

Even though Boise was gone, other companies continued to cut down trees. By 2003 over forty percent of the forest was gone.

Around Felipe's village, and in other parts of Mexico, strong men called "bosses" tried to control the poor farmers so the government and businessmen could do what they wanted with the farmers' land. One of these bosses, Niño Bautista, was helping the companies that wanted to cut down trees in the forests around Felipe's village. He was trying to get the government to allow the farmers to cut down the trees. At a public meeting, Felipe spoke out against Niño Bautista.

Soon after he did this, Felipe was taken by the police and put in jail. This happened on November 3, 2004. The police said Felipe had killed one of Niño's sons, Abel. Abel had been shot in 1998 while he and his brother, Prisciliano, had been driving along a mountain road. Prisciliano said that Felipe was one of the killers.

Felipe said that on the day Abel was killed he had been in another village, three hours' drive away. Many other people said that this was true. But despite this, it was decided that Felipe had to stay in jail. He said, "The truth is that I was working against strong, rich people."

*- information from: La Jornada (Mexico) 05.02.01, 05.02.02, 05.02.04. (Rosa Rojas); "The Framing of Felipe Arreaga," Counterpunch 5.01.07 (Kent Paterson)*

**marijuana:**  
dried leaf of common plant; smoked for pleasure

**valley:**  
low land between mountains

**pesticide:**  
used to kill small animals and insects ('pests') around house and farm;

**gone:**  
left; not 'there' any longer

**speak out:**  
criticize (say bad things about) publicly