

Update on Drummond Cases

Many of you know that starting in 2001, I filed several human rights cases against Drummond Company, Inc., an Alabama coal giant that has a huge coal mining operation in Colombia. My cases alleged that Drummond, like Chiquita, Dole, Prodeco, and many other multinationals, partnered with the AUC, a paramilitary organization designated a terrorist organization in 2001 by the U.S. State Department, to suppress union activity and prevent leftist organizations from seeking to hold Drummond accountable for environmental and human rights crimes. Drummond's AUC partners murdered the union leaders at its coal mine and murdered hundreds of others suspected of being sympathetic to the leftists. In response to my cases, Drummond filed two classic SLAPP suits (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against me, one for defamation and one for RICO violations. Both cases are pure baseless retaliatory cases designed to cost me time and money, and distract me from my own cases.

A key aspect of the Drummond cases is the false accusation that I bribed witnesses. This is an intentional falsehood by Drummond and its lawyers. The fact is that I organized a plan to relocate the families of witnesses so they could testify without their families being murdered by Drummond's terrorist thugs. As the former head of the U.S. Department of Justice's witness protection program, Stephen J. T'Kach, testified for me [[link to declaration](#)], this is standard practice in law enforcement. Witnesses obviously will not testify if their families will be murdered in response.

Drummond also accused me of bribing their former business partner, Jaime Blanco Maya, because I provided funds for his lawyers so that he could testify truthfully against Drummond once he learned they were conspiring to frame him for the murders of the union leaders. This is also standard and ethical practice. Based on the evidence that Jaime Blanco and others provided, a Special Prosecutor in Colombia has charged Drummond's current President, Juan Miguel Linares, and its part President, Augusto Jimenez, with financing crimes against humanity, including the murder of Drummond's union leaders.

I just returned from Colombia where Jamie Blanco testified against the Drummond Presidents. He provided several key documents, including a finding by the Colombian government that pardoned him from prior charges of his involvement in the murders of the union leaders and included findings that his testimony against Drummond was entirely truthful and corroborated by independent evidence [[LINK](#)].



Jaime Blanco Maya testifying on December 11, 2023

Jaime's testimony against Drummond was devastating for the Drummond Presidents. He discussed the clear forensic accounting expert report proving his claim that he made an arrangement at Drummond's insistence to overcharge Drummond over 2 million U.S. dollars for food services so that he could funnel Drummond's money to the AUC. He described in detail Drummond's known relationship with the AUC. His testimony makes it almost a certainty that Linares and Jimenez will go to prison in Colombia for at least 38 years under Colombia law. They were present at the hearing, and looked appropriately concerned:



Linares (left) and Jimenez observing Jaime Blanco's December 11, 2023, testimony against them.

The Colombian process is now wrapping up and we expect a conviction against Drummond and a vindication for IRAdvocates and me personally. We will keep you updated.