

Unite House
128 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8TN

Tel: 020 7611 2500
Fax: 020 7611 2555

CENTRAL OFFICE



23 June 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of Unite's 1.4 million members, we are writing to you to express our support and solidarity with the recent successful civic strike to Live with Dignity in Buenaventura. It is outrageous that so many still live in poverty and fear in a city in which so much money flows through the port, yet so little benefits the local community.

Unite are proud of the work we do with colleagues from the trade union movement and wider civil society in Colombia and many have come back profoundly shocked by what they have witnessed in Buenaventura. That is why we strongly support the just demands of the strike organisers - access to water, acute healthcare, decent education, dignified employment, a clean and safe environment, and an end to the ongoing paramilitary violence

Unite utterly condemn the repression of the Colombian state towards the people of Buenaventura during the strike. It is unacceptable that those simply seeking social justice for their communities were attacked and had their basic human rights abused. Unite would like to offer our deepest condolences to the family of the person killed during this repression and our thoughts and sympathies to all those injured by the outrageous actions of the Colombian state.

We recognise that whilst this strike was a success there is a long struggle ahead to achieve the changes that are so desperately needed. Unite will continue to be ready to offer any support or solidarity that you need and look forward to working with colleagues in Buenaventura to achieve the aim of social Justice for all.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Len McCluskey".

Len McCluskey, UNITE General Secretary