

September 11, 2003

By Facsimile Transmission (202) 232-8643

Presidente de la República de Colombia
Dr. Alvaro Uribe Velez
c/o Embassy of Colombia
Washington, D.C.

Re: Abduction of SINALTRAINAL leader's Child

Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente:

I wish to express my grave concern for the lives of SINALTRAINAL national director Limberto Carranza and his son, David Jose Carranza Calle. On September 10, 2003, in the city of Barranquilla, four unknown masked subjects pulled fifteen-year-old David Jose Carranza Calle from his bike and forced him into a white truck. They took him away and tortured him, asking him the whereabouts of Limberto Carranza. At about 4:30 P.M., they dropped him off at a spot known as canyon of the ahuyama where he was picked up by a man passing by and brought to the police. Meanwhile, at the house of Limberto Carranza, they received a phone call saying: "Unionist son of a bitch, we are going to break you, and if you won't break, we will attack your home."

These violent acts follow quickly on the heels of the attempted assassination of Juan Carlos Galvis, vice president of SINALTRAINAL in Barrancabermeja on August 22. In addition, this follows the decision of the Fiscal to permit criminal charges, filed by Panamco Colombia, to go forward against the plaintiffs to the lawsuit against Coca-Cola and related entities in the U.S.

I am gravely concerned about this intensification of violence against SINALTRAINAL members and leaders, and I implore you to investigate these crimes immediately, apprehend and punish those guilty of crimes, and ensure the lives and safety of those associated with SINALTRAINAL. In addition, I urge you to cease and desist the prosecution of the plaintiffs involved in the civil human rights suit against Coca-Cola in the U.S. — a prosecution which only encourages this sort of violence. Your urgent attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State (By Fax 202 647-1722)
Hon. William Wood, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia (By Fax 57 1 315 2163)
Hiram Monseratte, New York City Council Member (By Fax 212 442-2725)
Javier Correa, President, SINALTRAINAL (By Fax 57 1 245-5325)