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Organizations listed for
identification purposes only

June 30, 2016

The Honorable Enrique Penalosa
Alcalde de Bogota
Alcaldia Municipal
Bogota, D.C.
Colombia

Dear Mayor Penalosa:

I write on behalf of the Colombia Support Network (CSN), an organization dedicated to protection of human rights in Colombia. CSN is based in the United States with chapters in several U.S. cities and sister communities in areas of conflict in Colombia. I also formerly resided in Bogota, where I did research and taught at the Universidad de los Andes. I have great appreciation for your city.

I am writing today out of concern for workers of the Colmotores (General Motors Colombia) plant in Bogota, who have a valid grievance for the company's refusal to compensate them properly for injuries they sustained on the job and failure to provide a safe work environment for them, including providing appropriate employment for those workers who have been injured on the job. They also have properly objected to the company's refusal to allow employees to develop union organizations to represent their interests. On two occasions, I and other members of CSN delegations have met with the workers who are protesting against the company's policies by setting up a tent on the sidewalk across the street from the United States Embassy in Bogota. Their protest is peaceful and represents no threat to anyone in the vicinity. They do not interfere with the work of the Embassy. Under Colombian law and under Article 37 of the Colombian Constitution these workers have the right to make public their grievances with Colmotores as they are doing.

Recently we have learned you have proposed forcing the protesting workers to leave the site of their protest. I request on behalf of our organization that you not attempt to force these workers to leave. We are concerned that your government not curtail their rights. Their protest is consistent with the labor rights guaranteed to workers in the Labor Action Plan adopted as a part of the Free Trade Agreement between the United States Government and the Colombian Government.

Thank you very much for your attention to this



**Colombia
Support
Network**

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Chapters

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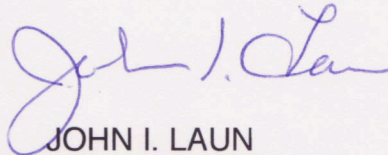
Central New York
(Cortland, Ithaca,
Syracuse)

Kansas City MO,KS

Dane County, WI

request.

Sincerely,



JOHN I. LAUN
President, CSN

JIL:llm

Copies to: President Juan Manuel Santos
Minister of Labor Clara Lopez Obregon
U.S. Ambassador Kevin Whitaker
U.S. Labor Attache Brenda Dougan
U. S. Congressman Mark Pocan
Professor John Dugas
David Newby, President Emeritus, Wisconsin AFL-CIO
Jorge Parra, Injured Colmotores worker
Paige Shell-Spurling, Colombia Section, Portland Central
American Solidarity Committee