



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

September 17, 2009

**By Facsimile Transmission (202) 647-2283**

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

**Re: Continued Repression of Drummond Union & Workers in Colombia**

We are writing to express our grave concern about the continued repression of the union and workers at the U.S.-based Drummond mining facility in La Loma, Colombia.

It has come to our attention that Drummond has already fired the entire executive board of the local Drummond union of Sintramienergetica, and has petitioned the Colombian Labor Ministry for permission to fire all of its 4,000 or so unionized workers in retaliation for a recent work stoppage carried out by the union. This work stoppage, which the employees had the right to carry out under Colombian law and ILO Conventions 87 & 98, was carried out to protest the work-place death of miner Dagoberto Clavijo, one of numerous work place deaths in Drummond's dangerous Colombian coal mines.

Further, a Colombian judge has just ordered that top Drummond executives, including the Alabama-based President, Garry Drummond, as well as President of Colombian operations, Augusto Jimenez who also works out of Alabama, be criminally investigated for conspiring with paramilitaries to carry out the murders of union leaders Valmore Locarno, Victor Orcasita and Gustavo Soler in 2001. This order is consistent with the USW's ongoing efforts to hold Drummond responsible for these killings.

We call upon the U.S. State Department to pressure the Colombian government to refrain from permitting the firing of Drummond's workers in retaliation for the aforementioned strike, to order Drummond to improve safety conditions in its mines, and to continue the investigation and prosecution of all those responsible for the killings of Valmore Locarno, Victor Orcasita and Gustavo Soler.

We will continue to follow this matter closely with great interest. Thank you for your attention in this regard.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

c: President Alvaro Uribe Velez, By Fax (202) 232-8643  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Charles Rangel  
The Honorable Sander Levin  
The Honorable Michael Michaud  
The Honorable James McGovern  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer