



## Message of support from 25,000 U.S. longshore workers to the people of Costa Rica, and Limón and Moín:

For some time, workers in the SINTRAJAP port workers union have been under an unfair, illegal attack by the Costa Rican government. They have offered SINTRAJAP leaders huge payouts to give up their union so the ports can be privatized. But SINTRAJAP refuses to betray their community. They are holding firm because they are concerned not only how this attack will affect their own families, but also their neighbors and paisanos. You have a right to know what's at stake before it's too late:

### Foreign capital should not be allowed to take control of Costa Rican exports

The forced privatization of the Ports of Limón and Moín means that the people of Costa Rica will lose the rights to national property. If SINTRAJAP is defeated, multinational corporations will be in charge of Costa Rica's imports and exports. SINTRAJAP wants to work with JAPDEVA to modernize Costa Rican ports for the betterment of all Costa Rican people – not foreign entities.

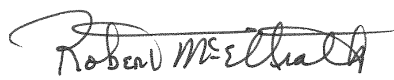
### Democracy must be protected from underhanded attacks


If the Costa Rican government gets away with illegally replacing the workers' elected leaders on the docks, they could do it anywhere. SINTRAJAP's democratically elected General Secretary, Ronaldo Blear, was replaced in a sham election forced by the Costa Rican government, by a vote of only 345 of 1500 members present. That is not a majority! Workers voted to reaffirm him soon thereafter, but the government remains in defiance of international labor law. They have taken away the union's access to its bank accounts and started shutting down their union office. This attack on democracy is not something a Nobel Prize-winning president should allow. If it happens to SINTRAJAP, it can happen to anyone!

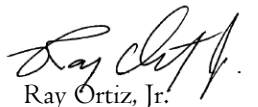
### JAPDEVA funding for schools and services should continue to benefit everybody


In Limón and Moín, many people rely on JAPDEVA funds to build good schools and important services for local families. There's no reason to change the way things have worked for local communities for this long. SINTRAJAP is fighting to protect JAPDEVA funding for everyone.

**We thank you for your attention and ask for your support for democracy and the workers of SINTRAJAP.**

  
Robert McEllrath  
International President

  
Ray Familate  
International Vice President

  
Ray Ortiz, Jr.  
Coast Committeeman

  
Leal A. Sundet  
Coast Committeeman

This ad is paid for by the Coast Longshore Division of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which represents 25,000 longshore workers on the West Coast of the United States. We are committed to ensuring that SINTRAJAP's democratically elected leaders are restored to their rightful union representation positions in Puerto Limón and Puerto Moín, where they can participate in the planning of the modernization of the docks, and protect the important public services that JAPDEVA provides in their local communities.

