

## Trade Unionists at Risk in Colombia

In celebration of Labour Day, Amnesty International Canada has prepared a new online action on behalf of Javier Correa and other trade unionists at risk in Colombia. You can find it at [http://www.amnesty.ca/indiv\\_at\\_risk/email/sept2008\\_javier\\_correa.html](http://www.amnesty.ca/indiv_at_risk/email/sept2008_javier_correa.html)

This action is in the form of an e-petition and hence is quick and easy -- i.e. people don't have to write their own letter although they can add a comment, should they wish to.

More than 1250 people have already signed on. However, **we need to bump that number up into the thousands in order to have an impact. So please, sign the petition and circulate it to all of your networks. Your help is crucial to the success of this initiative.**

We have approached a number of trade unions in Canada who have generously agreed to put a link to our action on their websites, in order to encourage their members to sign on. **If you have connections with any unions, union locals, or like-minded organizations, please reach out to them and seek their support in getting their members to sign the petition via an item on their website or other means of commendation.**

Eventually, we will also be delivering a printed version of the petition to the authorities in Colombia and to government members in Canada, as well as key members of the opposition (since the substance of the petition is further evidence of the need for a human rights impact assessment of the proposed Canada Colombia Free Trade Agreement).

We know that Colombian authorities are anxious to achieve ratification of the free trade agreement and hence are particularly sensitive about improving their international image at this moment. At the same time, the number of assassinations of trade unionists in Colombia - - 41 so far this year -- has increased alarmingly from the total for the same period last year.

**For all of these reasons, please do not delay ...** visit [http://www.amnesty.ca/indiv\\_at\\_risk/email/sept2008\\_javier\\_correa.html](http://www.amnesty.ca/indiv_at_risk/email/sept2008_javier_correa.html) , click on the "Take action on this case" button, then scroll down to the petition, fill in the boxes and send.

The lives of courageous human rights defenders in Colombia -- and their vital work -- depend on your action.

Many thanks for your solidarity!