

October 29, 2007

We, the undersigned, students of University of San Francisco, petition to have all Coca-Cola products and affiliates removed from our campus. These include, but are not limited to: Dasani, Fuse, Odwalla, Peak Iced Tea, Fanta, Minute Maid, PowerAde and Sprite. We are outraged that a University who lauds itself as one that has a “global perspective” and believes in social justice would support a company that has knowingly committed various human rights abuses around the world. We demand that USF joins the schools around the nation and around the world that have made a statement that we support human rights above profit. We believe that by accepting the support and buying products of such companies, we too have become perpetrators of human rights abuses in Columbia, India and around the world. We believe in the importance of fair trade and the importance human rights, and expect our school to represent these interests. How can we call ourselves morally or ethically correct when we support such companies? Coca Cola currently faces human rights and environmental charges in India and Columbia. The state government of Kerala has initiated the process of filing criminal charges against Coca-Cola for pollution. In a notice to Coca-Cola on Friday, October 12, 2007, Kerala asked that Coca Cola be held criminally liable for their actions. Furthermore, Coca-Cola has created severe water shortages around its bottling operations across India, and one of its largest bottling plants has been shut down by the government because of pollution problems. It has distributed its toxic waste as ‘fertilizer’ to farmers in India, and has been accused of selling drinks with high levels of Pesticides in India, including DDT—sometimes 30 times higher than EU standards. Furthermore workers in Colombia bottling plants have also reported being intimidated with threats of violence, kidnapped, tortured, and unlawfully detained by members of the paramilitary working with the blessing of, or in collaboration with, Coca Cola management. Coca-Cola’s main Latin American bottler, Panamco, is on trial in the United States for hiring right-wing paramilitaries to kill and intimidate union leaders in Colombia. When are we going to help stop this cycle of violence and intimidation, and fulfill our moral and ethical obligation as world citizens? We insist that the University of San Francisco fulfill its obligation to mankind, and take a stand for human rights.

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