



International trade agreements Latin America

EFFAT

EFFAT is the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors.

EFFAT represents 120 national trade unions from 35 European countries.

EFFAT defends the interests of more than 22 million workers.

FGTB ABVV Horval international projects: sugar in Latin America

Peru

El Salvador

Honduras

Colombia

Bolivia



Peru

Trade union activists are accused of terrorism by big international companies.

El Salvador



- 50,000 jobs in the sugar sector (agriculture, transport, manufacturing).
- Seasonal work: 3 to 6 months/year.
- Cane cutters live in extreme poverty conditions (earning 227\$/month).
- No social protection.
- No pension → workers usually have to work until 70 years old.
- Women are often joined by their kids in the fields → child labour.
- No protection equipment (e.g. special clothing) unless deducted from salary.

Honduras



- 15,000 direct jobs during the 2018-19 campaign.
- Threats of contracts terminations for workers asking for better working conditions.
- Anti-trade union system.
- Being affiliated to a trade union is prohibited.

Colombia (1)



- Sugarcane cutters seen as “slaves of modern times”.
- Cane burning, with negative effects on workers’ health and on the environment.
- Extreme violence towards trade unions.
- Complaints at ILO level.
- Increased number of job losses since 2012 – especially for trade union members.
- Dangerous country for trade union members (murders)



Colombia (2)

Bolivia



- The poorest country in Latin America.
- Subcontracting.
- No medical insurance, no holidays, no pension, etc.
- Targeting of trade union members.
- Poor living conditions, populated areas situated very far away from the fields.



Thank you for your attention!

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