

## COLOMBIA

### Nestle worker shot 10 times at his house

IRTF's RRN has faxed letters on more than a dozen occasions to Colombian officials since 2002 on behalf of the food and beverage workers belonging to the **National Union of Food Industry Workers** (*Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria de Alimentos*, **SINALTRAINAL**). SINALTRAINAL members who work at Coca-Cola and Nestle plants are routinely threatened, harassed, and even assassinated. In 2009, we were compelled to fax yet another letter.

**Gustavo Gómez, a member of the food and drink workers trade union SINALTRAINAL, was assassinated at his home August 21, 2009.** Unknown assailants knocked on the door of his home in Dosquebradas at 6:30pm. When Gustavo opened the door, **they shot him 10 times**. He was taken to a clinic where he died a few hours later.

Gustavo worked for Nestlé-Comestibles La Rosa S.A. He had been a member of Steering Committee of the SINALTRAINAL local in Dosquebradas, Risaralda Department, from 1997 to 2000. His cousin, José Jesus Marin Vargas, another SINALTRAINAL member, had been assassinated on November 22, 2007 as he was coming home from work from the same Nestle plant.

Sadly, this crime happened at the time when SINALTRAINAL presented a sheet of petitions to Nestle Purina PetCare of Colombia, S.A. **This most recent assassination makes 12 SINALTRAINAL Nestle workers assassinated in recent years.** The union has previously denounced to authorities the ongoing death threats but the authorities do not investigate nor punish those responsible. According to the union, the Uribe administration does nothing but promote a public relations campaign to make it look like the government is protecting the workers. Instead, say the workers, they are stigmatized and persecuted, and the assassinations continue.

"SINALTRAINAL calls on the government of Colombia to investigate and punish the material and intellectual actors of this crime and protect the members of SINALTRAINAL and their family members and guarantee the rights of workers to organize their union activities," stated Luis Javier Correa Suárez, President of SINALTRAINAL.