

**Colombia is the most dangerous country in the world to be a trade unionist – almost 3000 have been killed in recent years**

**WILL YOU HELP US STOP THE KILLINGS?**



**[www.justiceforcolombia.org](http://www.justiceforcolombia.org)**



## About Colombia:

A war has been raging in Colombia for over 50 years between the government and leftwing rebel groups. Every year thousands of civilians are killed – the vast majority of them by the Colombian military and the right-wing paramilitary death squads that work alongside them. The dreadful situation has also resulted in over 4 million people fleeing their homes.

Although many people think that the Colombian war is all about drugs, in fact there were no drugs in Colombia when the war began in the 1950s. The roots of the conflict are extreme social and economic inequalities – over 65% of the population live in poverty.

People who speak out against the Colombian regime and the war become targets for the Colombian army, with the government often using the paramilitaries to carry out the most horrific and barbaric acts, including massacres, rapes, torture, disappearances and targeted assassinations.

### AMONG THE MOST PERSECUTED ARE TRADE UNIONISTS

- Almost 3000 trade unionists have been killed in Colombia in the last 15 years, whilst trying to defend the right to collective bargaining and freedom of speech.
- Many others have been ‘disappeared’, tortured, imprisoned, threatened and forced from their homes and jobs.
- Virtually no one has been arrested and sentenced for crimes committed against trade union members.

“ My family has been exterminated simply for being trade unionists and for defending human rights. I have had four brothers brutally assassinated; the latest on 31 December 2010. My sister and I were imprisoned for over 2 years. The persecution has destroyed our family and our union work. No one has been arrested for any of these crimes and we continue to receive death threats. Despite this we will continue the struggle for workers' rights.

**Carmen Mayusa**, health worker trade unionist and former political prisoner.



# Trade Unionists Murdered 2007-2010

Daniel Ruiz Bedoya  
Jaime Vanegas Castellanos  
Maria Teresa Jesus Chicaiza Burbano  
Francisco Leonel Bedoya Burgos  
Arnoldo Enrique Campo Medina  
Luis Fabian Moreno Marin  
William Cabuyales Diaz  
Alicia Munoz Tapia  
Maria Teresa Silva Reyes  
Juan Carlos Abucho  
Jose Jaime Rojas  
Dubian Barajas Carrillo  
Miguel Angel Macias Guaca  
Victor Julio Benavides  
Luis Miguel Gomez Porto  
Rafael Ramon Madrid Vega  
Ana Silvia Melo Rodriguez  
Bernarda Zuniga Imbachi  
Genaro Potes  
Luis Alfonso Calderon Villamizar  
Marleny Berrio de Rodriguez  
Julio Cesar Gomez Cano  
Arnovis Ocoro Balanta

Hector Robledo Gonzalez  
Jesus Maria Villafane Millian  
Andres Escobar Escobar  
Augusto Ramirez Atehortua  
Simon Corena  
Feliciano Obando  
Gentil Yasuaran Pai  
Jairo Alberto Valencia Correa  
Rosolino Palacio Mosquera  
Luis Fernando Gomez Valencia  
Alexis Arango  
Leonidas Silva Castro  
Jairo Giraldo Rey  
Consuelo Mercedes Restrepo Campo  
Jose Jesus Marin Vargas  
Luis Alberto Torres Ochoa  
Mario Zuluaga  
Miguel Andres Lopez  
Israel Alfonso Perez Montes  
Ramiro de Jesus Perez Zapata  
Israel Gonzalez  
Jose Suarez Leal  
Jose Martin Duarte

Maria del Carmen Mesa Pasochoa  
Arley Benavidez Samboni  
Maria Teresa Trujillo  
Jose Giraldo Mamian  
Carmen Cecilia Carvajal Ramirez  
Gildardo Antonio Gomez  
Leonidas Gomez Rozo  
Miller Vaquero  
Carlos Burbano  
Victor Manuel Munoz  
Ignacio Andrade  
Manuel Antonio Jimenez  
Jose Fernando Quiroz  
Jose Gregorio Astros  
Julio Cesar Trochez  
Adolfo Gonzalez Montes  
Luz Mariela Diaz Lopez  
Emerson Ivan Herrera  
Rafael Antonio Leal Medina  
Omar Ariza  
Luis Enrique Gutierrez  
Jesus Heberto Caballero Ariza  
Guillermo Rivera

Tomas Alberto Chiquillo Pascuales  
Luis Orlando Gelvez  
Marcelo Vergara Sanchez  
Omar Alexander Camacho Vasquez  
Favier Dario Pelaez Castano  
Walter Anibal Recalde Ordonez  
Jose Humberto Munoz Guarin  
Haly Martin Mendoza  
Jesus Palomeque Valencia  
Luis Mayusa Prada  
Manuel Erminson Gamboa  
Melendez  
Jose Omar Galeano Martinez  
Pablo Florez Barrera  
Jesus Escorcia Cortez  
Eliseo Vera Gonzalez  
Alvaro Antonio Guecha Morales  
Estiven Bastidas Jefferson  
Roberto Morales  
William Rubio Ortiz  
Adolfo Tique  
Diego Ricardo Rasado Guerra  
Arled Samboni Guaca

# COLOMBIA ACCORDING TO...

**Brendan Barber TUC**  
General Secretary &  
President of Justice for  
Colombia:

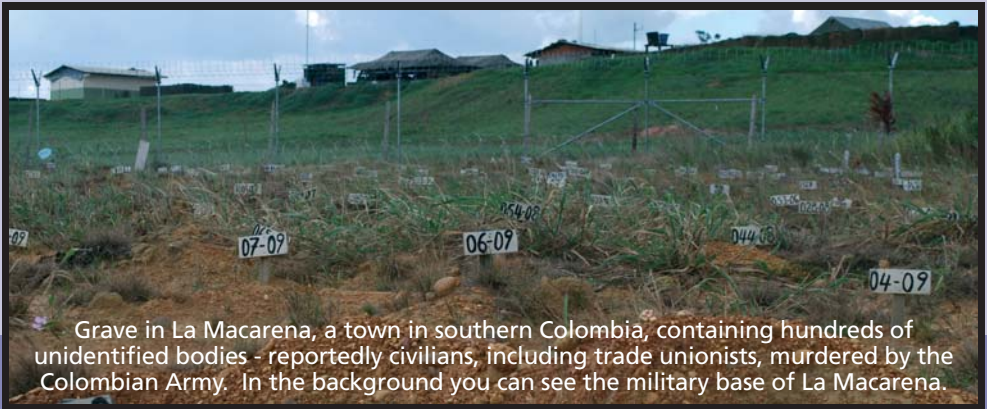
“I've been to Colombia and seen the severe problems faced by our colleagues - including assassinations, disappearances, unjust imprisonments and torture. I urge you and your union to join JFC and help us change this horrendous situation.”

**Tony Lloyd MP**  
Chair of the Parliamentary  
Trade Union Group &  
former Foreign Office  
Minister:

“The Colombian armed forces cannot be trusted. They have worked hand in glove with the paramilitaries for years. We need to send a clear message that we need to keep the Colombian regime at arms length.”

**UN High Commission for Human rights:**

“Trade Unionists were the victims of arbitrary detentions, arbitrary or illegal searches, violations of due process, and attacks on freedom of assembly and peaceful protest, attributed to functionaries of the Attorney General's office and the security forces.”



Grave in La Macarena, a town in southern Colombia, containing hundreds of unidentified bodies - reportedly civilians, including trade unionists, murdered by the Colombian Army. In the background you can see the military base of La Macarena.

## CASE STUDY: HUMBERTO DE JESUS ESPINOZA DIAZ

Humberto was a teacher trade union activist in the Risaralda Teachers' Union (SER). He left home on January 30th 2011 along with his brother, to visit his 11 year-old son in a nearby town. On the way, they were forced to stop by armed men who then shot Humberto several times, killing him. Humberto had received death threats during 2006, but the authorities claimed he wasn't under severe threat, and refused to give him any protection.

# 10 ... HELP US STOP THE KILLINGS

Leovigildo Mejia  
Luis Franklin Velez Figueroa  
Luis Alberto Arango Crespo  
Guillermo Antonio Ramirez Ramirez  
Ramiro Cuadros Roballo  
Alexander Pinto Gomez  
Jose Alejandro Amado Castillo  
Armando Carreno  
Hernan Polo Barrera  
Frank Mauricio Aguirre  
Jorge Alberto Garcia  
Edgar Martinez  
Victor Franco Franco  
Milton Blanco Leguizamón  
Maria Rosabel Zapata  
Vilma Carcamo Blanco  
Julio Ramos Rigoberto  
Herberth Sony Cardenas  
Pablo Rodriguez Garavito  
Jorge Humberto Echeverri Garro  
Rafael Antonio Sepulveda Lara  
Herber Gonzalez Herrera  
Jacinto Herrera

Miguel Angel Guzman  
Diego Cobo  
Gustavo Gomez  
Freddy Diaz Ortiz  
Abel Carrasquilla  
Oscar Eduardo Suarez Suescun  
Zuly Rojas  
Melendez Honorio Llorante  
Rafael Antonio Cantero Ceballas  
Ivan Edgardo Tovar Murrillo  
Ramiro Israel Montes Palencia  
Paulo Suarez  
Raul Medina Diaz  
Apolinar Herrera  
Zorayda Cortes Lopez  
Fabio Sanchez  
Freddy Fabian Martinez Castellanos  
Leny Yanube Renegifo Gomez  
Manuel Alfonso Cuello Valenzuela  
Alberto James Pabon  
Norberto Garcia Quiceno  
Carlos Andres Cheiva  
Jaime Fernando Bazante Guzman  
Henry Saul Moya

Overtor Beltran Narvaez  
Rigoberto Polo Contreras  
Omar Alonso Restrepo  
Jose de Jesus Restrepo  
Beatriz Alarcon  
Francisco Ernesto Goyes Salazar  
Duvan Rojo Cadavid  
Israel Veronema  
Gustavo Gil Sierra  
Rosendo Rojas Tovar  
Miyer Antonio Cardes Rosero  
Javier Cardenas Gil  
Henry Ramirez Daza  
Arnulfo Torres Sanchez  
Francisco Valerio Orozco  
Jose Isidro Rangel Avendano  
Jorge Ivan Montoya Torrado  
Elkin Eduardo Gonzalez  
Alicidades Gonzalez Castro  
Javier Estrada Ovalle  
Benito Diaz Alvarez  
Humberto Peña Gonzalez  
Fabian Franco Tigreros  
Francisco Antonio Abello Rebollo

Leslien Torcoroma Penaranda Blanco  
Martin Isaac Soto Niebles  
Hernan Abdial Ordoñez Dorado  
Nelson Camacho Gonzalez  
Efrén Caicedo Ibio  
Enrique Horacio Medina Alfaro  
Fernando Lobo Aragón  
Luis German Restrepo  
Humberto de Jesus Tobon Rivera  
Pedro Elias Ballesteros Rojas  
Robinson Higuaita Rivera  
Segundo Salvador Forero Moreno  
Nelson Murrillo Taborda  
Luis Fernando Hoyos Arteaga  
William Tafur  
Omaira Tamayo Montaño  
Carlos Hernando Castillo Calvache  
Thomas Aquino Buelvas  
Diego Leonardo Vanegas  
Hernando Bula Nevis  
José Luis Montemiranda  
Ariel De Jesus Benitez Hernandez  
Wilson Albeiro Erazo Ascuntar

# JUSTICE FOR COLOMBIA

**Justice for Colombia (JFC) works to support Colombian trade unions and civil society organisations in their campaign for basic human rights and their struggle for peace and social justice.**

We fund a variety of projects in Colombia and work in the UK, Ireland and Europe to raise awareness about the situation in Colombia. We campaign for the freedom of Colombia's political prisoners and against UK military assistance to Colombia. We also lobby the UK and Irish Governments, and the European Union, to put more emphasis on human and trade union rights and to suspend the proposed EU-Colombia Free Trade Agreement in light of the ongoing abuses perpetrated by the Colombian regime.

JFC believes that Colombia needs democracy, social justice and the rule of law, and we support efforts to secure a negotiated political settlement to the Colombian conflict. But we believe this will only happen when those working for peace, human rights and workers' rights no longer face imprisonment, torture and assassination. The Colombian regime must understand that civil society is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

To support our work please join JFC using the form below.

For more information visit our website at [www.justiceforcolombia.org](http://www.justiceforcolombia.org) call us on +44 20 7324 2490 or e-mail us at [info@justiceforcolombia.org](mailto:info@justiceforcolombia.org)

*“ JFC has led the international solidarity campaign to defend workers' rights in Colombia. Their work has allowed our voices to be heard and their solidarity has allowed the Colombian union movement to stand up against the policy of extermination of which we have been victims. JFC has been crucial to the survival of many leaders and has helped to expose state crimes. Thank you JFC for all your support. ”*

**Tarsicio Mora**  
Leader of the CUT,  
(Colombian TUC)



## Make a Difference: Join Justice for Colombia



Fill in the below form and post, along with your membership fee, to:  
Justice for Colombia, 4th Floor, 75-77 St John St, London EC1M 4NN.

You can also download this form or join online via our website  
[www.justiceforcolombia.org](http://www.justiceforcolombia.org)

To set up a standing order please contact our office.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Branch	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>

### ANNUAL AFFILIATION RATES:

- £18** Individual membership (waged)
- £6** Individual (unwaged/low income)
- £90** Trade Union Branch (over 500 members)
- £60** Trade Union Branch (under 500 members)

**Please also consider making a donation to support our work**

Donation £

**Please make cheques payable to 'Justice for Colombia'.**