Join Southern unions, workers organizations, civil rights, human rights groups, immigrant rights groups, unemployed, young workers, faith and community for a workers speak-out that uplifts our on-the-ground actual workers' rights struggles in the US South.

The Southern working class must encourage our workers and organizations to have an independent presence at the Democratic National Convention as an opportunity to discuss, plan and organize around our own working class needs and struggles for independent political action as we continue to challenge Right-To-Work (for less) & Taft-Hartley laws, low wages, denial of collective bargaining, and workers' human rights connected with the historical demands against the South's legacy of Jim Crow laws, anti-immigrant scapegoating and racism.

The Southern region is the least unionized region in the country. NC is the single least unionized state and is home of Wall Street South as headquarters of Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank East with the largest concentration of finance capital outside NYC. Workers must let the big banks, corporations and both parties know that we as workers will continue building our powerful Southern movement that addresses our needs as workers and not corporate greed! Enough is enough! We will Organize, Unionize and fightback!

North Carolina

- Union density: 2%
- Main issues: Denial of collective bargaining rights, low wages, unjust disciplines, long work hours, dangerous work, no representation rights or payroll deduction.

“We are overworked and underpaid. We just wanna be treated fair across the board. On Monday August the 6th we are gonna take signs down town to Government Center, City Hall about our working conditions and unfair treatment. We will repeat this every Monday until we get justice and make sure our voice is heard at the Southern Workers Assembly.”

—Barbara Edgecomb, Sanitation Worker
City of Charlotte
UE local 150, NC Public Service Workers Union

Virginia

- Union density: About 6%
- Main issues: Denial of collective bargaining rights, privatization, under staffing, downsizing, low wages.

"State mental health workers responded to closures of 4–5 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services centers and attempts to privatize in central, Tidewater and Northern Virginia. People are pushing back against the state’s attempt to increase tolls on state highways. At the Southern Workers Assembly we want to talk about our campaign for a Mental Health Workers Bill of Rights and our fight for public sector collective bargaining rights. One big issue for state workers is our retirement plan and not having wage increase in last 6 years.”

—Patrick Brown & Wilma Nedrick, Mental Health Workers
Petersburg, Virginia
UE local 160, VA Public Service Workers Union

**Southern Workers Speak Out**

September 3, 2012 (Labor Day) at 1 PM
First day of Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, NC

To take place at
1:00 - 5:00 PM
at
Wedgewood Baptist Church
4800 Wedgewood Drive
Charlotte, NC 28210

For more information contact:
Saladin Muhammad of the
Southern International Worker Justice Campaign at
saladin62@aol.com and 252-314-2363
Southern Workers Speak Out to build a Southern Workers Assembly

**MISSISSIPPI**

- **Union density:** 5%

The Southern Workers’ Assembly is long overdue!! It is absolutely the most important gathering of workers rights organizers, workers, activists and human rights defenders. As we watch the political footballs being passed from one side of the aisle to the other, we know that working people must take power. We cannot rely upon any part of the decaying machine that rolls over the hopes and aspirations of millions of workers and their families, while greasing the cogs of profit and exploitation. We must stand together, assemble, plan, organize and win!!!!

—Jaribu Hill  Greenville, MS
Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights

**TENNESSEE, MISSISSIPPI AND ARKANSAS**

- **Union density:** Arkansas is 4.2%, Tennessee is 4.6%

Within the last year or so we have had elections at poultry plants. In August 2011 we won an election in Water Valley, MS, with 236 poultry workers overwhelmingly. The states we work in are right-to-work and that makes it harder to organize because they play games with us. You can get the same that the members get that are not organized, but if we work together and everybody plays a part it would make it better. The “Right To Work” has the wrong name. It is the right to be a slave! There is nothing about right to work.”

—Rose Turner  Organizing Director
United Food and Commercial Workers Union, local 1529

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

- **Union density:** 3.4%

This year, the state was trying to strengthen the Right-to-work laws. Everything that was originally in there that was very harmful got stripped from the bill. It first passed the House, but when it got back to the Senate, we were there to express our concerns and raises issues of legality and constitutionality. For instance, they tried to strip and nullify Project Labor Agreements in S.C. but we showed this will be a big problem with Federal government. We got them to make motion to strike that from the bill. Another part of the bill was on reporting on retirements. We showed that there is already requirements and the states cannot require more reporting than this. Everything in there that would cripple us was striken down. They want us to report our membership list and now forget about it, that is not going to happen. We counted it as a great success. ”

—Ken Riley, President of South Carolina AFL-CIO, President of ILA local 1422, Vice-President of ILA international, dockworker, Charleston, SC

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Over the last few years we built the H.K.O.J. Coalition (lead by the NAACP) and Together NC, coalitions of groups that are organizing about the budget crisis and how it adversely impacts low income people, teachers, medical care and people of color. We talk about how legislature is being more punitive to the working poor. Yet, there are divisions there mainly due to ignorance of middle class white people. The main issues for us to talk about at the Southern Workers Assembly is raising minimum wage so that we can get a living wage, probably over $10 an hour. That should be a unifying agenda because even poor whites will see how they are in common with poor Blacks and poor immigrants.”

—Billy Green, office worker, Spring Hope, NC
Public employee with State Department of Commerce UE150, NC Public Service Workers Union

See videos, call to action and more at:
http://southernworker.org