The World Social Forum has declared 22 July 2003 as the International Day of Action against Coca Cola and the start of a year-long boycott of all their products, in solidarity with SINALTRAINAL, the Colombian food and drink workers' union, who have suffered the assassination of eight of their leadership, killed by paramilitary death squads hired by Coca Cola management. The union has also witnessed the imprisonment, arbitrary detention, torture and forced displacement of hundreds of workers at Coca Cola bottling plants throughout Colombia. In a court case in the USA, brought by the United Steelworkers' union on behalf of SINALTRAINAL, a judge has ruled that Coca Cola do have a case to answer, yet the multinational refuses to cooperate with the union, and continues its policy of violent repression.

Some of the reasons SINALTRAINAL called for the boycott:

- For the violation of human rights of workers and communities.
- For profits made on the back of assassinations, imprisonment, displacement, kidnapping, death threats and the dismissal of trade unionists in Colombia, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru, USA, Venezuela, Palestine, Turkey, Iran and other countries.
- For the contamination of water sources with the waste from their bottling plants.
- For racial discrimination against black communities and AIDS sufferers.
- For using coca to make its products, while supporting the criminal policies of the USA against communities whose culture and survival depends on coca leaves.
- For its unfettered use of the world's water, and the criminal theft of water sources from communities in India.
- For supporting the criminal oligarchy in Venezuela which is attacking the government's attempt to bring dignity to the lives of its people, and for its historic interference in the internal affairs of peoples.

We ask you as individuals or organisations to take part, to throw out the Coca Cola vending machines from your school, college or workplace, to actively participate in this campaign against corporate slaughter, to organise in your area. Contact us to arrange for speakers, information or materials about Coca Cola's killing in Colombia.

SINALTRAINAL members assassinated by Coca Cola

Avelino Achicano Erazo, 1990, Pasto; Jose Eleasar Manco David, 1994, Carepa; Luis Enrique Giraldo Arango, 1994, Carepa; Luis Enrique Gomez Granado, 1995, Carepa; Isidro Segundo Gil Gil, 1996, Carepa; Guillermo Gomez Maigul, 1998, Pasto; Oscar Dario Soto Polo, 2001, Monteria; Adolfo de Jesus Munera Lopez, 2002, Baranquilla.

"We ask Coca Cola to stop killing ... and you to stop drinking Coke"

Carlos Julia, Sinaltrainal

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