



Leo W. Gerard
International President

October 3, 2007

Via Fax (202) 232-8643

President Alvaro Uribe Velez
Republic of Colombia
c/o Embassy of Colombia
Washington, D.C. 20008

Re: Threats & Attacks Against Colombian Unionists & Their Families

Dear President Uribe:

I am writing to express my grave concern for the lives and well-being of the members of the SINALTRAINAL union, and, most specifically, of union leaders Javier Correa, Luis Eduardo Garcia and Jose Domingo Florez – union leaders from the town of Bucaramanga -- in the wake of recent threats against them. First, on September 25, 2007, the AUC Black Eagles delivered a written threat to all the SINALTRAINAL members in Bucaramanga, and especially Javier Correa and Luis Eduardo Garcia, explicitly threatening to bury the union members and their families in a mass grave on Christmas Day if they do not cease their union activities and leave the area. This followed four similar threats made to SINALTRAINAL in 2007. And, as we learned today, on September 27, 2007, the son of Jose Domingo Florez was picked up by presumed paramilitary gunmen, thrown into a van, beaten and told by the gunmen that they won't stop until his father is dismembered.

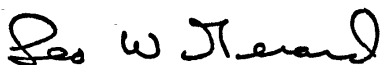
I urge you to take all actions necessary to protect the lives of the SINALTRAINAL members, its leaders and their families, and to bring to justice those who have made these threats against their lives. I further urge the Colombian government to take all steps to stem the tide of paramilitary re-mobilization in Colombia, particularly in the form of the Black Eagles.

The latest figures on trade union killings throughout the world are now out, and again, Colombia leads the world with 72 such killings in 2006. This represents 54% of all trade union killings world-wide. And, so far in 2007, the official Colombian government figure of trade union leaders killed thus far is 23. And, we know from past years that this will most likely be a significant undercounting of the actual number of trade unionists assassinated. Moreover, the current paramilitary re-mobilization, if not halted, will certainly claim many more trade union lives. We are very concerned about

this situation, especially as impunity in Colombia for the slaying of trade unionists remains at over 98%.

We will be following this situation very closely. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo Gerard".

Leo Gerard
International President

cc: Honorable Harry Reid
Honorable Richard Durbin
Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Honorable Steny Hoyer
Honorable James Clyburn
Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Joseph Biden
Honorable Hilary Clinton
Honorable Chris Dodd
Honorable Russell Feingold
Honorable Ted Kennedy
Honorable Patrick Leahy
Honorable Barack Obama
Honorable Charles Rangel
Honorable George Miller
Honorable Sander Levin
Honorable Tom Lantos
Honorable Brad Sherman
Honorable Michael Michaud
Honorable James McGovern