

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 <b>Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez</b> President of the República of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext 2017 <b>Acting Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia</b>
via fax: 011 571 565 7682 <b>Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon</b> Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia	Via fax: 011 571 640 0491 <b>Dr. Volmar Antonio Perez Ortiz</b> National Human Rights Ombudsman of Colombia

August 25, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the assassination of yet another member of the food and beverage workers' trade union, SINALTRAINAL. At 6:30pm on August 21, unknown assailants knocked at the home of **Gustavo Gómez** in Dosquebradas, Risaralda Department. When he opened the door, they shot him 10 times; he died a few hours later in a clinic.

Gustavo Gómez worked for Nestlé-Comestibles La Rosa S.A. He had been a member of the Steering Committee of the SINALTRAINAL union local in Dosquebradas from 1997 to 2000. His cousin, José Jesus Marin Vargas, another SINALTRAINAL member, was assassinated on November 22, 2007 as he was coming home from work from the same Nestle plant. The same Nestle plant fired three active union members (Ricardo León Londoño, Sandra Milena Giraldo y Miguel Darío Penilla) in January 2009.

Sadly, this recent assassination happened at the time when SINALTRAINAL presented pages of petitions to Nestle Purina PetCare of Colombia, S.A. This makes twelve SINALTRAINAL Nestle workers assassinated in recent years. The union has previously denounced to authorities the ongoing death threats, but it appears that the government does not investigate or punish those responsible.

We have written several letters to Colombian authorities about threats against and assassinations of SINALTRAINAL members. This is the tenth letter we have sent in the past three years.

Again, we **strongly urge** that you

- investigate and punish the material and intellectual perpetrators of the assassination of Gustavo Gómez; provide protection for the members of SINALTRAINAL and their family members, in accordance with their wishes;
- guarantee the rights of workers to organize their union activities.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

Copies: Enrique Rueda Noriega, Human Resources, Nestle of Colombia ~ via email  
 Juan Carlos Marroquín, Nestle President for Bolivarian Region ~ via email  
 Carolina Barco Isakson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643  
 William Brownfield, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.315.2197  
 Nan N. Fife, 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  
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email  
 US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

SINALTRAINAL 08/21/09\_Colombia

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