



To:

JUAN MANUEL SANTOS
Presidente República de Colombia

JUAN FERNANDO CRISTO
Ministro del Interior

NÉSTOR HUMBERTO MARTÍNEZ
Fiscal General de la Nación

DIEGO FERNANDO MORA
Director Unidad Nacional de Protección

cc:

GUILLERMO RIVERA ZAPATA
Presidente Sintrainagro

SINTRAINAGRO SECCIONAL CIENAGA

CUT - COLOMBIA

30 March 2017

Dear Sirs,

PROTECTION FOR THE TRADE UNION LEADERS OF SINTRAINAGRO

We are writing in response to the grenade attack on 8 March this year at the SINTRAINAGRO headquarters in the department of Magdalena, Ciénaga municipality, Colombia. We wish to express, in the strongest terms, our support for the demand by SINTRAINAGRO that the Colombian government guarantee protection for the leaders of SINTRAINAGRO so that they can carry out union activities at a national level and activities in all state institutions that require security services for trade union leaders in Colombia.

As members of the Make Fruit Fair campaign and the European Banana and Agro Industrial Product Action Network, we work in close partnership with SINTRAINAGRO to improve the living and working conditions for the people who grow, pick and pack the tropical fruit sold in European retail outlets, and to achieve socially just, economically viable and environmentally sound tropical fruit industries..

SINTRAINAGRO is supporting the peace process in Colombia. Armed groups which do not participate in this process see SINTRAINAGRO as a military objective and attack leaders and members of the organisation. It is a major concern that the vast majority of security people who were assigned by the government to protect SINTRAINAGRO leaders have been withdrawn because they were apparently no longer under threat by these groups. SINTRAINAGRO has on several occasions reported threats against SINTRAINAGRO but have not received a response from the national government.

The grenade attack on 8 March, and the attack which took place in 2015 against SINTRAINAGRO President, Guillermo Rivera Zapata, and treasurer of the Executive Committee, Medardo Cuesta, in the municipality of Florida, department of Valle del Cauca, demonstrate the need for the Colombian government to provide necessary security for the union's leaders.

We are calling on you to fulfil your duty so that the people of Colombia, and their friends around the world, do not have to mourn the death of more trade union leaders in Colombia.

Yours faithfully,

Jacqui Mackay
National Co-ordinator
Banana Link
United Kingdom

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
International Labor Rights
Forum
USA

Zulma Britez
Coordinadora Secretaría
Regional
WFTO Latin America

Thomas Grabner
Managing Director
Südwind
Austria

Dina Taddia
President
GVC – Civil Volunteer Group
Onlus
Italy

Zeljka Leljak Gracin
President
Zelena akcija / Friends of the
Earth Croatia

Bert Schouwenburg
International Officer
GMB Union
United Kingdom

Alice Bordaçarre
Decent work officer
ActionAid France-Peuples
solidaires

Jesper Nielsen
International Adviser
3F International
United Federation of Danish
Workers

Lorena Vergara Gallardo
Presidenta WFTO
América Latina Director de
Pueblos del Sur- CHILE

Maria Huma
President
Buy Responsibly Foundation
Poland

Jivka Marinova
Executive Director
Gender Education
Research and Technologies
(GERT)
Bulgaria

Janis Brizga
Chair of Green Liberty
Latvia

Živa Kavka Gobbo
President
Focus, association for
sustainable development
Slovenia

Helge Fischer
Solidarity Project Coordinator
BanaFair
Germany

Juraj Hips
Executive Director
Centre for Environmental and
Ethical Education Zivica
Slovakia

Luis Heller
ALLPA Peru
WFTO Latin-America Board
Member

Bernardo Luck
gerente
Beas y Tapia Ltda.
Fair Trade Handcrafts
Chile

Álvaro Cercós
Partner and commercial
manager at Emprediem SPA
Chile

Karolína Silná
Director
Ekumenická Akademie
Czech Republic

Linas Kranauskas
Coordinator of Association
Green.LT
(Susivienijimas Žali.LT)