



Local 499 Liquor Board Division

January 22, 2008

whereas, the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO and the International Labor Rights Fund have filed a lawsuit under the alien tort claims act against the Coca-Cola Co. and its Colombian bottlers that charges that Coca-Cola Bottlers "contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that utilized extreme violence and murdered, tortured, unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders". The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Sinaltrainal, the National Union of Food and Industry Workers in Colombia, several of its members and the estate of Isidro Gil, one of its murdered officers;

whereas, New York City Council Hiram Monserrate led a delegation of labor, student and academic representatives on a 10-day fact finding mission in Colombia to investigate Coca-Cola's alleged human rights violations;

whereas, the delegation's final report released in April concluded that "Coca-Cola is complicit in human rights abuses of its workers in Colombia" and its "complicity is deepened by its repeated pattern of bringing criminal charges against union activists who have spoken out about the company's collusion with paramilitaries;"

whereas, no organization or public institution concerned with labour and human rights should lend its name and credibility to Coca-Cola by serving as a marketplace or venue for its sales and advertising;

be it resolved that OPSEU local 499 will support the petition campaign against Coca-Cola's board of directors;

be it further resolved that OPSEU Local 499 bans all Coke products from all OPSEU Local 499 offices and functions and calls upon other local unions, to do the same;

and be it finally resolved that OPSEU Local 499 will communicate to



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Coca-Cola that until the situation involving Sinaltrainal in Colombia is resolved and the safety and rights of workers in the Coca-Cola Colombian Bottling plants are protected OPSEU Local 499 will stand in solidarity and support Sinaltrainal's boycott campaign against Coca-Cola and will urge our members, other OPSEU locals and other union members to do the same

In Solidarity,

Nelson Ross
President
Local 499