

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

December 15, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Javier Correa**, President of the National Union of Food Industry Workers (Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria de Alimentos, SINALTRAINAL), and SINALTRAINAL leaders **José Domingo Flórez** and **Luis Eduardo García** who have been threatened with death by army-backed paramilitaries.

On December 6, a letter containing death threats signed by the paramilitary group the Black Eagles Front (Frente Aguilas Negras) was received at the home of SINALTRAINAL leader Jose Domingo Florez in the municipality of Bucaramanga, Santander Department. It accused him of being a member of a guerrilla group and declared him and his family to be "military targets." The letter also told them to leave the region or face being buried in a mass grave with other trade unionists and their families.

The next day, another letter signed by the Black Eagles Front was received at SINALTRAINAL's offices in Bucaramanga. This letter contained threats to the lives of Javier Correa and Luis Eduardo Garcia, accusing them of being spokespeople for guerrilla forces and declaring them to be "military targets".

On December 10, the same paramilitary group sent a threat to the home of José Domingo Flórez. The threat mentioned Javier Correa, José Domingo Flórez and Luis Eduardo García, saying that their families were in danger and all of them would be cut up into pieces. It also said that time to leave the department was running out and if they did not leave, the only place where they would go would be a common mass grave for them and their families.

These death threats are the latest in a series (February 10, July 26, August 9, August 13, August 20, September 25 and 27) against food and beverage workers at Nestle and Coca-Cola who are members of SINALTRAINAL. These workers are 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.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: SINALTRAINAL ~ via mail
 Sr. Volmar Antonio Perez Ortiz, Human Rights Ombudsman ~ via mail
 Maria 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

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

