

Resolution Title: Resolution on Coca-Cola
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 trade unionists have been assassinated in Colombia since 1990; and

WHEREAS, both NYSUT and the AFT are on record as denouncing what the AFT Executive Council has called “the persistent violence against teachers and other working people in Colombia,” noting “...that trade unionists continue to be the targets of threats, physical intimidation, displacement and even assassination”, and

WHEREAS, the Coca-Cola Company and its Colombian bottlers are being sued in the United States under the Alien Claims Tort Act for having “contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that used extreme violence and murdered, tortured, and unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders”, and

WHEREAS, after a fact-finding trip to Colombia in 2004, a delegation of labor, educators and student representatives concluded that Coca-Cola is complicit in human rights abuses in Colombia,” and that its “complicity is deepened by its repeated pattern of bringing criminal charges against union activists who have spoken out about the company’s collusion with the paramilitaries”, and

WHEREAS, the Proxy Committees of the New York City Employees’ Retirement System and the New York City Teachers’ Retirement System, holders of 5,257,217 shares of Coca-Cola Company common stock with an estimated market value of \$209,132,092 resolved on October 6, 2004 to submit a shareholder proposal at Coca-Cola’s next annual meeting asking that the company sponsor an independent investigation of allegations against the company, said investigation to include representatives from the United States and Colombian human rights organizations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT refrain from serving or selling Coca-Cola products at its offices or at any venues for its events, meetings, conferences and conventions until the allegations have been investigated; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT recommend to all its affiliates that they not serve or sell Coca-Cola products at their offices or at venues for their events, meetings, conferences and conventions.