

Coca-Cola's Abuse of the Global Public Interest

In 2001, a lawsuit was filed in the United States against Coca-Cola by the International Labor Rights Fund (www.laborrights.org) and the United Steelworkers union on behalf of SINALTRAINAL (www.sinaltrainal.org) — the major union representing Coca-Cola workers in Colombia — several of its members and the survivors of Isidro Gil, one of its murdered officers (www.sinaltrainal.org).

The lawsuit charges that Coca-Cola's bottlers in Colombia "contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that utilized extreme violence and murdered, tortured, unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders."

The seriousness of the situation is best summed up by a SINALTRAINAL officer, who stated: "If we lose the fight against Coca-Cola, we will first lose our union, next our jobs and then our lives."

Other crimes and abuses by Coke include:

- Overexploitation and Pollution of Water Sources in India (www.indiaresource.org), Mexico (www.ciepac.org), Ghana and elsewhere (www.polarisinstitute.org)
- Benefiting from Hazardous Child Labour in Sugar Cane Fields in El Salvador as documented by Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)
- Aggressive Marketing to Children of Nutritionally Worthless and Damaging Products (www.commercialexploitation.org and www.schoolpouringrights.com/)
- Anti-worker Policies in Turkey, Indonesia and Latin America (www.studentsagainstsweatshops.org and www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk/)
- Giving executives hundreds of millions of dollars in stock options and bonuses while laying off thousands of employees
- History of Racial Discrimination
- Fraudulent Business Practices
- Tax avoidance and corporate welfare schemes



Campaign to Stop Killer Coke
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