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THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS RIGHTS HAS NO BORDERS: STOP MURDERS OF UNION LEADERS AT COKE BOTTLING PLANTS IN COLOMBIA!

WHEREAS, Coca-Cola workers in Colombia represented by SINALTRAINAL, the National Union of Food and Beverage Workers, are struggling against the devastating effects of paramilitary and state-sponsored terrorism tied to the policies of their transnational corporate employer, resulting in continual violation of their human rights; and

WHEREAS, SINALTRAINAL has seen the assassinations of eight union leaders employed by Coca-Cola, death threats, forced displacements, the jailing of workers and leaders on trumped-up charges, the raiding of union offices and homes of members, torture and kidnapping to force members to renounce their right to association, union decertification, violation of collective bargaining agreements and mass firings, all resulting in a more than 50% decrease in SINALTRAINAL membership; and

WHEREAS, in an historic lawsuit against Coca-Cola and its Colombian bottlers filed on July 20, 2001 in the U.S. courts by the Steelworkers Union (USWA) and the International Labor Rights Fund on behalf of SINALTRAINAL and its members, Coca-Cola is charged with collusion and collaboration with the paramilitary death squads; and

WHEREAS, James P. Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, commented after the August 31, 2002 murder of SINALTRAINAL leader Adolfo de Jesús Munera Lopez, "...We expect Coca-Cola to do everything in its power to ensure the security of all workers who produce and distribute its products throughout the world. Coca-Cola's Code of Conduct has been proven to be ineffective against the extreme violence facing workers in Colombia...This company must take responsibility and negotiate an enforceable workers' rights agreement for all Coca-Cola workers...We join with other unions and international human rights groups in demanding that Coke stop the violence against workers;" and

WHEREAS, the anti-worker, pro-terrorist policies of Coca-Cola have been vigorously protested, not only in the U.S. and Colombia, but also in the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Guatemala and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, in the recent past there has been no abatement of the terrorist violence against Coca-Cola workers in Colombia, with at least 65 SINALTRAINAL leaders and many of their family members living under death threats; and

WHEREAS, SunTrust Banks, Inc. (303 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30308) has been intimately linked with Coca-Cola since 1919, shares several board members with Coke, and is now Coke's largest corporate shareholder and a major creditor of Coca-Cola; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that our organization supports the "Unthinkable! Undrinkable!" challenge to Coca-Cola's public image that SINALTRAINAL's Campaign to Stop Killer Coke is launching this summer, and we call upon our members, affiliates, the State Federation of Labor, our international union and the AFL-CIO to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, because we cannot support a company that profits from murder and torture, that we support SINALTRAINAL's campaign to distribute one million "Unthinkable! Undrinkable!" protest petitions addressed to Coca-Cola's Board of Directors (P.O. Box 1734, Atlanta, GA 30301); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge labor and human rights organizations to sever all business ties with SunTrust Bank until such time as the bank severs all ties with Coca-Cola; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to investigate and prosecute The Coca-Cola Co. for collusion with paramilitary terrorists in Colombia; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we urge all unionists and human rights advocates to serve notice upon The Coca-Cola Co. that Coke must address these issues before the lives of any more union brothers and sisters or other innocent parties are placed in further jeopardy.

Adopted by the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, at the General Membership Meeting held on Monday, June 2, 2003

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ORGANIZING FOR JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

