

Dole Refuses to Negotiate with the Union; Workers Lose their Lives!

Come Tell Dole - Stop Union Busting in Colombia!

5:30- 7:30pm Monday, September 19th

Tavern on the Green, Central Park at West 67th Street, New York City



"Dole: We are Workers not Slaves" reads the sign held by a Dole flower worker in Colombia.

- In July 2005 **three workers were killed and another 50 were injured** in a bus accident while traveling to one of Dole's flower plantations in Colombia. Colombia law requires plantations to provide safe transportation to and from the workplace. At the time of the crash, the bus was not in compliance with basic legal safety requirements. The bus was reportedly carrying nearly double the maximum capacity, the only exit was blocked by the collision, and there was no emergency exit.

- **Workers at the Splendor flower plantation organized themselves into an independent worker run union, Sintrasplendor**, with over 700 members, beginning in late 2004. Workers say that Dole immediately began an anti-union campaign that included tactics such as sponsoring a company union, firing union leaders, and pressuring the Colombian government to overturn the union's legal registration. Due to international pressure, Sintrasplendor was able to regain their legal registration in late August.

- **One of Sintrasplendor's demands has been for safe transportation** to and from the workplace. The union says, "These misfortunes can be prevented or at least minimized if the just demands of the workers are listened to. For this reason, today more than ever, we demand that our right to organize be respected, something that Dole... wants to deny us."

By refusing to address the workers concerns about unsafe working conditions, Dole's shadow hangs over the deaths of these workers.

Join Us - Come tell Dole that they must negotiate with the union!

We'll be taking this message straight to Dole executives who will be attending a benefit dinner put on by the Social Accountability International (SAI) at Tavern on the Green. SAI is an organization that promotes social accountability standards that include respect for trade union rights. Dole is the largest producer of fresh cut flowers in Latin America and the largest importer and marketer of flowers in North America. We'll be there to show Dole's hypocrisy: claiming a commitment to respecting worker rights, while actively busting the independent worker union Sintrasplendor in Colombia.

Worker rights activists will gather to demand that Dole take responsibility for the deaths of Colombian flower workers and negotiate with the independent worker union.

For more information, contact Alison Paul at 773-262-6502 or apaul@usleap.org.

The **U.S./Labor Education in the Americas Project (US/LEAP)** is an independent non-profit organization that works to support worker rights in Latin America. P.O. Box 268-290, Chicago, IL 60626
Tel:(773)262-6502, Fax:(773)262-6602, Web: www.usleap.org; Email: info@usleap.org