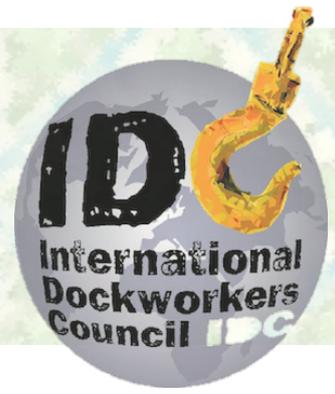


MOTION
IDC EUROPEAN ZONE ASSEMBLY
JUNE 8-9, 2017 IN KOPER SLOVENIA



The city of Buenaventura is home to Colombia's largest port. Despite the fact that the majority of Colombia's commercial activity is centred around the port, it remains one of the poorest cities in South America. The Colombian authorities have failed to provide a decent standard of living, economic development opportunities, and social investment in the city. This predominantly Afro-Colombian region suffers from widespread poverty, social stagnation, and violence, with many suffering at the hands of the right-wing paramilitary and drug gangs. Kidnapping, torture and dismemberment remain an ever-present threat to the people of Buenaventura.

The lack of oversight, both in Valle del Cauca and nationally, to monitor public safety and the management of public funds has greatly reduced the impact of investments made in the region, meaning what little investment has been made is often wasted or has disappeared.

The IDC strongly condemns the violence incited by state agents throughout recent weeks in response to the recent civic strike in Buenaventura, where the Colombian government attempted to quell a non-violent mass mobilisation by the desperate and frustrated citizens. Violence cannot be used to substitute social dialogue, especially as we work to build peace in Colombia.

We are extremely concerned about the labour conditions in Buenaventura's ports, which clearly violate both Colombian law and International Labour Conventions. Pension theft, 90% employment in the informal sector, and anti-union repression must all be addressed urgently; without decent jobs, Buenaventura will continue to suffer. This situation stands in stark contrast to Colombia's arguments in favour of its admission to the OECD.

The IDC urge the Colombian government to comply with the agreements set forth with the Strike Committee, and to guarantee the wellbeing of Buenaventura's citizens. This will require the long-term commitment, oversight, and political will of the national government. The IDC, and our affiliates worldwide, are prepared to take action in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Buenaventura should this fail to occur.

Andy Green
UK

Koper. June 9, 2017