

# Media Advisory

## Press Conference with Colombian GM Worker Bringing Hunger Strike to Detroit

Detroit, MI – An injured GM worker from Colombia has moved his hunger strike from Bogota to GM headquarters in Detroit, vowing to continue until injured workers' claims are met. Jorge Parra, president of an association of injured Colombian GM workers, will speak to supporters and the press on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 to announce he has moved his hunger strike from Bogota, Colombia to GM headquarters. A group of current and former Colombian GM workers have demanded a fair and just settlement with General Motors after being fired without compensation due to work-place injuries. They have been camped in front of the U.S. Embassy in Bogota for over a year and re-started a hunger strike on Monday when mediation with the company failed to produce a settlement.

Speakers will include Jorge Parra, President of ASOTRECOL, the association of injured Colombian GM workers; Frank Hammer, UAW-GM International Representative, retired and former President & Chairperson, UAW Local 909, GM Powertrain, Warren, MI; experts on this labor case and the labor rights climate in Colombia and others from the U.S. that are joining the hunger strike.

### Press Conference Details:

**WHAT:** Injured GM worker from South America launches hunger strike at GM headquarters after mediation fails

**WHO:** Jorge Parra, former GM worker on hunger strike and President of ASOTRECOL, the association of injured Colombian GM workers; Frank Hammer, UAW-GM International Representative, retired and former President & Chairperson, UAW Local 909, GM Powertrain, Warren, MI; and others

**WHERE:** Hart Plaza, 1 Hart Plaza, Detroit, MI

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 1pm EDT

**VISUALS:** Tent for hunger strikers, large posters with pictures of workers in Colombia with mouths sewed shut

The group of GM workers that formed ASOTRECOL went on strike after being wrongfully fired from GM due to workplace injuries. Their disabling injuries left them unemployable and unable to support their families. GM has refused to compensate them for these disabilities or provide them with access to medical care. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, they began a hunger strike that was suspended when an agreement was reached to begin mediation.

The workers' demands are simple: disability coverage for workers unable to continue work, continuing health insurance to pay the substantial costs associated with their injuries, reintegration into the GM workforce and just compensation for lost wages.

The mediation between the workers and GM Colmotores, brokered by the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and mediated by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, ended without a settlement late last week. On Monday, the workers returned to their hunger strike, with seven of them sewing their mouths shut. Jorge Parra arrived in Detroit last night and will continue his hunger strike, along with the other workers in Colombia and supporters from the U.S., until a settlement is reached with GM.

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