

National Confederation of Trade Union Unity
(Confederación Nacional de Unidad Sindical)

PRESS STATEMENT

The National Confederation of Trade Union Unity (*Confederación Nacional de Unidad Sindical*) (CNUS), publicly declares before national opinion leaders the concern we feel regarding the insistence of international organizations who try to denigrate the Dominican Sugar Industry, alleging that child labor is still practiced within the industry.

Our Confederation has confirmed that the long process to combat child labor has been successful and as a result of this the sugar industry, composed of Central Romana Corporation, VICINI and Consorcio Central of Barahona, has been able to eradicate child labor from its operations, and moreover, on the contrary, they possess an educational program that is carried out jointly with the unions, with the aim to create awareness regarding the need of our sugar industry not to revert to practices that have been successfully overcome.

We would like to point out that mechanization within the industry has also contributed to more than 50% of sugar cane production being harvested without the need to hire Haitian sugar cane cutters. It is not beneficial to the country that based on a false premise cases against the nation are built, which contribute to the loss of jobs in a sector such as the sugar industry - that during the past few years has gained great international acceptance for the quality of the products that these companies export to the international market.

If child labor existed in the sugar industry, our Confederation would not hesitate to denounce it, as we have always behaved in that way, but we cannot allow for a distorted vision to destroy all the effort it has taken to develop the current sugar industry.

Courtesy Translation Prepared by the Dominican Sugar Industry