



FEDERACION NACIONAL
SINDICAL UNITARIA AGROPECUARIA
“FENSUAGRO – CUT”



Personería Jurídica No. 0241930 de Junio de 1978
Diario Oficial No. 35102 – Filial de CUT , CLOC, VIA CAMPESINA Y F.S.M.

Bogotá D.C., January 22, 2009

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

STOP THE STATE CRIMES AGAINST CAMPESINO MEMBERS OF FENSUAGRO-CUT

THE FEDERATION OF THE UNITED NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND AQUACULTURAL UNION (FEDERACIÓN NACIONAL SINDICAL UNITARIA AGROPECUARIA) FENSUAGRO-CUT (COLOMBIA) denounces the vile assassinations that have victimized various campesino compañeros who are members of organizations affiliated with FENSUAGRO-CUT, from the departments of Cauca, Tolima, and Santander, committed by paramilitary groups and the military.

WHAT HAS OCCURRED

1. **THE FIRST OF JANUARY, 2009**, at four in the morning, while he was talking with friends and family, the Communist leader of the district of Montoso, Municipality of Prado, Tolima, **ADOLFO TIQUE**, 55 years of age, father of six children, member of the union of farm workers in Tolima, SINTRAGRITOL, and of the Polo Democrático Alternativa, PDA (Translators Note: the PDA is a broad Center-Left coalition political party), was attacked with a short, sharp weapon. With three stab wounds located in the upper area of the chest, he was taken to the local Prado hospital, ceasing to live at six in the morning. The hired assassin, José Vicente Acosta, alias “Pacheco”, was detained by military units assigned to the mobile brigade number 2 and immediately put free. The campesino was being constantly accused by the militaries of being a supporter of the insurgency, including being held prisoner by these slanderers in the year 2004.



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2. **THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, JANUARY, 2009**, around 8:30 in the evening, in the moments that they were moving from the urban center of the district of El Palo to the village of El Alto de El Palo, **JULIAN SANCHEZ**, the President of the Pro Constitution Association of the Reserva Campesina Zone of the Municipality of Caloto, **GERARDO BARON AVIRAMA** Human Rights Director for the Pro Constitution Association and member of the South East Colombian Human Rights Network “Francisco Isaías Cifuentes”, and **JAMES BARON AVIRAMA**, member of the Pro Constitution Association, member of FENSUAGRO-CUT, were arbitrarily detained by a military group of the Colombian state belonging to the Infantry Battalion Number 8 “Pichincha Battalion” (under the command of Lieutenant Moreno) who were in a high grade of drunkenness. In the place where this was happening, a soldier addressed himself to compañero **JULIAN SANCHEZ**, and demanded that he direct himself to a dark place remote from the main road, to which **JULIAN** refused to walk. Subsequently, the soldier physically and verbally attacked him, while the rest of the Colombian State military unlatched and loaded the arms they were commissioned. Seeing the situation of brutal aggression on the part of these soldiers, **GERARDO BARON AVIRAMA** identified himself as a human rights defender and made known that, as members of the state forces, they must have the training and knowledge of the Human Rights material, as much the Military Forces as the Police. He asked them where they were taking him [**JULIAN**] and he demanded that they cease attacking him physically. The soldiers proceeded to hit him repeatedly in the arms and chests and verbally attacked **GERARDO BARONA AVIRAMA** and to say that they were taking **JAMES BARONA AVIRAMA**. But finally, after so much verbal and physical aggression, they let the three arbitrarily detained persons go.
3. **SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009**, compañero **DIEGO RICARDO RASEDO GUEVARA**, member of the Agrarian Association of Santander—ASOGRAS, was disappeared from the urban center of Sabana de Torres and found murdered the 7th day of January, 2009, in a farm near the Municipality of Sabana de Torres with a death shot to the head.
4. **THE DAY OF JANUARY 8TH, 2009**, the woman, **GLORIA RASEDO GUEVARA**, mother of **DIEGO RICARDO RASEDO GUEVARA**, was the object of various verbal threats from unknown persons, where they made it



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know that she must abandon her town unless she wanted to run into the same luck as her son.

5. **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009**, La Cominera village, La Dominga farm, Municipality of Palmira, Department of Cauca, around 5:30 in the afternoon, **FRANCISCO JAVIER CAPERA REMISO**, with the identity number of 5.972.550 from Ortega Tolima, member of the Pro Constitution Association of Reserva Campesina Zone of the Municipality of Corinto, member of FENSUAGRO-CUT, found himself in the company of his son, **ANDRES CAPERA PRADA**, a minor of 10 years of age, undertaking outdoor work clearing and sowing blackberries. He [**FRANCISCO**] was hit by shards from an explosive artifact. Subsequently he was carried to the municipal hospital and there was remitted to the Valle de Lili Foundation Clinic, in the city of Cali. He was diagnosed with multiple traumas from the explosives, with fractures, hematomas, and damage to the facial skin tissue. He was incapacitated for 30 days. It is fitting to note that in the zone where these incidents occurred, there is the permanent presence of the National Army belonging to the Engineers Battalion No. 3 “Augustín Codazzi” and of a provisional military detachment of the Infantry Battalion No. 8, “Pichincha Battalion”. The Military groups carry out constant operations.

6. **Friday, January 16, 2008**, Barrio el Mirador, around 5:30 in the afternoon, in the moments that the Compañero **ARLED SAMBONI GUACA**, identification number 16.932.895 from Popayán, member of the Campesino Workers Association de Argelia, ASCAMTA, affiliate of FENSUAGRO-CUT, in the moment that he was receiving a visit from his father, **JOSE RODRIGO SAMBONI, ARLED SAMBONI GUACE** went out of his house in the company of his six year old son to go to a commercial establishment to make a phone call. **ARLED** noticed two individuals were following him. He accelerated his pace and tried to return to his residence, but was intercepted by the two subjects who were following him, and they shot him repeatedly with a firearm, hitting him with seven bullets in various parts of his body. Three shots were to the side of his head, killing him instantly. The cruelest of all is the drama and the psychological trauma caused to his six year old son who saw his father brutally murdered. It should be noted that **ARLED**, in the month of September, 2008, had been threatened and forcibly displaced with his immediate family by the Narco-paramilitaries calling themselves the “Rastrojos” (Translators Note: Weeds). The father of



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ARLED, JOSE RODRIGO SAMBONI, who is presently the Financial Officer of the Campesino Workers Association of the Municipality of Argelia, ACAMTA, also in the month of September, 2008, was threatened and forcibly displaced with his immediate family by the Rastrojos. The same day that ARLED was murdered, in the evening hours, his wife, **SANDRA JIMENA BASTIDAS**, received a telephone call in which unknown persons told her, “It is better that you keep quiet, if you do not want the same thing to happen to you.”

7. **SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008**, Barrio el Mirador, in the morning hours, the citizen **SANDRA JIMENA BASTIDAS**, identification number 34.315.769, from Popayán, received anew a telephone call in which unknown persons said to her, “It is better that you keep quiet, if you do not want the same thing to happen to you.” In the month of September, 2008, she had been forcibly displaced by Narco-paramilitaries calling themselves the Rastrojos, along with her husband **ARLED SAMBONI GUACA** and their two young sons of six and eight years respectively. Now she must confront this situation alone and see the absurd psychological trauma that they made for her son to see how he was ripped out of the hands of his father, murdered in cold blood by criminals who openly parade about in the presence of the military in this zone.

WE DEMAND THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

1. Immediately initiate the process of investigation of the assassinations of the compañeros **ADOLFO TIQUE, DIEGO RICARDO RASEDO GUEVARA, ARLED SAMBONI GUACA**, who were murdered by unknown persons.
2. Investigate concerning the threats to the victims’ to the victims’ families.
3. Investigate concerning the deeds that have generated displacement, persecution, threats, and murders of our affiliates, leaders, and directors of FENSUAGRO.

WE ASK OF THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

1. Call on the national government to guarantee the life, physical and psychological integrity, and the right to stay in their territory for our leaders and affiliates, and to freely exercise union and organizational activity.

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2. Reject these types of actions that cause the mourning of the social, labor, and popular organizations, since their goal is to sow terror in the campesino communities, that are victims of the development and implementation of “Democratic Security” (“Segurdiad Democratica”)*.
3. Continue following and monitoring the grave situation of human rights violations that cross through the Departments of Cauca, Tolima, and Santander.

AIDEE MORENO IBAGUE
SERCRETARIA NACIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
FENSUAGRO – CUT
COLOMBIA

*: “Seguridad Democrática” or “Democratic Security” is the policy being pursued by the administration of Colombian Pres. Alvaro Uribe to achieve “security” in Colombia through aggressive military action and repression rather than through good faith negotiations to end the civil war. The process has led to widespread abuses, including the displacement of millions of farming, indigenous, and Afro-Colombian communities, an increase in the murders of these populations and of union members (the hardest hit being the FENSUAGRO union of farmers and farm workers), and the widespread scandal of “false positives”, wherein Colombian military personnel frequently commit arbitrary arrests (there are over 7,200 political prisoners in Colombian jails) and murders of innocent persons, and then dress the cadavers in guerrilla uniforms or otherwise “identify” them as insurgents, seeking to fill quotas demanded by the government to give the impression of progress in the war. Especially during the past year, such scandals have resulted in the excavation of a mass grave of “false positives” in Soaca, Colombia as well as several other cases of extra-judicial killings that have led to the firing and the arrests of some military personnel. Unaffected, however, are those highest up on the chain of command, including Pres. Uribe, who is known to have extensive ties to paramilitaries and narco-traffickers. During these years of the Uribe Administration and the policy of “Democratic Security”, murders of unionists have increased by 70% and forced displacements by 40%. For those of us in the US, it is important to note that our government maintains a close alliance with Pres. Uribe and gives over \$600 million a year to the Colombian military. Pres. Obama has spoken out publicly against the abuses committed against unionists in Colombia. However, he has also said that the close relationship of the US and Colombia, including its military support, will continue along the same path as before under his administration.

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