



Leo W. Gerard
International President

January 15, 2008

By Facsimile Transmission: (202) 225-8259

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Colombia & Continued Violence Against Unionists

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I am writing to express my grave concern about the increasing violence against unionists in Colombia and the increase in extra-judicial killings generally by the Colombian Armed Forces. This concern has been raised by the extra-judicial killing of long-time Sinaltrainal union member and activist Sigifredo Higuera Ramirez by the official Colombian Armed Forces on December 29, 2007.

Significantly, the murder of Mr. Ramirez marked the second murder of a Sinaltrainal member in 2007 (the worst year for Sinaltrainal in terms of violence in recent memory) and one of the numerous extra-judicial killings by the Colombian Armed Forces in recent months. As the following study indicates, the Colombian Armed Forces are accounting for an increasing percentage of extra-judicial killings in Colombia: www.lawg.org/docs/eejointmemo.pdf.

This violence comes as the Bush Administration is primed to make another big push for passage of the Colombian FTA. We urge you to continue resisting the pressure to bring this agreement to a vote, especially as we are all rightfully focusing all of our efforts and resources on attempting to bring a Democrat to the White House in November.

Sincerely yours,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

LWG/yj

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

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c: The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr. (via fax (202/228-0604))
 The Honorable Charles B. Rangel (via fax 202/225-0816)
 The Honorable Sander Levin (via fax 202/226-1033)
 The Honorable Betty S. Sutton (via fax 202/225-2266)
 The Honorable James P. McGovern (via fax 202/225-5759)
 The Honorable David E. Price (via fax 202/225-2014)
 The Honorable Christopher Carney (via fax 202/225-9594)
 The Honorable Sam Farr (via fax 202/225-6791)
 The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks (via fax 202/226-4169)
 The Honorable William Delahunt (via fax (202/225-5658))
 The Honorable George Miller (via fax 202/225-5609)
 The Honorable Gene Taylor (via fax 202/225-7074)
 The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez (via fax 202/226-1012)