



Leo W. Gerard
International President

June 2, 2010

By Fax (202) 232-8643

President Alvaro Uribe Velez
Republic of Colombia
c/o Embassy of Colombia
Washington, D.C. 20008

Re: Urgent Request To Protect Lives of Drummond Workers

Dear Mr. President Uribe:

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO ("USW"), I am writing to express my concern for the life and well-being of the unionized Drummond workers who may go out on strike at facilities in the Cesar Department. This strike could begin as early as today, and is over both wages as well as safety issues at Drummond's mines. Three workers have lost their lives in work-related accidents in just over the past year, a trend that is quite disturbing.

In light of the fact that negotiations and strikes subject workers, and especially union leaders, to possible attacks by right-wing paramilitaries in the area, we ask that the government take all necessary precautions to protect the lives of the striking workers and their leaders. This is of particular necessity in light of the wanton murders of the three top union leaders at Drummond in 2001 – events which continue to haunt the Drummond union, Sintramienergetica.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

c: Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State (By Fax 202 647-2283)