

via fax: 011 57 1 444 2158 Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 330 5050 Dr. Diego Palacio Betancourt Minister of Social Protection
via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext 2017 Dr. Mario Germán Iguaran Arana Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia	

February 22, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We continue to be seriously concerned for the safety of SINALTRAINAL food and beverage union leaders **Javier Correa, José Domingo Flórez** and **Luis Eduardo García**, about whom we wrote to you on December 15, 2007. They are continuing to receive death threats.

On February 12 a letter containing death threats signed by the paramilitary group the Black Eagles Front (Frente Aguilas Negras) was received at the home of José Domingo Flórez in the municipality of Bucaramanga, Santander Department. The letter accused trade unionists of being terrorists and told them that because they had not obeyed a previous paramilitary order to leave the city, they would now have to bear the cruel "consequences," starting with their families. The threat also said that Javier Correa, Domingo Flórez and Luis Garcia were under surveillance by the paramilitary group.

At 7:45 pm the same day, two men on a motorbike stopped Luis Eduardo García was stopped near the home of José Domingo Flórez. The men told him: "Now you are going to die, trade unionist . . ." On February 13, José Domingo Flórez received another death threat in a letter left in a neighboring house with instructions that it be delivered to the owner of a green Mitsubishi (José Flórez). The letter gave him a deadline of eight days to leave the area. The letter also mentioned his daughter, saying that she was very nice and they would take her for a ride.

These death threats are the latest in a series (about which we have sent you several letters in the past few years: Jul 11 2002, Sep 1 2003, Mar 14 2004, Sep 22 2005, Jun 13 2006, Sep 12 2006, Oct 15 2006, Dec 24 2006, Oct 14 2007, Nov 12 2007, Dec 15 2007) against food and beverage workers at Nestle and Coca-Cola who are members of SINALTRAINAL and outspoken about the policies of transnational corporations that violate human rights.

In light of these facts, **we strongly urge** you to:

- protect Javier Correa, Jose Domingo Flórez, Luis García, their families, and other members of SINALTRAINAL, in accordance with the wishes of those at risk;
- order full and impartial investigations into the death threats against SINALTRAINAL members, publish the results and bring all those responsible to justice;
- take decisive action, in line with repeated UN recommendations, to confront and dismantle paramilitary groups operating in the region and to break their links with the security forces;
- fully implement recommendations made by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to guarantee the safety of trade unionists, take decisive action to end impunity in cases of human rights abuses against trade unionists, and ensure that the office of the ILO's permanent representative in Colombia is sufficiently resourced so that it can effectively fulfill its mandate.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: SINALTRAINAL ~ via U.S. mail
 Maria Barco Isakson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 Ambassador William Brownfield, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.315.2197
 Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Latta, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 256/07 Colombia

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:

