

IRTF

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

3606 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
tel: 216.961.0003 fax: 216.961.0002 e-mail: irtf@igc.org

Sr. Esquinaci and Sr. Nariño Torres
Mongibello Flower Plantation
Bogotá, Colombia
Via fax: 011-571-862-5186

December 1, 2008

Dear Mr. Esquinaci and Mr. Nariño Torres,

We are outraged at the illegal firing, on November 11, of six workers on your Mongibello flower plantation just outside of Bogotá. The workers, **José Alexander Montenegro, José Abel Rincón, Samuel Rico, Juan Bautista López, Milton Páez and Sergio Fabián Bossa**, have been working there for over 15 years. They were dismissed for contacting one of Colombia's labor federations, the CUT, to talk about organizing a union in response to ongoing labor rights abuses on the plantation.

We remind you that firing workers for unionizing is illegal in Colombia, as well as in the United States. I urge you to immediately rehire the illegally dismissed workers and to respect the labor rights of all the workers employed by your company.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

Cc: Sr. Carlos Holguín Sardi, Ministro del Interior y de Justicia, Colombia. via fax: 011 57 1 560 4630
Ambassador Carolina Barco Isakson, Embassy of Colombia in the US. via fax: 1 202 232 8643
Ambassador William Brownfield, Embassy of the US in Colombia. via fax: 011 571 315 2197
Susan Sanford, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173
Javier Hernández Valencia, 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 or 202.458.6215
US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, Latta, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

LEAP11/18/08 Colombia

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