

February 22, 2016

Dear Cerrejón Administrators:

We write today to demand that Cerrejón comply with its obligation to the leaders of Roche, Tamaquito II, Patilla, and Chancleta to hold weekly good faith negotiation meetings to resolve ongoing issues in the resettlements. Our contact, Emma Banks, who is currently in La Guajira, has told us that Cerrejón officials have twice canceled these meetings (on February 12 and February 17) at the last minute, leaving the community leaders frustrated and feeling abandoned. Leaders report that Cerrejón's canceling meetings is an ongoing problem. Many of the ongoing issues such as access to water, productive projects, and employment, remain unresolved. Yet, these meetings have been taking place for over two years. We have received news from members of Patilla, Chancleta, and Roche that families are so frustrated that they are leaving the resettlements to return to the original community sites. Emma visited these communities who confirmed they chose to return to their old sites because they feel abandoned by Cerrejón in the resettlements.

Emma attended a meeting on February 18 between the leaders and the Cerrejón resettlement team in which she witnessed the frustration of community members who want to move forward with negotiations. Clearly, there is some division within the communities between the elected leaders and those who have moved back to their old communities. Yet, Cerrejón is deepening these divisions by meeting with these groups separately and not being transparent about these negotiations. Cerrejón must work to bring these families, who have already expressed their desire to find solutions to common problems, together. It must also be more transparent about the process. We urge Cerrejón to not suspend the weekly negotiations. Rather than completely change the leadership structure of these communities, Cerrejón should invite more participants to the table for fully transparent negotiations.

We demand those responsible at Cerrejón for these negotiations to stop canceling meetings and fulfill their commitment to negotiate in good faith with the communities. We support both the families who have chosen to their original communities and those who remain in the resettlements. We also reiterate our complete opposition to any unilateral, forceful, or violent action on the part of or instigated by El Cerrejón, including any forced expropriation under any circumstances. We urge Cerrejón to suspend the expropriation of families remaining in Roche, and the planned expropriations in Patilla and Chancleta.

Sincerely,

Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network  
Colombia Human Rights Committee, Washington DC  
Colombia Human Rights Network  
Colombia Vive, Boston  
International Network in Solidarity with Colombia's Political Prisoners  
Let Cuba Live  
Movement for Peace in Colombia, New York

No More Victims  
North Shore Colombia Solidarity Committee

Jane Affonso, Redondo Beach, CA  
Louise Anderson  
Jon Aske  
Emma Banks, Vanderbilt University\*  
The Rev Jeffrey Barz-Snell, President, Salem Alliance for the Environment (SAFE)  
Marc Becker, Professor of History, Truman State University\*  
Julio Bedoya, Movement for Peace in Colombia  
Robyn Benson, National President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada  
Patrick Bonner, Coordinator of Colombia Peace Project Los Angeles  
Amber Buchanan, Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network, NS Canada  
Matthew Buchanan  
Peter Bull, Carbon Productions LLC  
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Margery Colten, Somerville, MA  
Patrick Connolly  
Jeff Crosby, President, North Shore Labor Council\*  
Carlos Cruz, Education Department, Unite the Union, UK  
Sandra Díaz  
Chelsey Dyer, Vanderbilt University\* and Witness for Peace Southeast  
Hermann Engelhardt  
Cristina Espinel  
Cindy Forster, Chair of Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Scripps College\*  
Lesley Gill, Vanderbilt University\*  
Tracy Glynn, Refugees Welcome Fredericton  
Amanda Granger  
Ingrid Guyon, Photographer and Creative Practitioner  
Anne Harris, Coal Action Network, UK  
Noel Healy, Department of Geography, Salem State University  
Andy Higginbottom, Colombia Solidarity Campaign  
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Andy Klatt, Lecturer in Spanish, Tufts University\*  
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Deborah T. Levenson, Professor of History, Boston College\*  
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Reverend Art McDonald, PhD, minister at First UU Church of Essex\*  
Amanda Martin  
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Mike Moeller, Antigonish, NS  
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Doris Elin Salazar  
Richard Solly, London Mining Network  
Rosie Segil  
Stephan Suhner, Grupo Trabajo Suiza Colombia (ask!)  
Bill Spirito  
Steve Striffler, University of New Orleans  
Keja Valens, Salem State University  
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