

Tauramena, 24th February 2010

BP CAVES IN AND MEETS WITH STRIKE REPRESENTATIVES IN TAURAMENA. THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES...

The situation in the Tauramena strike, which had spread to other municipalities in Aguazul has changed. Yesterday was a decisive days for the Casanarean community in their struggle against BP and OCENSA. In the morning BP tried to bring a small group of labour personal who had not participated in the strike into the facilities. This provocation forced some strikers to change themselves to the gates. Not achieving their aim, BP committed for the first time after a month of protest, to attend a meeting to and listen to the workers and communities.

At 4.30pm the meeting between workers and community representatives and BP began, with the Mayor of Tauramena and the Ombudsmand of Casanare present.

At the same time, we danced and sang the traditional songs from the región in support of the negotiating delegation and reaffirming our legitimate right to protest, to unionise and to defend life and our natural resources.

The long meeting reached the following agreement:

- Stop the direct action
- OCENSA ratified that there will be no retaliations.
- The creation of five themed working groups: labour problema, social investment, goods and services, environment and human rights.

The working groups will open on the 2nd March, begin to work on the 16th March and end the 16th April.

We can consider it an advance that BP sat down to talk with the protesters while the strike was in action, contrary to what BP had said in the previous days, that BP accepted to create themed working groups and recognize the Unión Sindical Obrera -USO- as the legítimate organisation of the workers. However, we must not let our guard down.

Conscious that the next two months will be decisive in establishing the game rules with the transnational companies that operate in the department, this is the moment that all the citizens of Aguazl and Tauramena municipalities should meet, deepen their understanding of the problems, take part in the working groups and keep movilising for the defense of the rights of the workers, the environment, social investment and for future generations to come.

Direct action is suspended but mobilisation continues.

¡Play a role in the future of the department!!

Tauramenera community in struggle, Unión Sindical Obrera -USO-, COSPACC