



**COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY AND PAPERWORKERS UNION OF CANADA  
SYNDICAT CANADIEN DES COMMUNICATIONS, DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DU PAPIER**

**DAVE COLES**

President / président

October 3, 2011

**To the Officers & Members of Union Sindical Obrera (USO)**

**CEP Canada Supports USO's Fight for Decent Work in Colombia Oilfields  
- Colombia Must Now Address Contract Workers' Issues**

Dear Brother & Sisters:

The Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, which represents Canadian oil and energy workers, stands in solidarity with Union Sindical Obrera (USO) in your efforts to eliminate the exploitation of contract workers and ensure their legitimate rights in the oilfields of south-central Colombia.

We strongly support USO's efforts to eliminate poverty wages, exhausting work hours and unlimited days of consecutive work from the Colombian energy sector.

We condemn the actions of Canada-based Pacific Rubiales Energy Corp and Petrominerales Ltd., which provide low pay, poor working conditions and sub-standard working terms for contract workers – conditions that would not be tolerated in Canada.

We also condemn the violent actions taken by Colombia national riot police to break the USO strike, with batons and tear gas.

We welcome the September 21, 2011 tripartite agreement between USO, the Colombian Interior Minister, and Pacific Rubiales. This is a second chance to rectify this deplorable situation and we hope the Pacific Rubiales and the Colombian Government take their responsibilities seriously.

We regret that we cannot join your caravan next week, but please know that the CEP and Canadian oil and energy workers are with you in spirit and stand ready to stand in solidarity with you if the tripartite negotiations fail.

In any event, given the strong links between our two countries, evidenced by the new Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and Canadian investment in the Colombian energy sector, we welcome the opportunity to meet with you so that CEP and USO can develop a strong bilateral relationship based on international worker solidarity.

In Solidarity,

Dave Coles,  
President  
DB/nb

