

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



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
Alicira 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
Rosalino 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 Mamin
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 Escorcija 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:

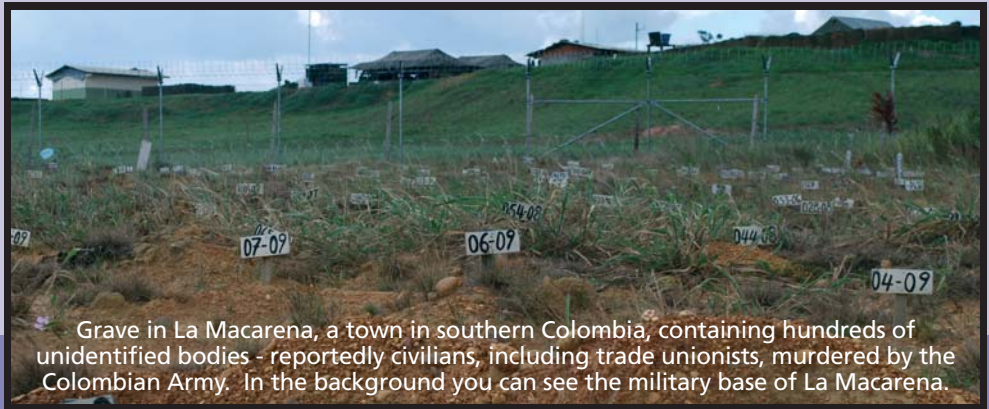
“I've been to Colombia and seen the severe problems faced by our colleagues - including assassinations, disappearances, unjust imprisonments and torture. I urge you and your union to join JFC and help us change this horrendous situation.”

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

Overto Beltran Narvaez
Rigoberto Polo Contreras
Omar Alonso Restrepo
Jose de Jesus Restrepo
Beatriz Alarcon
Francisco Ernesto Goyes Salazar
Duvian 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 call us on +44 20 7324 2490 or e-mail us at 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

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'.