

A fair and humane trade agreement cannot exist in a climate where **union leaders are under threat, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities and small-scale farmers are being stripped of their land and extrajudicial killings are conducted with widespread impunity.**

HOW WILL FREE TRADE WITH COLOMBIA JEOPORDIZE HUMAN RIGHTS?

As a presidential candidate, Barack Obama indicated that he would oppose the U.S.-Colombia FTA unless the human rights conditions were improved. But look at the facts:

- Colombia remains the most dangerous country in the world for trade unionists. According to the International Trade Unionist Confederation, 46 unionists were killed in 2010. Between June and October 2010 alone, 33 human rights activists were killed.
- Even without the FTA, Colombian labor law doesn't respect even minimum international labor standards. The laws that are in place are not effectively enforced. But the FTA would push Colombia to lower minimum wage, and remove or reduce guarantees for overtime pay, collective bargaining and worker's compensation.



- According to the Pan-American Health Organization, the FTA would raise annual medicinal costs for Colombians by \$900 million.
- Intellectual property rights provisions would place patents on traditional medicinal knowledge and natural resources, rendering traditional medicinal practices illegal.
- The FTA requires changes to the Colombian Constitution that would deny indigenous populations' communal landholding status.
- Without protections from U.S. agricultural imports subsidized by the U.S. government to the tune of \$24 billion per year, the Colombian agricultural sector is predicted to lose 11% of its total income.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM FREE TRADE WITH COLOMBIA?

- Drug traffickers: when growing food becomes unsustainable, some farmers turn to cultivating illicit crops like coca.
- The FTA proposes reforms that give national and multinational corporations increased access to exploit natural resources.
- The agreement allows more large-scale agricultural, mining and other resource extraction projects to push Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities off their ancestral lands.
- The FTA would allow U.S. corporations to extend patents on medicines, a prioritization of profit over access to health care.
- U.S. corporations would have the right to challenge environmental protection laws in Colombia as "barriers to trade."



HOW TO HELP STOP THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT:

- **Participate in the National Days of Action for Colombia from April 8 to 11.** WFP and our allies are advocating for U.S. policies that alleviate displacement instead of exacerbating Colombia's crisis.
- **Tell your congressional representatives to vote "no."**
- **Join a Witness for Peace delegation to Colombia.** Return to your community with the skills you need to change minds and policy.
- For additional resources and more information, **visit WitnessForPeace.org/DOA2011**