



## FRENTE OBRERO

UNION SINDICAL OBRERA DE LA INDUSTRIA DEL PETROLEO

Personería Jurídica No. 005272 del 22 de Octubre de 1993

Afiliada a: FUNTRAENERGETICA y a la CUT

**JUNTA DIRECTIVA TAURAMENA**

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Tauramena, 5 March 2010

### Shame and Dignity

**Workers at SAR ENERGY S.A., a subcontractor of OCENSA, have been protesting since January 22<sup>nd</sup> to ask for better wages and conditions, and to make demands on behalf of the people of Tauramena who have gradually gained the sympathy of other sectors of the community, to the extent that there has been an outpouring of assistance and mobilizations in response to the justice of their demands.**

These workers, showing dignity on behalf of both themselves and the people of Casanare, having launched a legitimate struggle, yes, on behalf of their group in relation to one particular company, have understood and taken on the challenge not only of generalizing their labour demands to all workers in the oil industry of the department, but also of extending the discussion to issues such as the environment, human rights, social goods and services, and social investment.

THE STRENGTH of the workers and community over the 30 days of the strike that forced BP to sit down to negotiate, has had a major impact on changing what was previously an operation working only in the interests of BP and its subcontractors, while experienced only as a form of exploitation by the workers.

Like the people of Tauramena, we have a historic challenge in front of us and cannot ease up now. We have been called upon to participate in the discussions of the negotiating tables, MEN AND WOMEN LONGING FOR JUSTICE WHOSE COMMITMENT TO THE SOCIAL MOBILIZATION WILL NOT FALTER. It is the moment for workers and communities to dialogue over objectives that will benefit the entire population.

The negotiation teams should be understood as an initial stage of mobilization in which all sectors of the department of Casanare and of the country, which declare themselves to be against injustice and arbitrary acts that put resources which should be used rationally for collective wellbeing at the disposal of commercial interests, should take part.

Accordingly, on 2 March 2010, workers and the community met with the firm BP in order to set the agenda, location, the form the negotiations would take, the roster of participants, work methodology, logistics and other practical aspects of the negotiating teams, according to the agreement reached on 23 February.

However, it was not possible to address and reach a consensus all the planned issues because the delegates of BP and OCENSA walked out, thereby unilaterally ending the meeting. With the same RUDENESS AND DISRESPECT, the firms tried to influence the selection of spokespeople and delegates from the community. And with NO SHAME, they released a document which was presented as though already agreed to by the parties involved through the illegitimate use of an attendance list, when it was never ratified by the community.

SHAME! They cannot refuse to recognise the representatives of the community and the workers! They cannot, after having looted the Department for 18 years, refuse to recognize the demands of the community of Casanara. They cannot continue to mistreat and step on the DIGNITY of the inhabitants of the region.

Recognising the importance and validity of the work that the movement of Tauramena has been developing, our commitment and duty is to continue with the unity and organization that will guarantee that we reach our objectives.

It is possible that this opportunity will not come around again if we let it pass by unnoticed, letting it slip away through idleness or mere personal or group interest. There is much more at stake here than that: no less than the ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SOCIAL RELATIONS AND THE DIGNITY OF A PEOPLE who have today put their confidence in the movement and who cannot be cheated by vain interests or by being complacent with the multinational. IT IS VITAL TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE RECLAIMING OUR UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED RIGHTS.

Let us unite to construct together that path and content of our demands in the negotiating tables:

SUNDAY 7 MARCH, 10 A.M. in the OPEN GROUNDS  
of the BARRIO LAS VILLAS-TAUREMA

**FOR DIGNITY AND THE GOOD OF ALL ...**

**UNITY AND ORGANIZATION**

-Comunidad tauramenera, Unión Sindical Obrera -USO-, COSPACC