

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2007

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States of America
Robert F. Kennedy Building
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

We are writing to follow up on a letter sent to your predecessor, John Ashcroft, on June 25, 2003, a copy of which is attached.

In that letter, a number of us expressed grave concerns about allegations of connections between United States corporations and the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia ("AUC"). The AUC was designated as a "terrorist organization" by the State Department on September 10, 2001 and as a "drug kingpin" by President George W. Bush on June 2, 2003. As noted in the previous letter, it is illegal under U.S. law for any person to knowingly provide material support to an entity under either such designation. As you are no doubt aware, concerns about connections between U.S. corporations and the AUC were borne out earlier this year when Chiquita Banana Corporation admitted to providing material support to the AUC over a period of several years.

The 2003 letter highlighted the specific case of Drummond Company, Inc., a corporation based in Birmingham, Alabama. According to counsel for the International Labor Rights Fund and the United Steelworkers of America, Drummond is alleged to have paid AUC paramilitaries to murder three trade union leaders – Valmore Locarno, Victor Orcasita and Gustavo Soler. This case, in addition to being the subject of a civil suit in Alabama filed in 2002 and now scheduled for trial in July of this year, is also the subject of a criminal investigation by the Colombian Attorney General, Mario Iguaran.

While it is not yet appropriate to assess the allegations against Drummond, we believe that, in light of the investigation by Colombia's Attorney General, these allegations are sufficiently credible to merit a U.S. Justice Department probe pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 2339B, which prohibits "knowingly providing material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization."

Bearing in mind that certain information may be subject to nondisclosure, we are requesting any information that you may be permitted to share with us under applicable law and regulation concerning an investigation of Drummond, or any other U.S. company

operating in Colombia, by the Justice Department for a possible violation of 18 U.S.C. 2339B. If no such probe has begun, we strongly urge that one be started immediately, subject to the rules and regulations of the Department of Justice.

Finally, there are two witnesses in Colombia who have signed sworn statements alleging the involvement of Drummond with the AUC. One of these men, Edwin Manuel Guzman, is a former Colombian soldier who asserts that his unit cooperated with the paramilitaries in protecting Drummond's facilities. The other, Rafael Garcia, is the former Director of Office Systems at the DAS, the Colombian equivalent of the FBI. Garcia claims he was present at a meeting in which a Drummond official paid the AUC to "undertake violent actions" against Orcasita and Locarno, two of the three union workers who were murdered. Although Guzman is in the Colombian witness protection program and Garcia is in prison, both believe their lives are at risk. Therefore we urge the Department of Justice and the U.S. Embassy in Colombia to take whatever steps possible to see that these men receive the protection necessary to ensure they will be available for any U.S. investigation.

We eagerly await your written reply to this letter.

Sincerely,



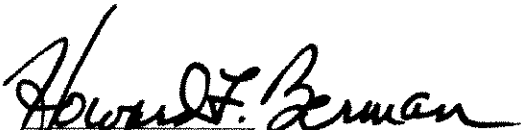
Bill Delahunt


George Miller

Tom Lantos



Eliot L. Engel


Howard L. Berman
Christopher H. Smith