

Kill the bill



Not Colombians

It's time for Canada to take a principled stand against violence and corruption in Colombia.

Our federal government needs to support the people of Colombia who are trying to defend their rights and their land and demand a democratic and accountable government.

Join us in demanding an end to a free trade deal!

Join us in demanding that the federal government impose restrictions on companies doing business in Colombia to require that human rights are respected.

Join us in supporting the rights of the Colombian people.

For more information:
www.nupge.ca/issues/international-solidarity/colombia



national
union

NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

- B. C. Government and Service Employees' Union
- Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union
- Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers
- New Brunswick Union
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
- PEI Union of Public Sector Employees
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees

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The National Union of Public and General Employees is an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress and a member of the Public Services International



CANADA-COLOMBIA TRADE DEAL

CANADA'S

SHAME



TRADING WITH MURDERERS

FOURTEEN OF THE THOUSANDS MURDERED by the Uribe dictatorship in Colombia are pictured above. **The Harper Conservatives and the Ignatieff Liberals don't care.** They plan to sign a trade deal with Colombia anyway, making it profitable to do business with Colombia—and with murderers.

Colombia remains the most dangerous place in the world for trade unionists.

VIOLENT

More than 45 people were murdered in Colombia in 2009 primarily for being active in their trade unions. Response of the Colombian government can be summed up as – too bad, so sad!

While the murder of trade unionists in Colombia is well known, the horrendous extent of the violence is not fully appreciated.

More than 114 indigenous women, men and children were murdered in 2009. Thousands were forced off their land. Amnesty International reports that crimes committed against indigenous people are rarely investigated by the authorities.

This story is true for everyone in Colombia who tries to stand up for their rights and dignity. The Colombian government does very little to either prevent or prosecute these crimes.

The government's security forces have been complicit in the abuse of human rights alongside the paramilitary and insurrectionary forces.

Many prominent politicians in the government, including President Uribe himself, have been found to have ties to the murderous paramilitaries.

Recently a mass grave containing more than 2,000 bodies was discovered outside a military base with the Armed Forces finally admitting to both the killings and the secret burial.

Conveniently ignoring human rights abuses is par for the course in Colombia.

CORRUPT

The Uribe government is, in many ways, rotten to the core. It has been racked by scandal after scandal:

- vote buying;
- bribery; and
- the illegal wire-tapping

of journalists and opposition politicians.

Many of these activities have been directly connected to the Office of the President!



Canada has a good reputation in the world.

We are seen as being governed by the rule of law – respecting human rights – committed to honest and transparent government. You can see why the Colombian government would want to be associated with us! But why would Canada want to legitimize a corrupt government that ignores violence

against its own citizens?

Do we Canadians really want to be friends with a government that behaves in this way?

Apparently the Harper Conservatives and Ignatieff Liberals do! The Canada-Colombia Free Trade deal, supported by both parties, is intended to cement that friendship.

The irony is that even the “tough on crime” Conservatives and the Liberals admit that there are serious crimes against human rights taking place in Colombia. The Liberals introduced an amendment requiring the Colombian government to file reports about the human rights abuses that occur.

That's right – the Colombian government will have to report on the human rights abuses that it may be complicit in! That very same scandal plagued and corrupt government.

The Conservatives and Liberals say that closer ties will help us convince the Colombians to deal with their human rights crisis. But obviously the Colombian government does not see a need to deal with it.

We are also told that it will be good for Canadian businesses. But do we really want Canadian companies in the middle of this crisis?

OUR PARTNERS