



OAKVILLE & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

475 North Service Road East
Oakville, Ontario L6H 1A5

Bus: 905-540-4011
Fax: 905-385-7438
Email: willielambert@yahoo.ca

October 14, 2004

Gordon M. Nixon
President & Chief Executive Officer
Royal Bank Plaza
200 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2J5

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We are here today to protest the presence of Coca-Cola Director J. Pedro Reinhard on Royal Bank of Canada's Board of Directors.

The affiliates of the Oakville District Labour Council are aware of the terrible injustices suffered by workers at the Coca-Cola bottling plants in Colombia. We condemn the Coca-Cola Company's complicity in those injustices, which include illegal detention, kidnapping, torture, and murder of union leaders and organizers.

In January 2004, New York City Council Member Hiram Monserrate led a delegation on a 10-day fact-finding tour to Colombia to investigate allegations of human rights violations by Coca-Cola. As one member said upon returning, "We heard one story after another of torture and injustice. The sheer number of these testimonials was overwhelming." The delegation issued a scathing report concluding "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."

Coke's other well-documented crimes and abuses include the overexploitation and pollution of water sources in India, Mexico, Ghana and elsewhere, benefiting from child labour in sugar cane fields in El Salvador, aggressive marketing to children of nutritionally worthless and damaging products, history of racial discrimination, opposition to environmentally-sound bottle deposit bills, anti-worker policies in many foreign countries and fraudulent business practices

When more and more people learn that Mr. Reinhard is a top policymaker of the Royal Bank of Canada, as well as of Coca-Cola, the Bank's credibility and reputation will surely suffer. Many people and organizations concerned with human and labour rights and environmental concerns will think twice before doing business with Royal Bank of Canada.

Mr. Nixon, you have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the Bank from becoming embroiled in controversy that will surely affect the Bank's image and bottom line. If the

Coca-Cola Co. won't clean up its act and do the right thing in Colombia, Royal Bank of Canada should remove Mr. Reinhard from its Board.

Please let me know what action you plan to take.

Sincerely,

Wil Lambert
President
Oakville and District Labour Council

Larry Wells
Human Rights Chairperson
Oakville and District Labour Council