

via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 414 9108 Dr. Guillermo Mendoza Diago Fiscal General de la Nacion, Colombia
via fax: 011 44 0 207 496 4630 Tony Hayward , Executive Director and Group Chief Executive, British Petroleum-Amoco	

March 4, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are seriously concerned for the welfare and safety of the **members of the national Oil Workers Union USO (Union Sindical Obrera)**, that has only been able to organize in the plants since last year. Since January 22, 2010, these workers at the British Petroleum plant at Tauramena, part of the Cusiana oil field in Casanare Department, have been protesting for improved wages. On February 15, the notorious ESMAD (Escuadrón Móvil Antidisturbios, or anti-mutiny/anti-riot police) attacked the workers' picket line and members of the local community. Three workers, members of the USO, are in the hospital. A statement from the workers follows:

"We earn C\$30,000 (US\$13.50); this is what we were paid in 2004. Everything has gone up in price. Our salary is the only thing that hasn't increased. After paying food and bills we are left with nothing in the pocket while BP earns millions from Casanare Oil. Us poor people need respect too as we are humans, just the same as rich people. And a dignified salary is part of this respect."

British Petroleum-Amoco, based in London, operates over a large area of Colombia, owning the largest oil fields in the country. BP also controls the Orensa oil pipeline that crosses Colombia from east to west and owns an alternative energy company. Amoco operates important oil fields in the Santander department. There is also evidence that BP has a history of involvement with military, paramilitary, and police groups, and of threatening witnesses against the company.

According to our records, the InterReligious Task Force has sent at least six letters to Colombia officials on behalf of USO workers in recent years. We are disappointed to learn that the situation has not improved.

Now, because of our deep concern for the welfare and safety of the **members of the national Oil Workers Union (USO, Union Sindical Obrera)**, we **strongly urge that you:**

- urge BP to conduct peaceful negotiations with USO;
- ensure that BP meet the workers' just demands;
- guarantee no victimization of union workers;
- condemn the ESMAD police repression of BP's employees.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon, Vicepresidente de Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.565.7682
 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
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458-3650
 Rodrigo Escobar Gil, Colombia member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458-3650
 Christian Salazar Volkmann, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia office ~ via fax: 011-571. 658.3300
 USO Human Rights Commission ~ via email
 Colombia Solidarity Campaign ~ via email
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

03/03/10_OilWorkers_ColombiaSolidarityCampaign

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