



## **Koalisi Buruh Sawit**

Jaringan Organisasi dan Serikat Buruh Sawit  
Jalan Mesjid II No. 28, Pejompongan,  
Bendungan Hilir, Jakarta Pusat 10210  
Telp/Fax : +62 215744655  
Email: koalisisuruhawit@gmail.com

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### **Greetings Solidarity,**

The Palm Oil Labor Coalition expressed concern about the "Profiling and Job Special" intelligence and military espionage program carried out by the Colombian Army to trade unionists, journalists, politicians, human rights organizations, human rights lawyer groups and other human rights defenders. Military intelligence and espionage activities carried out systematically and continuously were contrary to the peace agreement, and resulted in the death of activists of social movements in Colombia. Such actions undermine the rule of law, and ongoing peace efforts are being pioneered.

In recent months, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, where restrictions on the lock down movement were imposed, the activities of several organizations and human rights defenders were closely monitored by the military. The military is tracking, monitoring drones and stealing information on organizations and human rights defenders such as lawyer Germán Romero of DH Colombia, Lawyers Daniel Prado and Corporación Jurídica Libertad (CJL), Commission on Justice and Peace (JyP) and community leaders in the Putumayo region, Bajo Atrato and Cauca.

The Palm Oil Labor Coalition is calling on the Colombian president as Commander in Chief of the Colombian Military Forces and as Head of State, to be responsible for what the Colombian Army carries out illegal military intelligence measures. The President of Colombia should take on the role and responsibility of ensuring freedom of expression and the obligation to protect labor activists, journalists, human rights defenders and other social leaders.

The Palm Oil Labor Coalition focused attention on freedom of expression and organization and protection of workers. The right to freedom of expression is enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out in broad terms the human rights that each of us has. It was later protected legally by a raft of international and regional treaties.

The investigation of several trade union leaders such as Humberto Correa Gómez (CGT Human Rights Secretary, Committee member to Promote Collective Reparations for the Labor-CONARE Movement), and Carlos Castaneda, (former CUT president Cundinamarca) are indicative of undemocratic actions. The Palm Oil Labor Coalition is concerned about the conditions of threat and violence against labor activists and human rights defenders in Colombia. So far, 84 human rights defenders have been killed. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia reports that there were massacres, executions, extrajudicial acts and militarization. The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders said there was little progress in implementing the peace agreement and there was a decline in human rights in Colombia.

For all of the above, the Palm Oil Labor Coalition asks:

1. Stop threats, illegal investigations and violence against trade unionists, journalists and human rights defenders in Colombia
2. Protection of leaders of human rights defenders organizations
3. Investigation of military intelligence and espionage activities which have harmed workers and human rights defenders in Colombia.
4. The President of Colombia ensures that anyone who has ordered an illegal investigation into the activities of trade unions and human rights defenders must be punished.

**Tuesday, June 02, 2020**

The Palm Oil Labor Coalition consists of various trade union organizations and nongovernmental organizations in Indonesia. Driven by concern over the poor conditions of oil palm plantation workers in Indonesia and the world, KBS is fighting for legal protection and the right to the welfare of oil palm plantation workers in Indonesia.