

March 26, 2008

E-mail: ddhhuneb@yahoo.es

Ramiro Arroyave Lema Segundo Ernesto Mora Mateus
UNEB Presidente and Secretario General
Bogotá, D. C. Marzo 9 de 2008
Nit. 860.034.372-1 Junta Directiva Nacional
Personería Jurídica No. 1503 de Octubre de 1958
Calle 38 No. 16-34
Bogotá, D. C. Colombia

José Luis Junco Marinez Eliecer Orozco Carrillo
UNEB Tesorero Fiscal
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Dear Brothers:

We have learned of the brutal murder earlier this month of Leonidas Gomez Rozo, leader of the National Union of Bank Employees (UNEB). We speak for our 570,000 members when we extend our support for your struggle and our sincere condolences to your union and the family of Brother Gomez Rozo.

We also join with a chorus of others in denouncing the Colombian government's failure to protect the UNEB leader and other trade unionists forced to live in fear of paramilitary groups who threaten their lives.

Colombia has earned a reputation as the world's most murderous country. With this latest murder, its government must wear a badge of shame. We have written to the Canadian prime minister to urge him not to share that shame by proceeding to negotiate a free trade agreement with Colombia.

We know that the Colombian trade union movement, especially the CUT and its affiliated unions, continues to be the victim of a leadership extermination campaign that the Colombian government appears to condone. We understand that the Black Eagles paramilitary group has declared the UNEB a 'Military Objective'.

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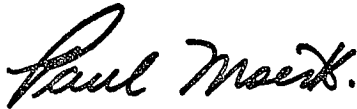
We have told Canada's prime minister to take the lead in demanding that these crimes be exposed to the world by urging that a thorough international investigation into this and other murders take place.

We are sickened by the continuing human rights tragedy that the Colombian government has allowed to continue and we have urged our government to push hard to bring to justice the paramilitaries that maraud and murder with impunity.

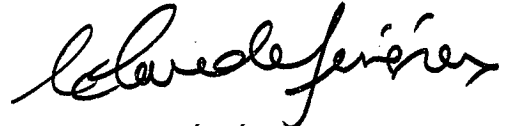
We want an end to the intolerably dangerous situation facing trade unionists like yourselves and other civil society activists in Colombia. We know that our members and all Canadians oppose free trade negotiations with a country that refuses to stop this madness.

Again, CUPE expresses its condolences to you and the family of Leonidas Gomez Rozo.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer

cc. CUPE National Executive Board
CLC President Ken Georgetti