

Colombians sue Chiquita Brands

by UPI

BOGOTA - Relatives of people killed by paramilitary groups paid by Chiquita Brands have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. company, El Tiempo reported online Thursday.

A Colombian paramilitary leader said this year that several U.S. companies paid right-wing gunmen responsible for thousands of deaths.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe said in March his government was considering seeking the extradition of officials from Chiquita Brands International, after the company admitted paying right-wing paramilitary groups.

Chiquita, based in Cincinnati, agreed to pay a \$25 million fine for paying the armed groups \$1.7 million to protect its employees from 1997 to 2004, ABC News reported.

The U.S. State Department regards the right-wing death squads as terrorists.

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