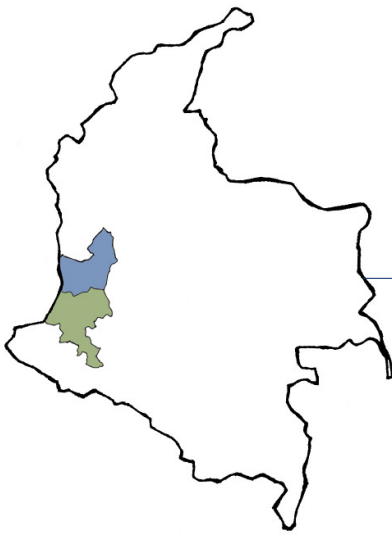


WITNESS FOR PEACE DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA

Bilateral Free Trade Agreement, Human Rights and Military Repression AUG. 24TH – SEPT. 3RD, 2008



Colombia has always been a rich nation in its agricultural diversity. Control of natural resources has historically fueled conflict with a pattern of internal displacement for Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities. Colombia's Pacific Coast, an area lush with natural resources is 80%-95% African-descendant, who along side indigenous peoples, have inhabited these isolated territories for 400 years. These communities have endured decades of a brutal armed conflict between guerrillas, paramilitary death squads and the national army. Right now the U.S. government is trying to push a free trade agreement with Colombia which would further jeopardize the rights of indigenous and Afro Colombian communities. Also, since Plan Colombia began in 2000, the U.S. government has provided Colombia with over \$5 billion in mostly military aid to fight the "War on Drugs" and the "War on Terror." In light of the long term internal civil conflict in Colombia, how is the free trade agreement and U.S. military aid used or connected to these human rights violations? These communities are calling for support from U.S. citizens to spread the word about their situation and help call for respect for their rights.



Photo (above right): Colombian indigenous Guambianos march against the free trade agreement. Indigenous groups in Cauca have been very vocal in their opposition to the proposed free trade agreement. Due to their anti free trade agreement organizing they have been attacked by state police forces resulting in deaths of community members.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DELEGATION

- Learn about Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities struggle for territory, culture and environment.
- Meet with communities organizing in resistance to current military and free trade policies in the provinces of Cauca and Valle de Cauca.
- Meet with a wide range of Colombians including community leaders, displaced persons, and human rights defenders.
- Learn how to educate and advocate to US citizens and policy makers.

COST

\$1300 plus airfare. Includes meals, accommodations, facilitation, translation, and transportation within Colombia.

APPLICATION DUE

July 1st, with \$150 deposit. Full payment due July 24th.
NOTE: Deposit is a part of the full payment for the delegation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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