



ACTIONCall

March 10, 2008

STOP the Colombia Free Trade Agreement

The Colombia Free Trade Agreement should be a complete non-starter, yet the Bush Administration insists on pressuring Congress to support the agreement. We need to make sure that Congress understands our union refuses to watch from the sidelines while a trade agreement is passed with the country that has the worst track record of union member murders in the world. **This is unacceptable, and we want the positions of Members of Congress on the record.**

Please contact the Members of Congress that represent your local (Representatives and Senators), and ask them to sign the attached statement.

It is up to your local to determine how you will ask! Here are three ideas for you to use or feel free to take action in some other way:

⇒Phone Calls

The following toll-free number is directed to the Capitol Switchboard for your use:
866-203-4960

⇒Write Notes

Locals can send notes using the following addresses:

Representative [last name]	Senator [last name]
U.S. House of Representatives	U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515	Washington, DC 20510

⇒Set up a Meeting with your Members of Congress

Contact your District Rapid Response Coordinator for assistance.

Signature updates will be posted on the Rapid Response website.

The following are sample talking points that can be used during the action.

- The inclusion of labor and environmental provisions in the trade agreement are meaningless. George Bush does not believe in labor rights or environmental rights and he won't enforce them.
- There are no good reasons why we should have any trade agreement with a country that murders or allows the murders of union members or union leaders. The blatant human rights violations there need to be cleaned up before we even consider a deal with them.
- Just because "fewer" union members were murdered in the last year in Colombia doesn't mean we should have a trade agreement with them. We should CONSIDER a trade agreement with them when there are NO murders of trade unionists there. Any killings are unacceptable.
- The Colombian government is now acting like they are really concerned about the murders of trade union members in their country. I don't think we should have a trade agreement with any country that only cares about the murders of their citizens when there is money to be made from trade. We need to stop any talk at this point of a trade agreement with them and see if they clean up their act.
- There should be no trade agreement with Colombia until ALL murders of union members there stop and until ALL past murders are prosecuted. We must insist on justice prevailing and on basic human rights being respected.
- If we do a trade deal with Colombia, what message are we sending around the world? We would be telling other countries that it is ok to kill innocent citizens who are simply exercising their fundamental rights. I don't think we want to be a country that condones the slaughter of union members. There should be no trade deal with Colombia until they clean up their act completely.

Always remember to include or note your address when you are communicating with your Members of Congress so that they know you are a constituent.



Dear Member of Congress,

The pending Colombia Free Trade Agreement gives cause for deep concern. Any society that does not protect the rights of its people should not be rewarded with stronger trade relationships with the United States. Union members in Colombia are routinely harassed, intimidated, harmed and killed when they organize, speak-out, or bargain for a contract. This is completely unacceptable. We ask that you sign the following statement to join us in standing up for the rights of workers in Colombia and oppose this expansion of trade.

Statement in Support of Colombia Workers' Rights

Passage of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement will send a strong signal that horrific violations of workers' rights are acceptable to the United States. Currently, union members are routinely murdered in Colombia for exercising their internationally-accepted rights to associate and bargain collectively. I will support these workers and their human rights by opposing this agreement.

Signature: _____
Member of Congress

Date: _____

Please Return Signed Statements to the United Steelworkers.
(412) 562-2266 fax
(412) 562-2291 phone