

EURO ANDEAN INITIATIVE
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE RESISTANCE

invites you to participate
in the conference



WHY COLOMBIA? IMAGES BEHIND THE OPPORTUNITIES

held at the

Sheraton Park Hotel, Picadilly

may 17th

close partnership of the Colombian government and British business

W H Y I N V E S T I N C O L O M B I A

UK is the second largest investor in Colombia, after the US. Due to Colombia's immense wealth in biological and mineral resources, including oil, as well as the construction of a new interoceanic canal, Colombia is having an increasingly central geostrategic role in the global capitalist system. A key element in creating a positive business environment is minimising labour costs and controlling the workforce. In 1999 half the trade union leaders assassinated in the world were Colombians. Wider socio-political conditions favouring privatisation processes are assured by the consistent extermination of political organisers. Since 1987, five presidential candidates have been assassinated, as have 3500 opposition activists. Investors in both agribusiness and megaprojects have vast swathes of land at their disposal which are free of their inhabitants who have been forcefully displaced by paramilitary terror.

In a country of 38 million, over 800 people have been massacred since January this year. Of the 2 million people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes and land, over half have been from the black communities who mainly live along the rivers of the Pacific coast region. Many of the Indigenous peoples, such as the U'wa, are being hounded into oblivion, especially in areas rich in biological and mineral resources.

The oil, mining, electrical and road building sectors are pushing people off the land, resulting in an agrarian counter-reform.

These investment conditions are being guaranteed and furthered by the international community. US led Plan Colombia is a \$1.3 billion military intervention package in the name of the "war on drugs". This is rejected by most Colombian grassroots organisations as a war on the peoples of that country.

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contact for more info on future direct action investments in Colombia