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**Afiliada a: FUNTRAENERGETICA y a la CUT**

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## **SUCCESSFUL WORKER, PEASANT AND POPULAR ASSEMBLY**

“He who works, doesn't eat straw”, goes the popular saying. After the temporary suspension of the strike against BP and OCENSA in Tauramena municipality, the natural leaders of the movement have committed themselves to visiting the rural and urban communities to tell them about the following stage for the movement, that is the discussion and collective construction of their demands that they will take to the working groups, that start on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. To that effect, an assembly was called last Sunday in the sportsground of Las Villas neighbourhood.

The result of this work was seen reflected in the massive assistance at the colliseo. Men and women came from all over the municipality with only one wish; that they achieve justice in the face of the exploitation and constant violations of fundamental rights that they are subjected to by BP throughout the process of oil extraction.

This stage; democratic, broad, pluralist, enabled those who have suffered such attack to be heard, their live witness statements are the convincing proof of the cost that they have shouldered for only being in this territory gifted with oil potential. Their life stories have an incalculable value for the communities and the movement's process.

The work in the commissions was characterised by participation, discipline and respect; the ideas emerged naturally, as a product of the communities' needs. In their own language they identified which fundamental rights have been violated by BP and the Colombian State. The following stood out: the right to life, work and a healthy environment. They are conscious that the wealth that BP has taken from Casanare does not compare with the limited development on education, health, housing, and business in the Department. These are themes protected by the economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). The situation is quite the opposite. BP has left the region sunk in a serious humanitarian crisis and an environmental catastrophe. Today the movement can say that we gave one more step towards achieving our dreams and objectives. Today the basic elements necessary to demand that our rights are guaranteed and respected were shaped.

The assembly reflected a strong sense of solidarity. This was manifested by two keys events; firstly the support of the movement in Casanare by a national and international mission that travelled from Bogotá. They wanted to visit the region to collect testimonies, exchange experiences and contribute knowledge. The second expression of solidarity was by the workers, who organised a collection between them to be able to offer a lunch to all the assembly participants. These facts reflect that we, the communities, have this as an element of identity and we should reflect this by moving towards unity to achieve our goals.

We have given another step, the path long and hard, it is our historical duty for our children and our grandchildren to walk it. What still remains is the commitment to continue elaborating the demands, to continue educating the communities, dialogue to build unity, to have national and international support to avoid the process being attacked, to carry out the talks on our task list. The leaders of the movement must take on this commitment and guide their communities.

Today is a historic day in Tauramena, we have began to defeat fear.

We call on the community representatives for each working groups to meet together and to continue with the work of the demands, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm, Office of USO Tauramena.

**LONG LIVE THE NATIONAL WORKERS UNION AND THE JUST PROTEST OF THE WORKERS**  
**USO: 87 YEARS OF CONTINUED SURVIVAL AND STRUGGLE TO DEFEND THE WORKERS**

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

**Written by the Movement for the Dignity of Casanare, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010**