

Drugs, Oil, Gold and the War on Trade Unionists in Colombia

An educational forum featuring:
Francisco Ramirez

President of SINTRAMINERCOL, the Colombian Miners' Union

1:00 pm Sunday, December 19th
633 S. Hawley Rd

Francisco Ramirez survived an assassination attempt on October 10th of this year. Two men on a motorcycle came directly toward him, one carrying a gun. By moving quickly, Ramirez was able to dodge the 7th assassination attempt against him in several years. He lives to tell the story of brutal violence that makes Colombia the most dangerous place in the world for labor organizers. 94 unionists were killed in 2003. This year's toll, as of mid-November, stood at 58.

Ramirez is particularly sought after by paramilitary assassins for his research, writing and speaking about the connections between Colombia's right-wing militias, corporate mining interests and massacres of innocent workers. His research showed the correlation between the location of military garrisons, important mining centers and a high number of political murders and massacres. He has demanded investigations into the activities of 12 multinational corporations. The US supports the Colombian Government and its military under the cover of "Plan Colombia" and a supposed war on drugs and left-wing militias. Colombia is the 3rd largest recipient of US military aid, of which a large portion returns to US companies in the form of subcontracts, equipment leases and fumigation chemicals.

The Colombian government is sensitive to international opinion. Join us in hearing this important voice in the global struggle for justice and the right to organize. Become informed and raise your voice. Act in support of trade unionists in Colombia.