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## **International Labor Organization Expresses Concern Over Assassination Of Colombian Workers**

*by John Neagle*

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On Feb. 7, representatives of the International Labor Organization expressed concern to President Virgilio Barco over the almost continual reports of assassinations of workers, death threats received by union leaders, and the lack of basic guarantees of workers' rights. The ILO delegation, accompanied by representatives of three international labor groups, including the Inter-American Regional Workers Organization (Organizacion Regional Inter- americana de Trabajadores-ORIT), was received by Barco and Labor Minister Juan Martin Caicedo. The discussion focused on recent killings of workers and union leaders, particularly massacres, such as has occurred in the Uraba banana-growing region of the country. The delegation requested that the Colombian government terminate persecution of labor unions. Minister Caicedo responded with an emphatic denial, stating that at present in Colombia, four large labor confederations act with total freedom. (Basic data from AFP, 02/07/89)

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