

## INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SOLIDARITY WITH COLOMBIA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS: OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2009



*“In rejection of the persecution against the political opposition in Colombia through the liberation of the political prisoners and for the humanitarian accord.”*

Colombia's Permanent Campaign in Solidarity with the Political Detainees “Behind the Walls” and the International Network in Solidarity with Colombia's Political Prisoners (see full list of sponsors at end) are calling on organizations around the world to participate in an **International Day in Solidarity with Colombia's Political Prisoners on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**. Throughout Colombia, people will be taking to the streets and political prisoners themselves are planning events in several jails. In the United States, demonstrations will be held at the Colombian Embassy and Consulates, federal buildings, or other appropriate places.

### **IN THE US, WE ARE CALLING FOR...**

- **An end to US support for repression and war in Colombia—No New US Bases! End Plan Colombia!**
- **Liberty for all Colombia's political prisoners, including an exchange of prisoners held by the Colombian and US governments and by insurgents.**
- **A negotiated, humanitarian accord to end Colombia's armed conflict.**

For more information, contact the Campaign for Labor Rights/Alliance for Global Justice. Send an email to [james@afgj.org](mailto:james@afgj.org) or call 520-243-0381. Visit us at [www.clrlabor.org](http://www.clrlabor.org).

***The Colombian government says it has no political prisoners. In fact, there are more than 7,200, according to Colombia's Permanent Campaign in Solidarity with the Political Detainees.*** A majority of those arrested are victims of false accusations, paid testimony and fabricated evidence. Between 1992 and 2002, 2,000 such arbitrary detentions were reported. Since 2002, there have been well over 7,500. These prisoners do not have a right to a jury trial and can be held for years without going to trial. This coincides with a web of repression that has led to an increase in assassinations of union members, disappearances and assassinations of provably innocent civilians by the military, and the large scale displacement of rural populations. ***Repression and war in Colombia is paid for by US taxpayers and advised and directed by the US military.*** The United States has given over \$7 billion for military aid and Plan Colombia and the Obama Administration has advanced plans to deploy in seven military bases on Colombian soil.

Political prisoners include students and professors arrested for campus activities; unionists arrested for organizing workers and defending labor rights; farmers, Afro-Colombians, and Indigenous leaders resisting forced displacement; and persons who have participated in insurgencies against the military and paramilitaries. We include insurgents as political prisoners because demonizing them as terrorists ignores the historical context of the conflict in Colombia and reinforces the idea of a military-police state solution rather than a political one. ***Peace in Colombia will not come through more war, assassinations, or displacement, and it won't come from behind prison walls. A just peace will only come with dialogue and a humanitarian accord.***

**CITIES WITH DEMONSTRATIONS INCLUDE (so far)...**(Colombia) Armenia, Cali, Barranquilla, Bogotá, Bucaramanga and Medellín; (International) Buenos Aires, Argentina; Sidney, Australia; Ottawa, Canada; Washington, DC, Tucson, and Chicago, USA; Paris, France; and Mexico City, Mexico. (New cities being added.)

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS: (BEHIND BARS)** Colectivo de Prisoneras Políticas “Traspasa los Muros” – Reclusión de Mujeres el Buen Pastor de Bogotá, Colectivo de Prisioneros Políticos “Traspasa los Muros” – Cárcel Nacional la Modelo de Bogotá – Alta Seguridad, Colectivo de Prisioneros Políticos “Traspasa los Muros” – Establecimiento Carcelario y Penitenciario La Picota de Bogotá **(COLOMBIA)** Campaña Permanente de Solidaridad con las y los Detenidos Políticos “Traspasa Los Muros”, Campaña TJER Libertad-Por la Libertad de William Javier Díaz, Campaña por la Libertad de Miguel Ángel Beltrán Villegas, Campaña por la Libertad de Liliany Obando, Cruz Negra Anarquista – CNA, Federación de Estudiantes Universitarios – FEU, Mandato Estudiantil por el Acuerdo Humanitario, Colectivo de Estudiantes de la ESAP, Colectivo Juana Julia de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Asociación de Profesores Universitarios – ASPU, Federación de Profesores Universitarios – FENALPROU, Unión Sindical Obrera – USO, Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la USO, Comité Permanente para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria Agropecuaria – FENSUAGRO, Coordinación Nacional Agraria y Popular – CONAP **(INTERNATIONAL)** International Network in Solidarity with Colombia's Political Prisoners (International), Freedom for Liliany (Australia), Campaign for Labor Rights (USA), Alliance for Global Justice (USA), Colombia Action Network (USA), Peace and Justice for Colombia (Australia), Central America Solidarity Coalition (Canada) Colombia Solidarity Campaign (Canada), Latin America Solidarity Coalition (USA), Colombia Solidarity Committee-Chicago (USA)



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