



# Unite and Justice for Colombia: Fighting to save the lives of Colombian trade unionists



*Affiliate today!*

## About Colombia

Colombia is the most dangerous country in the world to be a trade unionist. 3,000 activists have been killed in the past 30 years. Unite's sister union FENSUAGRO has had 1,000 members killed and hundreds imprisoned. Workers in both the public and private sectors are hit hard by brutal anti-union policies which make it almost impossible to join a union. Those that do, face death threats, attacks on their families, imprisonment and assassination.



## Unite in Colombia

Unite has made a huge difference to the lives of ordinary working people in Colombia. Under the banner of Workers Uniting it signed a Partnership Agreement with FENSUAGRO which provides significant political support through constant pressure put on the British and Colombian authorities to guarantee the protection of FENSUAGRO activists. Unite also supports a project to help the union's human rights department, documenting abuses and providing lawyers for members jailed on trumped up charges and cases of murdered members.

Unite members have also shown their solidarity by sending toiletries to the many trade union political prisoners kept in horrific conditions, and we have campaigned for activists in many different sectors – oil, education, health, local government, and mining – to be able to carry out their union work free from persecution. Unite has worked very closely with Justice for Colombia (JFC) on a variety of campaigns and many UNITE activists have visited Colombia and witnessed the horrors firsthand.



*At Unite we are proud of the historic role we have played supporting our Colombian brothers and sisters through Justice for Colombia (JFC). Our campaigns have freed imprisoned trade unionists, stopped many being killed and helped our sister trade union FENSUAGRO keep up their front-line struggle. JFC is our campaign, we must support it fully.*

Tony Woodhouse (Chair, Unite EC)

## About Justice for Colombia (JFC)

JFC was set up by the British trade union movement to show solidarity with Colombian trade unionists.

JFC **campaigns** in the British Parliament, the Irish Parliament, the Stormont Assembly and the European Parliament to bring an end to the **anti-union violence** and facilitates **various projects** sponsored by British and Irish trade unions.



**Human Rights and Trade Union Rights** – to end the abuses committed against trade unionists, social activists, members of the political opposition and human rights defenders.



**Political Prisoners** – seeking the release of political prisoners – more than 20 leading activists have been freed as a result. We also provide humanitarian assistance to prisoners.



**Peace** – Campaigning to ensure full implementation of the Colombian peace agreement.

*Unite's solidarity has helped us save the lives of many of our members. In Colombia we receive death threats just for being in a trade union. Unite's support for my release and all political prisoners has been critical.*

Huber Ballesteros

(Colombian TUC and FENSUAGRO Vice President, political prisoner for over three years)



## Facts and Figures



3,000 trade unionists killed since 1986. 88% of cases not brought to justice. **STILL** at least 17 killed every year.



7 million people violently forced to flee their homes. **STILL** at least 50,000 displaced annually.



Paramilitaries with associations to the Colombian state are responsible for majority of attacks against political activists. **STILL** paramilitary presence in 31 of 32 states.

# Make a Difference: Join Today!



*We hugely value the constant solidarity that Justice for Colombia and the British unions have shown with the struggles of Colombian workers for labour rights, peace and trade union freedoms.*

**Hector Vaca, General Secretary of USO,  
Colombian Oil Workers' Union**

**Please fill out the form below and post along with your selected payment option to:**

Justice for Colombia, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 75-77 St. John Street, London, EC1M 4NN

I would like to join Justice for Colombia and enclose the annual fee of:

£90 Branch (over 500 members)

£18 Individual (waged)

£60 Branch (under 500 members)

£6 Individual (unwaged)

## Payment Options:

- HELP US SAVE on costs! Sign up to Direct Debit.

Tick here to confirm and you will be contacted soon:

• or... Make cheques payable to 'Justice for Colombia':

• or... Pay by BACS. Tick here to confirm and you will be contacted soon:

## Your Information:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Union:

Region:

Branch:

Position:

I would also like to make a donation of: