

Note of repudiation

Paramilitary groups threaten union organizers in Columbia

Gentlemen,

We have become aware of the recent threats made, last March 13, against Nestlé workers in Columbia.

Together with the “social cleansing” announced in the municipal area of Bugalagrande, in the Valle Del Cauca, where the factory is located, vandals scrawled graffiti on the bathroom of Nestlé, contributing to psychological terror.

Under the supposed authorship of a group which calls themselves the “black Eagles”, the text gives the title of guerrillas to the National and Regional Management of Sinaltrainal, as well as to members of the entity, among them, Jairo Mendez Suarez, Pedro Nel Taguado Ospina and José Jesus Garcia Martinez.

The use of the expression “guerrillas” has been used by paramilitary groups in Columbia against the victims of their murders, tortures and persecutions.

Strangely, these threats arose at the moment in which, fulfilling their duty, the Union presented a list of demands to the management of the multinational Nestlé.

We have become extremely concerned with the seriousness of the situation, principally because this is an episode involving the name of a multinational that has been denounced for crimes against human rights.

In this sense, we will contribute our voice to the international denunciation of this deplorable incident involving the name of Nestlé and the Columbian State.

We express our solidarity to Sinaltrainal and to the members of its management, as well as to the threatened workers, and we repudiate these events which act against human rights and against the people of Columbia.

Finally, we hail Sinaltrainal for its work in defense of workers’ rights, of life and of the environment, which has been internationally recognized.

At this time in which the safety and the life of workers and union directors are under threat, we demand that all necessary measures be taken for their protection and safety.

Osasco, March 23, 2009

Unionized Chemical Workers of Campinas, Osasco and Vinhedo/SP – Brasil

(Químicos Unificados de Campinas Osasco e Vinhedo)

Send the message to:

- * Office of the Attorney General Mario Iguarán - contacto@fiscalia.gov.co
- * Felipe Silva - president of Nestlé in Columbia - felipe.silva@co.nestle.com
- * Enrique Rueda - Human Resources Manager Nestlé de Colômbia S.A. - enrique.rueda@co.nestle.com
- * C/C to Management of Sinaltrainal - areainternacional@sinaltrainal.org