



Citizens Trade Digest

May 29, 2008

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Bush reiterates his commitment to passing US-Colombia FTA

President Bush reminded legislators on May 23 that he has not given up on passing the Colombia Free Trade Agreement before the end of his term. He renewed the call for Congressional Democrats to approve the FTA.

Certain business interests have stepped up their lobbying efforts, citing the market access they anticipate following the enactment of the trade deal.

Colombia President Alvaro Uribe ordered the extradition of 14 Colombian paramilitary leaders to the United States on May 13. The act was widely perceived as an effort to placate Congressional Democrats opposed to the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Human Rights Watch sent a letter to the House and Senate arguing that the extradition validates Democratic lawmakers' decision to delay voting on the US-Colombia FTA.

Colombian labor leaders announced their intent to petition the International Labor Organization to investigate anti-union violence in the country. Civil society representatives in the United States have continued to denounce the repression of labor union activists and Afro-Colombians, as well as point to the likely environmental fallout of the FTA.

*News Sources***Bush: Still chance for Colombia, South Korea pacts**

Reuters, May 23, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_stillchanceforftas_05232008.pdf**Bush lobbies Congress to pass free-trade deals**

Associated Press, May 23, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_BushlobbiesCongressonFTAs_05232008.pdf**Groups lobbying for stalled trade deals**

Politico, May 21, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/politico_lobbyingfortradedeals_05212008.pdf**Colombian Unions to Seek Investigation of Anti-Labor Activity**

Bloomberg, May 14, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/bloomberg_colombialaborseeksinvestigation_05142008.pdf**Colombia extradites 14 paramilitary leaders to U.S.**

LA Times, May 14, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/latimes_colombiaextraditesfourteen_05142008.pdf**COLOMBIA: "Mark Him on the Ballot - The One Wearing Glasses"**

IPS, May 8, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ips_guywithglasses_05082008.pdf**Colombia Extradites Paramilitary Leader**

Wall Street Journal, May 8, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj_ColombiaExtraditesParamilitary_05082008.pdf*Statements & Reports***U.S. and Colombian Church Leaders Call on Congress to Substantially Reduce Military Aid, to Strengthen Human Rights Protections and to Vote No on the U.S.-Colombia FTA**

May 20, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/faithlettertoCongress_05202008.pdf**Extradited Paramilitary Leaders and the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement**

Human Rights Watch, May 20, 2008

Letter to House: hrw.org/english/docs/2008/05/20/colomb18891.htmLetter to Senate: hrw.org/english/docs/2008/05/20/colomb18889.htm**Oppose the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement**

Amazon Watch, Earthjustice, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace USA, Sierra Club, Rainforest Action Network, May 15, 2008

Letter to House: www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/envirocolombiaFTAsign-onhouse.pdfLetter to Senate: www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/envirocolombiaFTAsign-onsenate.pdf

AFRO-COLOMBIANS: AUTONOMOUS RIGHTS UNDERMINED: Systematic Repression and the U.S.– Colombia Free Trade Agreement

TransAfrica Forum, May 1, 2008

www.transafricaforum.org/policy/documents/ACColumbiaReportFINALMayDay08.pdf

More information on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement is available at:

www.citizenstrade.org/cfta.php

South Koreans protest US beef imports; Panamanian President Torrijos visits Bush to discuss FTA

South Koreans have vigorously protested their government's decision to resume unrestricted importation of US Beef. The ban formally expired on May 29, the same day that the South Korean parliament dissolved to make way for newly elected members. President Lee Myung-Bak's Grand National Party will take a majority of the seats when the body reconvenes on May 30. To date, the President's political opposition has prevented a vote on the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

The office of Senator Barack Obama released a letter on May 24 in response to President Bush's call for a vote on the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement. The letter urged the Bush administration to stop the push for a vote on the FTA.

Panamanian President Marin Torrijos visited Washington DC to meet with President Bush and discuss the US-Panama Free Trade Agreement. Following the visit, President Bush declared his commitment to ensuring passage of the FTA with Panama.

*News Sources***South Korea resumes controversial US beef imports**

AFP, May 29, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp_SKorea resumesUSbeefimports_05292008.pdf**SKoreans protest against US beef deal**

Associated Press, May 27, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_SKoreansprotestUSbeefdeal_05272008.pdf**Obama urges Bush back off South Korea trade deal**

Reuters, May 24, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_ObamaurgesBushtSKoreadeal_05242008.pdf**South Korean president, opposition leader fail to reach agreement on free trade deal with US**

Associated Press, May 20, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_noskoreaagreement_05202008.pdf

US and SKorea hold additional beef talks

AFP, May 19, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp_additionalbeeftalks_05192008.pdf**Opposition Seeks Asian Alliance Over US Beef**

Korea Times, May 18, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/koreatimes_AllianceOverUSBeef_05182008.pdf**South Korea may demand revision of US beef import pact**

Associated Press, May 8, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_skorearevisionUSbeefimport_05082008.pdf**SKorea to stick to US beef deal despite wave of criticism**

AFP, May 7, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp_skoreatostickwithfta_05072008.pdf**A man, a plan, a free trade agreement**

Politico, May 6, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/politico_manplanfta_05062008.pdf**Bush vows to help Panama clinch free trade agreement**

AFP, May 6, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp_BushvowstohelpPanamaFTA_05062008.pdf**SKorean workers rally against free trade pact**

AFP, May 1, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp_SKoreanworkersrallyagainstfta_05012008.pdf

More information on the Korea Free Trade Agreement is available at:

www.citizenstrade.org/korea.php

Clinton and Obama renew trade reform commitment in Oregon

Senators Clinton and Obama have continued to criticize the trade policy status quo on the campaign trail. Both committed to reforms in their responses to questionnaires furnished by the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign.

*News Sources***Obama's Korea Trade Deal Objection Is Political, Minister Say**

Bloomberg, May 26, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/bloomberg_obamaskoreapolitical_05262008.pdf**FACTBOX-McCain and Obama plans on U.S. trade policy**

Reuters, May 21, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_mccainobamaontrade_05212008.pdf

Obama May Find It Hard To Govern as Free Trader

Wall Street Journal, May 19, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj_hardtogovasfreetrader_05192008.pdf**We need a new consensus on trade**

David Sirota, Creators Syndicate, May 16, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/creators_newtradeconsensus_05162008.pdf**Obama, Clinton back Senate trade bill on China currency**

Reuters, May 1, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_senatechinabill_05012008.pdf**Super Delegates Might Tip Over Trade**

Huffington Post, May 1, 2008

www.huffingtonpost.com/jonathan-tasini/super-delegates-might-tip_b_99582.html**Pushing the Dems on Trade**

The Progressive, May 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/progressive_pushdemsontrade_052008.pdf

More information on the trade debate in the 2008 elections is available at:

www.citizenstrade.org/2008elections.php*Questionnaires***Questionnaire Responses from Sen. Hillary Clinton**

Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, May 13, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf2/ClintonResponse.pdf**Questionnaire Responses from Sen. Barack Obama**

Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, May 9, 2008

www.citizenstrade.org/pdf2/ObamaResponse.pdf**Statement attributed to Rep. Ron Paul**www.citizenstrade.org/pdf2/PaulResponse.pdf
