

COSURCA SOUTH OF CAUCA COOPERATIVE

Timbio.
Cauca Department
Colombia, February the 17th 2014

We wish to send our warmest solidarity greetings to the members of the cooperative and to the Palestinian people rural workers.

Our cooperative, Cosurca, is an organization that includes rural indigenous people and communities of African descent.

It is located south of the Cauca Department, in the south-western part of Colombia, in Latin America.

Our main activities are related to the production of organic coffee and to the capacity-building and empowerment of peasant organizations through technical help and capacity training. We emphasize solidarity relationships between our members and with other peoples throughout the world, within a justice oriented commercial framework.

We have been working for over ten years with the Paris based Andines cooperative, a sister organization with which we share efforts and hopes.

We are therefore aware of the close links of solidarity and work established by Andines with the producers and workers of Palestine.

The latter, through efforts and sacrifices, produce and market a millenary oil and other local products that the world needs.

Speaking of efforts and sacrifices, we are referring to the occupation and domination imposed by the State of Israel on your land and culture.

This occupation prevents you from exercising your right to self-determination, from constructing a Nation and an independent State, from economical development and from being free.

We were informed at the time of the arbitrary arrest of our friend Michel Besson by the Israeli authorities as he was about to visit you in order to strengthen solidarity

relationships with you and to develop the promotion of the activities of your communities in your repressed region.

We have denounced this arrest that we see as unjust and as undermining individual freedoms.

We have also witnessed the permanent harassment carried out by dominant fascism against the Palestinian people.

The Cosurca cooperative is frequently threatened as well by organizations seeking at all costs to control its land and to deprive it of its wealth.

We are referring to the stakeholders of a war that has been destroying our crops for almost fifty years and to the multinational corporations currently exploiting mines, water, coffee and other products.

All of this at the expense of our fragile organizations and of our rural sector characterized by poverty.

We're talking about comparable situations made of difficulties and huge efforts to survive and move forward among your cooperatives whether in Palestine or among our brothers in the south-western part of Colombia. This is why we wish to express our solidarity and send our fraternal regards to the members of your cooperatives and of your communities. Despite the distance between us, your daily struggles are an example and a source of inspiration for our organizations and for our people.

The perseverance and the resistance of each of us are a mutual incentive / encouragement to reach our objectives.

We pay special attention to your political and economical situation and are open to any initiative that could implement cooperation and solidarity mechanisms between our cooperatives, our communities and our people in order to hold up hope and to make each other stronger.

We are sending you our deepest fraternal solidarity greetings from all the organizations that make up our cooperative, Cosurca.

Peasant, indigenous and of Afro-colombian origin coffee organizations from the Center and the South of the Cauca Department - Colombia.

Association of organic producers of the Sierra - ASPROS

Association of organic producers of the South (La Vega) - ASPROSUR

Association of producers of food products from Almaguer - ASPROALMAGUER

Associaion of the producers of food products of Sucre - ASPROSUCRE

Association of organic producers of San Lorenzo (Bolívar Department)

Association of the groups of coffee management of Florencia - ASOCAFE

Association of the producers of food products of the Cordillera Patiana -
ASPROCOP

Association of producers of fruits and vegetables of Mesa Patia - FRUTAS Y
FUTURO

Association of afro-ecological producers of Balboa - ASPROBALBOA

Association of producers of food products of Argelia - ASOPROA

Association of peasant producers of La Pedregoda - ASOCAMP

Cooperative of the South of Cauca - COSURCA