

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
COLOMBIA DELEGATION
AGRARIAN REVOLT AGAINST FREE TRADE PACTS

The National Lawyers Guild announces a delegation to Colombia in response to the national agrarian strike (*paro nacional agrario*) and the government's military actions. The Colombian agricultural sector has been rebelling against the imposition of "free trade" pacts, which have sunk small and middle-size farmers into increasing poverty.

The agrarian sector organized a national strike against these "free trade" policies on August 19, 2013. The Colombian government's response has been repressive, with increased militarization of the countryside and violence in urban areas, including arrests of farmers and union leaders.

The purpose of the Delegation is to document and report back on the conditions of Colombian farmers and the human rights crisis sparked by the government's repression of the agrarian strike.

Sponsor: The Delegation is sponsored by the International Committee of the National Lawyers Guild and hosted by the *Comité Permanente Por La Defensa De Los Derechos Humanos* (the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights), a well-respected human rights organization.

Location: The Delegation will be based in Bogotá with travel to the department of Nariño.

Date: November 10, 2013 – November 17, 2013 including travel to and from Colombia.

Activities: The Delegation will include, but is not limited to, the following activities:

Meet with political organizations that spearheaded the resistance to "free trade," including the *Marcha Patriótica*.

Meet with various trade unions including Fensuagro, the trade union that has been at the forefront of the national strike.

Learn about the situation of Colombian political prisoners, including the case of Hubert Ballesteros, a leader of Fensuagro who was recently arrested during the national strike. Delegates will visit political prisoners in a Colombian prison if political conditions allow.

Meet with Colombian experts on the effects of the free trade pacts and the political and economic implications of the Pacific Alliance for Colombia.

Learn about the ongoing peace talks between the Colombian government and the insurgency in Havana, Cuba from civic leaders in Colombia who are demanding to be included in the peace process.

Travel to the department of Nariño to meet with farmer leaders to learn first-hand the effects of the free trade pacts on the local economy. The Delegation will investigate and document the human rights situation in this area of Colombia.

Meet with human rights organizations such as *Movice*, *CACTUS*, and *Sinaltrainal* to discuss the human rights problems of forced displacement, extra-judicial assassinations, arbitrary arrests, the situation of women in the Colombian conflict, and the rights of the indigenous and Afro-Colombians.

Cost: \$950. Includes all transportation within Colombia, including internal flights, plus hotel, and breakfast. Delegates are responsible for arranging their transportation to Bogotá, Colombia.

Delegates: The delegation is open to lawyers, legal workers, and all interested parties.

Please submit your application by close of business Friday, October 4, 2013. Submissions are to be sent via email to <nvp1@nlg.org>.

For more information: Visit the National Lawyers Guild at www.nlg.org. Contact Camilo Romero <nvp1@nlg.org> and Mark Burton <burtonslaw2000@yahoo.com>.