

HE Mr Mauricio Rodriguez  
Ambassador  
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our ref: euird/pb/colombia  
date: 05 December 2012  
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Dear Ambassador

### **More death threats to trade unionists**

On behalf of the TUC, British workers and the 6.1 million members of our affiliated unions I write to protest about further death threats made against trade unionists in the Valle del Cauca Department in southern Colombia.

From information we have received, Rafael Esquivel, former president of the national union of the food industry worker, SINALTRAINAL and a former employee of Nestle received these threats on 7 November from paramilitary groups under the heading "AUC, United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia, Black Eagles, Bacrim", threatening violence against trade unionists unless they disappeared from Valle.

9 targets identified in this threat included members from food industry union, SINALTRAINAL, the Trade Union Congress, CUT and the Union of Municipality Workers, SINTRAMUNICIPIO and this threat

We understand this threat was received just days after Julio López and four other members of SINALTRAINAL were threatened.

We ask that you:

- Urge the authorities to take appropriate measures to protect those trade unionists under threats in Valle del Cauca, of strict accordance of their wishes;
- Call on the authorities to order a full and impartial investigation into the death threats against Rafael Esquivel and other trade unionists; publish the results and bring those responsible to justice; and
- Urge the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organisations.

Yours sincerely

**Brendan Barber**  
General Secretary