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Tue, 23 Dec 2014 13:14:56 +0000
Subject: FW: 'sheep carcasses.'

Dear Sir,

Further to your email below I have received comments from the Authority's animal health section and they are of the view that the continued requirement to remove animal carcasses is important in preventing the transmission of human diseases such as hydatid and also in the prevention of risks to animal health through the transmission of disease.

Regards, Andrew Long, Team Manager, Environmental Protection, Blaenau Gwent CBC

Thank you for your reply. This was rarely a problem until Defra's own home-grown creation of Mad-Cow Disease began back in the 90s. Scavengers are having a really hard time especially in Southern Europe and here in the UK. they're not exactly well fed any more.

Things have to eat, like it or not. If any real problems do in fact still exist it must surely be possible to have designated places on farms where dead livestock could legally be dumped. Many of these animals die in the winter snows in any case and so disease in these events is hardly like to be an issue, especially where they are so readily sized upon.

As a subject matter I've always found scavengers to be absolutely fascinating and so I am, having witnessed the disposal of many carcasses over the years, more than able to say that on average a dead sheep will be consumed within three days leaving only the backbone and some gnawed down ribs. And after another week or so everything will be completely gone.

Please write to the contacts below. Thank you.

andrew.long@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk; defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk; webmaster@defra.gsi.gov.uk;
farmland.conservation@defra.gsi.gov.uk; support.magic@defra.gsi.gov.uk; ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk;
richard.brand-hardy@defra.gsi.gov.uk; fawcsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk; emma.beckles@defra.gsi.gov.uk;
tbbc@defra.gsi.gov.uk; science.advisory.council@defra.gsi.gov.uk; s.russell@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk;
postmaster@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk; sean.armstrong@defra.gsi.gov.uk; paula.hendy@defra.gsi.gov.uk;
clare.hamilton@defra.gsi.gov.uk; sally.cunningham@defra.gsi.gov.uk; huw.joynson@defra.gsi.gov.uk;
capconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk; rdpedeliverywestmidlands@defra.gsi.gov.uk;
rdpedeliveryeastmidlands@defra.gsi.gov.uk; seed.cert@defra.gsi.gov.uk; rdpedeliverynortheast@defra.gsi.gov.uk;
rdpedeliveryyorkshire@defra.gsi.gov.uk; rdpedeliverysoutheast@defra.gsi.gov.uk;

And on that note, I'll now hand you over to the Reverend.

From: revbilly@revbilly.com>
To: h.pagan.pla@aim.com>
Sent: Fri, 7 Nov 2014 18:22
Subject: Organic Thanksgiving At Monsanto

Reverend Billy & the Stop Shopping Choir

It is the worst of times and not quite the worst times because we are mindful that things will definitely get worse. The man in charge of the environment in the US Senate doesn't believe in climate change. Six trillion pounds of CO2 spew into the atmosphere each week, as the shopping season revs up. Oh! We have reason to sing, and reason to shout. We'll do it with joy when we can.

We return to our home stage, Joe's Pub at the Public, on November 23, Sunday, at 2 PM in New York City. Get your tickets now! We'll be there every Sunday until Christmas.

On November 25, we begin our bus journey to the world headquarters of Monsanto for a resplendent Organic Thanksgiving Dinner. Can you join us in spirit? In body? Take the pledge and make your family meal a part of this event.

Monsanto is in Creve Couer (Broken Heart), Missouri, which is next door to Ferguson. On Black Friday, we visit young activists there and take them whatever we raise at our Standing with Ferguson benefit here in New York City (special appearance by Joan Baez!)

It is hard to imagine a worser time, children, but we will sing to the end! ...to the beginning! Earthalujah!

Please now watch the video we made whilst in the UK!

<http://vimeo.com/4988483>

Oh, and welcome to our NEW WEBSITE.

Reverend Billy Talen

Reverend Billy & the Stop Shopping Choir · PO Box 1556, New York, NY 10013,
United States

Concluding: We print any letters here from all sides of both arguments. So long as it's relevant to subject matters, and provided it's not obscene, we will print it. If you disagree with anything that's said, please write in. This is a public arena so please feel free to have your say.