

Resolution 07-08-01

Introduced By: Jackie Hayes
April 4, 2008

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE COCA-COLA COMPANY

Whereas: more than 3,000 trade unionists have been assassinated in Colombia since 1990; and

Whereas: the Coca-Cola Company and its Colombian bottlers are being sued in the United States under the Alien Claims Tort Act for having "contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that used extreme violence and murdered, tortured, and unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders.";

Whereas: a fact-finding delegation of labor, educator and student representatives led by New York City Council member Hiram Monserrate and including members of AFT, AFSCME/CSEA and CWA concluded, based on a 10-day trip to Colombia in January of 2004, that Coca-Cola is complicit in human rights abuses in Colombia" and that 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 the paramilitaries.";

Whereas: various courts, government agencies and independent studies have confirmed community concerns in India that the Coca-Cola Company is responsible for polluting the groundwater and soil, distributing toxic waste as fertilizer, causing severe water shortages and selling drinks with high levels of pesticides in India;

Whereas: the Coca-Cola Company uses sugar harvested by children in El Salvador who, in the process of harvesting, suffer from smoke inhalation, burns, and cuts from machetes yet are not provided with health care;

Whereas: union activists in Colombia and throughout the world are calling on their union brothers and sisters to boycott Coca-Cola,

Whereas: the United University Professionals (UUP) passed a resolution on April 20, 2007 urging members to press for the termination of contracts with Coca-Cola on their campuses.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Graduate Student Organization endorse the UUP resolution passed on April 20, 2007 entitled "Proposal Regarding the Coca-Cola Company",

Be it further resolved that the Graduate Student Organization support the efforts of the UUP in pressing for the termination of contracts with Coca-Cola on campus.