

For Immediate Release

**Charlene Obernaur
Regional Organizer
United Students Against Sweatshops
631-252-4221
HumanrightsSBU@aol.com**

Stony Brook Students Act Against Coca Cola

Activists Hold Informational Event and Call In Against Beverage Company

October 9, 2007 (Stony Brook) – Eight cardboard tombstones with the names of members of the Colombian union SINALTRAINAL killed in Coca-Cola factories were lined up on the ground outside of Stony Brook University's Student Activity Center Wednesday October 3, 2007 during Campus Lifetime. Activists from the Social Justice Alliance, a progressive student club on campus, encouraged students, faculty and staff to call Stony Brook's Presidents Office to tell President Shirley Strum Kenny to not renew the university's exclusive beverage contract with Coca-Cola.

Stony Brook University students have had an ongoing campaign against Coca-Cola for the last two years. Said long time organizer Anita Halasz, "This was just the first of many actions this semester designed to build more student opposition regarding Stony Brook's beverage contract with Coca-Cola. Our opposition will not stop until Stony Brook becomes a Coca-Cola free campus, and we will continue to pressure the administration to not renew the contract in 2008." Coca-Cola has been removed from approximately 50 universities worldwide due to accusations of complicity in the murders of Colombian unionists, environmental degradation in India and other crimes (see www.killercoke.org).

Participants in the action were pleased with the response from the campus community. Over 300 pamphlets were distributed and numerous Stony Brook students, faculty, and staff called the President's Office. And support is growing. Long-time unionist and Business Agent of Stony Brook's Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU), Victor Rosado reiterated a position taken by GSEU and the faculty/staff union United University Professionals stating, "The GSEU looks forward in joining with the Social Justice Alliance and other student groups in opposing a renewed contract with Coca-Cola. Coca Cola has proven time and time again through their actions across the world that they cannot be considered good campus citizens."

"If we lose the fight against Coca-Cola, first we will lose our union, next our jobs and then our lives." -- SINALTRAINAL Vice President Juan Carlos Galvis

The Social Justice Alliance is a joint undergraduate and graduate student club at Stony Brook University. Formed after September 11th 2001 to challenge the rise of militancy and neo-conservatism on campus it has evolved into an advocacy group that focuses on Fair Trade, anti-sweatshop, and solidarity work on Stony Brook Campus. The Social Justice Alliance maintains a relationship with national student groups like United Students against Sweatshops, the Student Farmworker Alliance, and United Students for Fair Trade. For more information see www.sbusja.org.