



USW Local 8751 - District 4
Boston School Bus Drivers' Union
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Friday, August 25, 2006

To Dr. Alvaro Uribe Velez,
Presidencia de la República
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We, the undersigned labor representatives in the United States of America and supporters, are deeply concerned about the welfare of the members and the very existence of the Colombian Union SINALTRAINAL.

How much longer will Colombia hold the dishonorable and despicable title of being the deadliest country on earth for union leaders? How much longer will the families of union leaders in Colombia have to survive amid death threats to their loved ones for the sole reason of defending worker's rights?

In the latest in a series of assassinations of members of this union, on August 17, SINALTRAINAL member Carlos Arturo Montes Bonilla was viciously murdered near his home in Barrancabermeja. Montes Bonilla leaves behind a wife and seven children. He had worked in the Infants Club for the workers of the state oil corporation ECOPEPETROL and participated in numerous protests against the COCA COLA Company in its attempt to destroy the union by blocking the right of association.

This murder was carried out two weeks after the Bogota headquarters of SINALTRAINAL were raided without a legal warrant by uniformed men who identified themselves as members of SIJIN, the Judicial Police with the justification of being a "preventive operation" prior the inauguration on August 7th of your presidency. To circumvent the need for a warrant, the raid was classified as an "act of voluntary search".

Respectfully,

Frantz Mendes, President
USW Local 8751
Boston School Bus Drivers

Steve Gillis, Vice-President
USW Local 8751
Boston School Bus Drivers

Chris Silvera, Chair
National Teamsters Black Caucus
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Unity! Unidad!



Inité! Unidade!

Clarence Thomas, Past Secretary-Treasurer,
Local 10, International Longshore Workers Union;
National Co-Chair, Million Worker March Movement

Felipe C. Teixeira
Most Reverend OFSJC Bishop
Northeastern Diocese
St Francis of Assisi, CCA

Dorothea Manuela, Co-Chair
Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee

Kathy Black, President
Coalition of Labor Union Women,
Philadelphia Chapter

Alejandro Murrieta Ahumada
Former President Utility Workers of America Union, L132

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Teamsters Local 802
(union listed for identification purposes only)

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AFSCME DC 47
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Teresa Gutierrez, Co-Director
International Action Center

Patricia Hilliard, co-chair
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