

Sehr geehrter Herr Gester,

Wir haben Ihre Nachricht zu Drohungen gegen Gewerkschaftsfunktionäre in Kolumbien mit Sorge zur Kenntnis genommen. Ein gutes und konstruktives Verhältnis zu den Vertretern der Arbeitnehmern ist unserem Unternehmen ein wichtiges Anliegen, und selbstverständlich respektiert Nestlé - ob in Deutschland oder anderen Ländern, in denen unser Unternehmen vertreten ist - die Rechte der Arbeitnehmer. Aufgrund Ihrer Vorwürfe haben wir eine Klärung vor Ort veranlasst. In der Sache können wir, nach Rücksprache mit der Konzernleitung und den Verantwortlichen in Kolumbien, gerne Stellung nehmen. Da wir als Vertreter der deutschen Landesgesellschaft hier in erster Linie eine Mittlerrolle haben, möchten wir Ihnen die Rückmeldung zu Ihrem Schreiben gerne im englischen Wortlaut an die Hand geben:

Nestlé categorically condemns any act of violence or threats against our direct or indirect employees, their families or communities in which we are present. When Nestlé Colombia learned about the threats against our workers in Bugalagrande, they immediately notified the competent authorities both at local and national level and contacted the Sinaltrainal trade union and the concerned workers to engage in measures to guarantee their physical integrity. Furthermore, we communicated our complete refutation of such violent acts to all employees and expressed the company's strong support to the workers, their families and the population of the Bugalagrande region.

Regarding the assassination of Luciano Romero Molina in 2005, the perpetrators and accomplices of the crime were arrested and sentenced by the Colombian justice system already a couple of years ago. Additional arrests were made in June 2010 in Valledupar, and we welcome the progress made in this investigation. Any attempt to link Nestlé to this crime is emphatically rejected by the company. Such allegations are groundless and an insult to our employees and managers worldwide.

Finally, we point out that Nestlé Colombia strictly respects the freedom of association and the right to unionise. The company has among the highest levels of unionization in the country, exceeding 60% of union members in the factories, while the national average is well below 5%. In the Nestlé Purina Pet Care factory in Mosquera near Bogota, the company is in permanent dialogue with both trade unions Sinaltrainal and ASOPET. In 2009, Nestlé integrated Sinaltrainal into the existing collective bargaining agreement in an extra-conventional arrangement with full benefits. This despite the fact that the company had no obligation to do so, since the tribunals had dismissed all legal challenges by Sinaltrainal as unfounded.

Wir hoffen, hiermit zur Klärung des Sachverhalts beitragen zu können.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Hartmut Gahmann      Achim Drewes