

International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Thirty-second International Convention
San Francisco, California
April 28-May 2, 2003

Resolution #R-29

COLOMBIAN UNIONISTS AND SUPPORT FOR THE COCA-COLA BOYCOTT

WHEREAS: U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on Plan Colombia, an aid program originally meant to eradicate the drug trade there; and

WHEREAS: Ninety percent of the aid to Colombia is military aid increasingly channeled to the non-governmental, right wing paramilitaries; and

WHEREAS: These paramilitary groups operate unhindered by the government as an anti-union military force in the country; and

WHEREAS: 4,000 unionists have been assassinated by the paramilitaries in the last decade, and 192 of them in 2002 alone and no one has ever been prosecuted for it; and

WHEREAS: Such actions deny Colombian workers the most basic internationally recognized rights to organize into unions and to collectively bargain;

WHEREAS: Coca-Cola is one of the top companies trying to bust union organizing and many of the local union's officials have been murdered and many others have received death threats to themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS: The Colombian unionists are calling for an international boycott of Coca-Cola until the company calls off the paramilitaries and bargains fairly with the workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the ILWU demand that Congress end the funding of Plan Colombia; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That the ILWU join the boycott of Coca-Cola and do all it can to publicize the boycott around the world.