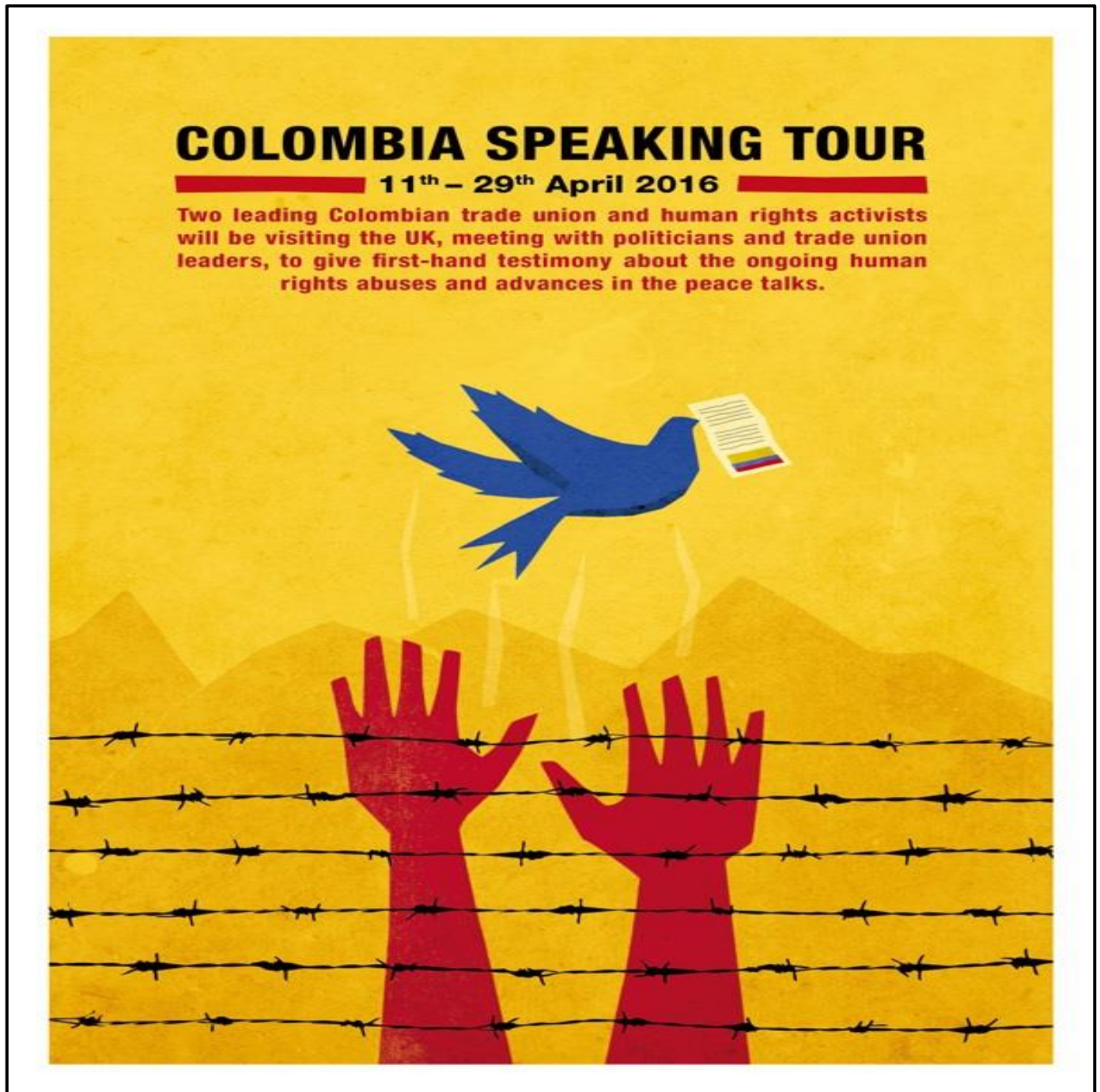


Justice for Colombia Special public meeting 22 April, 11:30, Unison, York St, Belfast



This Justice for Colombia event is hosted by UNISON, UNITE & NIC-ICTU Global Solidarity. Please forward to your union's global solidarity activists, and any people who may be interested.



Gustavo Rengifo is a trade union activist from Cauca in south-west Colombia. He is a member of the agricultural workers union, FENSUAGRO, and the Patriotic March, a coalition of over 2000 organisations campaigning for peace and social justice. In May 2015 paramilitaries kidnapped Gustavo and tortured and threatened him, accusing him of being a member of the FARC. They pressured him to work as an informant and threatened to murder his family if he refused. Since then he has been in hiding.



A total of 94 Patriotic March members were killed and 4 forcibly disappeared in the period 2012-2015. In its nearly 40 year history over 1,500 members of FENSUAGO have been killed.

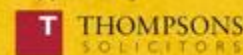
Deivin Hurtado is a leading human rights activist and Head of the South-West Colombia Human Rights Network, which is part of the Patriotic March. He was gravely wounded with a grenade during the violent police and army repression of the mass strike in 2013—the largest industrial action seen in Colombia for decades. He had been asked to mediate in the strike as a human rights observer. In Cauca alone, 84 people were injured, there were 36 arbitrary arrests, 11 human rights defenders were attacked and one activist killed during the strikes in August and September 2013. In a meeting with the local attorney general it was stated that the cases investigating these abuses would be archived.



Two JFC delegations met with Gustavo and Deivin during visits to Cauca in 2015. Cauca department is heavily militarised and is one of the most conflict-ridden areas of Colombia. In 2015 it was one of the regions with the highest amounts of human rights defenders killed in Colombia, with 10 killed in the first half of 2015 alone. Many were local indigenous and left-wing activists, killed by paramilitaries and directly by the military.



Supported by:



*This free event will be held in Unison, York St, at 11:30am on 22 April. All welcome.
Please register by emailing info@ictuni.org*