



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

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Memorandum 19:18

Date: May 21, 2019
To: Presidents, Local, Federated and Provincial Associations
From: David Robinson, Executive Director
Re: **Urgent Appeal: CAUT Refugee Foundation**

At the last CAUT Council meeting, Dr. Carlos Zambrano Escamilla, president of the Sindicato de Profesores de la Fundación Universidad Autónoma de Colombia, addressed delegates about the deteriorating human rights conditions in his country. According to the International Trade Union Confederation, paramilitary groups have assassinated over 500 trade union and human rights defenders in the past year alone.

Dr. Escamilla has received death threats from these same paramilitary groups because of his trade union activities. Consequently, he has applied for refugee status in Canada.

CAUT is appealing to academic staff associations and their members to donate to the CAUT Refugee Foundation to support Dr. Escamilla's resettlement efforts. The Foundation, established in the 1970s, is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency, allowing it to issue tax receipts. All donations received will be used to assist Dr. Escamilla with his basic living expenses as he awaits his refugee hearing.

Cheques can be made to the order of the CAUT Refugee Foundation and sent to:

CAUT Refugee Foundation
2705 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K2B 8K2