

Emergency Appeal—Hunger strike in second month—solidarity funds needed for fired Colombian GM workers

Friday, December 28, 2012

Many of you have heard and met Jorge Parra, president of the Association of Injured Workers and Ex-workers of GM Colmotores (Asotrecol). Asotrecol represents the workers who were fired after sustaining work-related injuries and illnesses at GM's plant in Bogota, Colombia. They are still fighting for the right to return to jobs at GM that they can do, or receive compensation. The occupation outside the U.S. embassy in Bogota has been maintained for over 500 days. Jorge, who is here in Detroit, is in the second month of his third hunger strike to pressure GM to negotiate with Asotrecol. Thus far GM has not met with him. The situation is urgent.

When Jorge and his coworkers were fired it left them with no source of income; their injuries prevent them from getting other jobs. For this struggle to continue funds are critically needed—for Jorge's living expenses here and for the families of the workers who are living in tents outside the embassy. Their children, one of whom has a life threatening case of cerebral palsy, are in urgent need of medical care.

We cannot let these courageous autoworkers or their families down.

To make a donation, please send a check to "Wellspring UCC" with "Colombia relief" on the memo line. Their mailing address is: Wellspring UCC, Box 508, Centreville VA 20122. To make a donation online through paypal visit: www.wellspringucc.org (be sure to write "Colombia relief" on the message subject line).

Please email the Autoworker Caravan, autoworkercaravan@gmail.com, and let us know if you decide to make a one-time or monthly pledge, or if you can do a collection at your plant or at your union meeting. Collections have already begun at Detroit area UAW Locals.

Thank you.

In solidarity,

Martha, Frank, Melvin, Dianne, Ron

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