

Background:

- The IUF represents approx. 250,000 of close to 500-600,000 workers in the Coca-Cola system.

We welcome the sentiment and the activism behind the campus activities

- such activism is essential in today's world where major companies exercise increasing degree of power.

We share the broad objectives:

- demand full respect for all human rights and labour standards
- monitor and hold accountable transnational companies
- no comment on those individuals or organizations involved in the boycott calls
- can only presume they sincerely believe that what they are doing will have some positive impact
- no doubt the Colombian union also feels that it has chosen the path that best represents the interests of the workers it represents in Colombia

Boycott call rejected by unions representing CCC system workers:

- July 2003 boycott call came out in March 2003
- Over 100 unions at IUF global meeting (New York March 3-4) rejected the call
- Unions representing workers in the CCC system virtually all reject call
- Other CCC Colombian unions do not support boycott call and nor does the national union central CUT.

Our disagreement with the "boycott campaign" hinges around how to most effectively ensure CCC fully respects rights throughout their system - it is essentially a tactical disagreement:

- Presumably one objective/outcome for those who are leading the boycott campaign is the creation of some kind of mechanism across a table with the company at global level. This mechanism would identify and seek to end abuses when they happen - and they will certainly happen in such a large global operation as the entire CCC system.
- That outcome already exists:
 - Twice yearly formal meetings between the Coca-Cola Company and a representative group of union in the IUF started in 2004
 - IUF delegation currently consists of unions representing workers in the Coca-Cola system from the following countries/regions:
 - North America
 - Europe (Germany)
 - Asia/Pacific (Japan plus a regional delegate)

- Latin America (a regional delegate)
- Issues already resolved positively for workers/unions concerned through this process include:
 - Russia (progress on union recognition)
 - Pakistan (reinstatement of fired union leadership and recognition of the union)
 - Guatemala (terms of former contract respected by FEMSA)
 - Peru (dismissals of union leaders withdrawn and union recognized)
 - Philippines (union recognition protected)
 - Burma clothing (use of clothing made in Burma for company clothing products in Canada ended)
 - Hong Kong and contracting out (brought a stop to local bottler efforts to contract out distribution/sales functions)
 - Korea and contracting out (brought a stop to company efforts to contract out distribution/sales functions)
 - Colombia - Carepa plant workers working with a negotiated contract though on each of the three occasions the negotiations have been on we have had to hold CCC's feet to the fire to ensure their local franchised bottler reached an agreement with the union)
- No publicity or much public outcry in these but in all cases positive outcomes for the workers we represent in the Coca-Cola system and their unions
- The IUF believes this process has produced concrete and positive results for workers in the CCC system and we will therefore continue to pursue and intensify this approach.