

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 Jan 2007 –

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
Alcira 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 Mielo Rodriguez
Bernarda Zuniga Imbachi
Genaro Potes
Luis Alfonso Calderon Villamizar
Marley Berrio de Rodriguez
Julio Cesar Gomez Cano
Arnovis Ocoro Balanta
Hector Robledo Gonzalez
Jesus Maria Villafane Millan
Andres Escobar Escobar
Augusto Ramirez Atehortua
Simon Corena

Feliciano Obando
Gentil Yascuaran Pai
Jairo Alberto Valencia Correa
Rosalino Palacio Mosquera
Luis Fernando Gomez Valencia
Alexis Arango
Leonidas Silva Castro
Jairo Giraldo Rey
Consuelo Mercedes Restrepo Ochoa
Jose Jesus Marin Vargas
Luis Alberto Torres Ocampo
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 Benavides Samboni
Maria Teresa Trujillo
Jose Giraldo Mamián
Carmen Cecilia Carvajal Ramirez
Gildardo Antonio Gomez
Leonidas Gomez Roza
Miller Vasquez
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 Gelves
Marcelo Vergara Sanchez
Omar Alexander Camacho Vasquez
Favier Dario Pileaz Castano
Walter Anibal Recalde Ordóñez
Jose Humberto Munoz Guarín
Hally Martin Mendoza
Jesus Palomeque Valencia
Luis Mayusa Prada
Manuel Erminson Gamboa Melendez
Jose Omar Galeano Martinez
Pablo Florez Barrera
Jesus Escorcia Cortes
Eliseo Vera Gonzalez

Alvaro Antonio Guecha Morales
Estiven Bastidas Jefferson
Roberto Morales
William Rubio Ortiz
Adolfo Tietje
Diego Ricardo Rasedo Guerra
Arled Samboni Guaca
Leovigildo Mejia
Luis Franklin Velez Figueroa
Luis Alberto Arango Crespo
Guillermo Antonio Ramirez Ramirez
Ramiro Cuadros Roballo
Alexander Pinto Gomez
Jose Alejandro Amado Castillo
Amando Carrero
Hernan Polo Barrera
Frank Mauricio Aguirre Aguirre
Jorge Alberto Garcia
Edgar Martinez
Victor Franco Franco
Milton Blanco Leuzamazon
Maria Rosabel Zapata
Vilma Carcamo Blanco
Julio Ramos Rigoberto
Herbather Sony Cardenas
Pablo Rodriguez Garavito
Jorge Humberto Echeverri Garro
Rafael Antonio Sepulveda Lara

COLOMBIA ACCORDING TO...

Frances O'Grady

TUC General Secretary and President of Justice for Colombia:

“ I've been to Colombia and seen the danger our fellow trade unionists face – assassinations, disappearances, unjust imprisonments and torture. I urge you to join Jfc and help us change this horrendous situation. ”

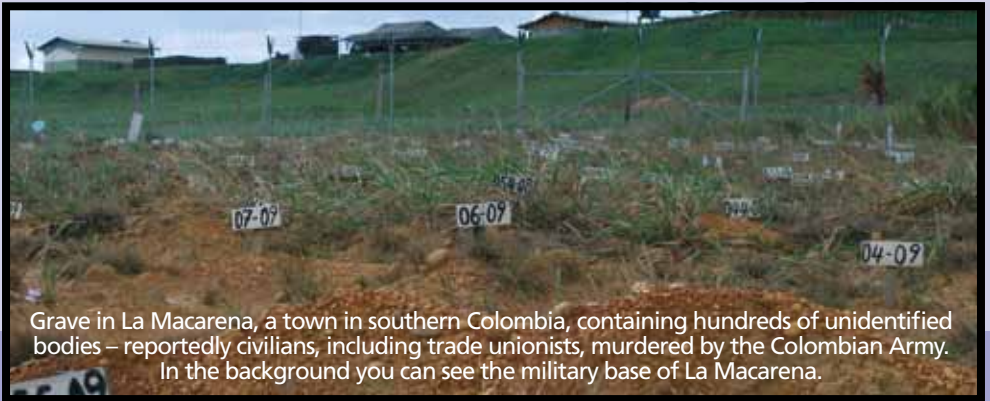
Jim Sheridan MP

Chair, Parliamentary Friends of Colombia:

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: OSMAN FLÓREZ VERGARA

Osman, a 33 year old PE teacher and member of the ADEMACOR regional teachers' union, was assassinated on Wednesday 19th September 2012 at 7.45pm, in the town of Sahagún, Córdoba. He was in an internet cafe with his young son when two men approached on a motorbike and shot him five times, killing him at the scene. Osman had only recently moved schools as a result of threats he had received during the last two years.

June 2012 ... help us stop the killings

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 Llorente
Rafael Antonio Cantero Ceballas
Ivan Edgardo Tovar Murrillo
Ramiro Israel Montes Palencia
Paulo Suarez
Raul Medina Diaz
Apollinar Herrera
Zorayda Cortes Lopez
Fabio Sanchez
Freddy Fabian Martinez Castellanos
Lenny Yanube Rengifo Gomez
Manuel Alfonso Cuervo Valenzuela
Alberto Jaimes Pabon
Norberto Garcia Quiceno
Carlos Andres Cheiva
Jaime Fernando Bazante Guzman
Henry Saul Moya Moya
Oveto Beltran Narvaez
Rigoberto Polo Contreras

Omar Alonso Restrepo
Jose de Jesus Restrepo
Beatriz Alarcon
Francisco Ernesto Goyes Salazar
Duvian Rojo Cadavid
Israel Verona
Gustavo Gil Sierra
Rosendo Rojas Tovar
Miyer Antonio Garces Rosero
Javier Cardenas Gil
Henry Ramirez Daza
Arnulfo Torres Sanchez
Francisco Valerio Orozco
Jose Isidro Rangel Avendano
Jorge Ivan Montoya Torrado
Elkin Eduardo Gonzalez
Aliclades Gonzalez Castro
Javier Estrada Ovalle
Benito Diaz Alvarez
Humberto Peña Gonzalez
Fabian Garcia Tigreiros
Francisco Antonio Abello Rebollo
Leslien Torcoroma Penaranda Blanco
Martin Isaac Soto Nibbles
Hernan Abdiel Ordoñez Dorado
Nelson Camacho Gonzalez
Efran Caicedo Ibio
Enrique Horacio Medina Alfaro
Fernando Lobos 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 Alberto Erazo Assuntar
Alberto Hernandez
Manuel Esteban Tejada
Mauricio Arredondo
Silverio Antonio Sanchez
Jairo Enrique Veizoa Martinez
Humberto de Jesús Espinoza Diaz
Carlos Alberto Ayala Moreno
Hernán Yesid Pinto
Héctor Orozco
Ramiro Antonio Sánchez Muñoz
Luis Alberto Bohórquez Chávez
Dionis Alfredo Sierra Vergara

Juan Carlos Chagüi Cueter
Héctor Armando Giraldo
Carlos Arturo Castro Casas
Freddy Antonio Cuadrado Neñez
Carlos Julio Gómez
Jorge Eliécer de los Ríos Cárdenas
Alejandro José Peña López
Wilmar Serna
Eduardo Zuniga
María Eugenia Arango Zapata
Rafael Andrés González Garnica
Luis Alfonso Diaz Villa
Nallyd Tapias Jiménez
Luis Alberto Durante Alvarez
José Alberto Martínez Berrio
Luis Arbey Quiros Vivas
Tarcisio Betancourt Ballesteros
John Freddy Carmona Bermúdez
Dora Liliana Ochoa Serna
Victor Manuel Hilarón Palacios
Alexander Gonzalez Blandón
Ricardo Ramón Paublott Gómez
Efraín Amezuitta
Miguel Angel Mallama
Daniel Aguirre
Gerardo Martínez
Gustavo Londono
Benjamin Martínez Artega

