

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 Sr. Álvaro Uribe Vélez President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 565 76 82 Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon Vice-president of the Republic of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Dr. Mario Germán Iguaran Arana Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia	

October 14, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are seriously concerned for the safety of **José Domingo Florez**, who is a worker at a Coca-Cola bottling plant and a leader of the trade union SINALTRAINAL. We are also concerned for his family and other members of **SINALTRAINAL**.

At 4 pm on September 27 José Domingo's son, **Andrés Damian Florez Rodríguez**, was returning from school to his home in the Andes barrio of Floridablanca in Santander Department when he was accosted by three individuals from a black van who were carrying arms, communications radios and wearing balaclavas. The three men took Andrés into the van by force, threw him on the floor and began hitting him. As they drove one of the assailants called on the radio and said "we've got [him]; what should we do with him?". The response from the other end was, "Take him for a ride, give him a belting and. . . tell him to tell his dad that we won't rest until we've seen him cut into pieces." The assailants threw Andrés out of the van at Palenque on the road to Lebrija.

On September 24, SINALTRAINAL attended a court hearing, convened by the Circuit Judge of Valledupar, in the International Labor Organization (ILO) offices in Bogotá. SINALTRAINAL President Luis Javier Correa Suárez and other union members and their families were to testify as witnesses against the paramilitaries responsible for the 2005 assassination of union leader Luciano Romero.

On September 25, Black Eagles paramilitary group left a written death threat at the office of SINALTRAINAL in Bucaramanga. These death threats are the latest in a series (February 10, July 26, August 9, August 13 and 20) against Coca-Cola workers who are members of SINALTRAINAL because of their protests against transnational corporations for their policies which violate human rights.

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

- take immediate action to protect José Domingo Florez, his family and other members of SINALTRAINAL, in accordance with their wishes;
- immediately order full and impartial investigations into the material and intellectual authors of the persecution of José Domingo Florez, publish the results, and bring all those responsible to justice;
- take decisive action to ensure that the Coca-Cola Company and the Colombia authorities cease all repression against SINALTRAINAL workers.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Carolina Barco Iskson, 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
 Dr. Michael Frulin, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia office ~ via fax: 011-571. 658-3300
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

Oct 2 Colombia Solidarity UK

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

