

Jaime Ardila, President  
General Motors South America Region  
100 Renaissance Center  
P.O. Box 431301  
Detroit, MI 48265  
via fax: 313 566 5000

December 13, 2012

Dear Mr. Ardila:

We are deeply concerned for the well-being of permanently injured former workers of General Motors' Colmotores factory in Bogotá. Since August 2011 they have maintained a presence outside the US Embassy in Bogotá to draw attention to their cause. Several sewed their mouths shut in a hunger strike in August 2012. At least one former worker (and supporters from the US) held a vigil outside GM headquarters in Detroit in September.

Former workers of Colmotores suffer from occupational injuries caused by vicious body postures, repetitive motions, and lifting excessively heavy weights. A short time after their occupational injuries were discovered, GM dismissed them. The injured workers (organized in the association called ASOTRECOL) are only asking what is due to them: compensation and retraining or reintegration into GM.

Some resumed their hunger strike on November 20 by once again sewing their mouths shut. When asked why they've resorted to such extreme measures, Jorge Parra, President of ASOTRECOL said, "Essentially, GM gave us a choice: to die of hunger [from the strike] or to die waiting for them to solve this problem."

We **strongly urge you** to resume negotiations and seriously listen to the former workers' demands:

- recognize their injuries as occupational and assume the costs of medical treatment,
- pay pensions or disability to those who are so severely injured that they can no longer work or can only work part-time,
- compensate workers for the economic damage they have suffered, including lost wages and homes,
- reintegrate those who are able to work back into the GM workforce

Thank you for your prompt attention. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

CC: Hilda Solis, US Secretary of Labor ~ via fax: 202 693 6111  
Rafael Pardo Rueda, Minister of Labor of Colombia ~ via fax: 011 57 1 489 3900 ext 2320  
Gabriel Silva Luján, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643  
P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600  
Mary Brett Rogers-Springs, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173  
José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992  
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email  
WitnessforPeace\_Colombia

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