

## - NEWSROLL - MIGRANT JUSTICE IN CANADA?

*Written By: Dan Kellar, with files from Sterling Stutz*

Canada's reputation in respecting human rights is coming into question as news from across the country highlights abuses at home, and support for human rights violations abroad. What follows is a quick review of important migrant justice issues:

**- No One is Illegal - Vancouver** has reported that "the number of migrant workers in BC has doubled over the past five years, spurred on by the provinces construction boom, the impending 2010 Olympics, [the] trans-provincial transport of the Alberta Tar Sands," and other development projects. One Olympic project has been especially troublesome with the November 2007 ruling from the BC Human Rights Tribunal and the resulting discrimination suit, articulated that "for two years the [developers] treatment of the [work-

ers] conveyed to them the message that they were worth less and less worthy than other employees, because they were Latin American." Evidence included paying Latin American workers \$10 less for same tasks and being crammed into motels while European workers were housed in upscale False Creek condos.

"So long as they continued to work on the Canada Line project, they were unable to escape the discriminatory treatment that pervaded every aspect of the working and leisure lives."

NOII Vancouver states "For migrant workers, labour exploitation becomes inherent through the making of a national identity that naturalizes the status of their foreign indentured labour."

**-Canada Reaction to Goldstone** has followed that of Israel and

the US, buy outright rejecting the report by internationally respected jurist, Richard Goldstone. The report claims that both Israel and Hamas perpetrated war crimes in the month long bombardment campaign of Gaza which started in December 2008. Claiming the report "pre-emptively assumed Israel's culpability," UN Watch reports that Peter Kent, Canada's Minister of State of Foreign Affairs then continued by reiterating Canada's unwavering support for the Israeli State saying "it is one thing to offer supportive words to Israel when it's convenient, and quite another to stand firm in its hour of need."

Noam Chomsky notes that "the right to self-defence does not mean resorting to military force before 'exhausting peaceful means', something Israel did not even contemplate doing."

