

## **New York City Fact-Finding Delegation on Coca-Cola in Colombia**

Hon. Hiram Monserrate Councilman City of N.Y. 250 Broadway New York NY 10007, 212-788-6862 [monserrate@council.nyc.ny.us](mailto:monserrate@council.nyc.ny.us)

January 13, 2004

### Appendix D

#### Participants in Today's Meeting:

Hon. Hiram Monserrate, Councilman, City of New York  
Dorothee Benz, Communications Workers of America Local 1180, New York  
Lenore Palladino, United Students Against Sweatshops  
Segundo Pantoja, Professional Staff Congress-CUNY, New York City  
Jose Schiffino, Civil Service Employee Association, New York City  
Luis Castro, Assistant to Councilman Hiram Monserrate

#### Items of Concern:

Can you demonstrate factually to us that there is no involvement between the paramilitaries and Panamco Colombia/ Coca-Cola bottlers at any plant? For example, what efforts have you made to look into the allegations of illegal payments made to paramilitaries?

We are very concerned about the chilling effects of a company such as Panamco Colombia/ Coca-Cola filing charges against workers who have used the legal system to address their grievances. This use of a criminal charge against workers is inappropriate and appears to be in retaliation against workers for exercising their right to access the courts. An initiative, such as dropping these criminal charges is an important step towards demonstrating good faith on the part of Panamco Colombia/ Coca-Cola.

Would Panamco Colombia/ Coca-Cola be willing to make a public statement on international labor rights in Colombia and denounce anti-union violence?

In light of multiple allegations and the seriousness of events, we believe that there should be an independent human rights commission established to evaluate the events. Would Panamco Colombia/ Coca-Cola be willing to participate in such a commission?

In the interest of fulfilling the mandate of this delegation as an objective and fact-finding mission, we are going to Barrancabermeja tomorrow; would Panamco Colombia/ Coca-Cola facilitate a visit to the plant with access to the workers, with no management present.