



SINTRAEMCALI

SINDICATO POR LA RAMA DE LA ACTIVIDAD ECONOMICA DE LOS
SERVICIOS PUBLICOS

www.sintraemcali.com e-mail: sintraemcali@yahoo.es



Santiago de Cali, April 12, 2011.

TO:

**U.S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON D.C.**

**RE: STATEMENT TO THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR
ORGANIZATION'S (ILO) FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON CASE 2356 OF SINTRAEMCALI**

Please receive a warm greeting on behalf of the 54 employees that were fired without just cause from Emcali EICE ESP. These employees were affiliated with SINTRAEMCALI, a residential public services union in Cali, Colombia. The signing of the FTA is a threat to the workers and unionists in Colombia because it does not take into account that the current government has not complied with providing the minimum guarantees for Colombian workers. We have many expectations regarding the agreements that were negotiated prior to the signing of the Free Trade Agreement. We appreciate your support for union and social movements that have resisted the privatization and liquidation of state companies, thus avoiding labor massacres, unjust firings, unemployment and more misery in Colombia.

ILO Case 2356 regarding SINTRAEMCALI is one of the pending cases that need to be resolved by the government of President Juan Manuel Santos. In 2004, 51 employees were fired by EMCALI EICE ESP, the most important residential public services company in southwestern Colombia. They were fired only because of their position as unionists against the privatization and sale of public patrimony in Cali, Colombia's third most important city. ***The company's state-run management violated due process and disregarded the ILO Conventions 87 and 98, which Colombia has ratified. In 2009, these violations continued when three more workers who were actively participating in SINTRAEMCALI were fired.***

We have resisted this unjust firing perpetrated by the last Colombian government for six years and seven months with the hope that justice will be served and that our processes will culminate in success. Given the four recommendations by the ILO, we hope that these 45 employees and six former leaders of SINTRAEMCALI will be reinstated and that many labor and union cases in our country will not remain UNPUNISHED.

As dignified unionists, we ask for guarantees so that we can demand our reinstatement freely and democratically. We respectfully solicit a statement from you to the National Government of Colombia to order the reinstatement of 54 workers to EMCALI EICE ESP and comply with the recommendations of ILO Case 2356.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide prior to the approval and signing of the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia.

GRUPO DE DESPEDIDOS DE EMCALI E.I.C.E. ESP.

**AYDEE CASILIMAS RUIZ
FIRED WITHOUT JUST CAUSE
Casilimasaydee@hotmail.com
Cel. 311 722 9459.**

**GUSTAVO ADOLFO IZQUIERDO
FIRED WITHOUT JUST CAUSE
despedidosemcali@hotmail.com
Cel. 311 622 6637.**

LA UNIDAD UN CAMINO A LA VICTORIA

Personería Jurídica No 247 de Diciembre 10 de 1937
Santiago de Cali, Colombia, Calle 18 No 6-54 Telephone: 883 5368, 883 7997, FAX: 888 1159