



Unión Portuaria



International Campaign

To Delay the Entry into Force of the Free Trade Agreement Between Colombia and the U.S.

The Port workers Union calls on the solidarity of the trade union movement and international human rights organizations to urge the U.S. and Colombian authorities to delay implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia for the following reasons:

All forms of illegal labor contracts continue to operate. We insist that the Port Societies and Port Operators grant direct contracts to all port workers.

1. The salaries of port workers are extremely low and as such we demand that port workers are granted decent salaries.
2. Port workers work intensive labor hours—from 12-16 hours without rest. We demand that workers only work 8 hour shifts.
3. In the past twenty years, intermediary companies stopped depositing funds into the pension accounts of thousands of port workers and this practice continues today. For this reason we urge that the National Government recognizes pension benefits for weeks worked for workers who are 55 years or older, have worked for more than 20 years and have less than 1,000 weeks of pension accrued to them.
4. For the past twenty years, hundreds of port workers have been unjustly fired for advocating for their rights and the right to organize into trade unions. We demand that all workers fired are reintegrated. We are particularly concerned about the workers in the Turbo port.
5. In the past 20 years, hundreds of workers have suffered accidents on the job and suffered illnesses related to their work and none have had social security coverage. Some of these workers are disabled and others have died. We urge that the disabled workers' pensions are recognized so that these workers who can no longer work due to their disability and the family members of those who have died (widows and minor children) receive at least 50% of the pensions owed to these workers.


FRANCISCO JAVIER MARRUGO
Presidente Nacional


TOMAS MARCELINO DURÁN
Secretario General Nacional