

UCU Annual Conference Motion 2012: Political Prisoners and Academic Freedom in Colombia

National Executive Committee, UCU

Congress notes:

- 1** trade unionists and academics face severe human rights violations in Colombia;
- 2** 215 trade unionists have been killed since 2007;
- 3** hundreds of political prisoners, including academics, are held in Colombia's jails, severely limiting free speech and academic freedom;
- 4** former political prisoners and academics Dr Miguel Beltran and Lilianny Obando have faced continued threats, harassment and false accusations since their release;
- 5** the violations take place in the context of an armed conflict, and large sectors of Colombian civil society, including our trade union colleagues, are calling for a peace process to help end the abuses.

Congress resolves to:

- 1** campaign for the release of all Colombian political prisoners and for the protection of released political prisoners;
- 2** support the Justice for Colombia (JfC) campaign for a peace process
<http://www.justiceforcolombia.org/campaigns/peace/>;
- 3** continue to affiliate to JfC and to encourage local branches to support their work.

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