

NAFTA Failure and Alternatives for the Future Colombian Reality and Plan Colombia Stop the U S-Colombian Trade Agreement

March 9, 2008

2:00 – 5:30

MIT Building 34, Room 101

A program in two parts

2:00 – 2:10 Introduction: **Kendra Johnson**, MIT Western Hemisphere Project:
Content and objectives of the afternoon conference on hemispheric trade and development, and the immediate issues of Colombia and the Colombian Trade Promotion Agreement

2:10 – 3:15 The Failure of NAFTA and Alternatives for Trade, Immigration and Security Policy

Carleen Pickard Regional Organizer for the Council of Canadians, Canada's largest citizens' organization, promoting progressive policies on fair trade, clean water, safe food and public health care.

Hector Sánchez Policy Education Coordinator for Global Exchange's Mexico Program, coordinates informing and organizing Washington DC legislators in supporting new trade and immigration priorities.

Manuel Pérez Rocha Associate Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington DC, directing the project on the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and the NAFTA Plus Agenda.

While NAFTA has increased trade and benefited hemispheric multinational corporations, it has not contributed significantly to hemispheric employment, has lowered hemispheric environmental and labor standards, and increased inequalities in hemispheric wealth and income. Now the emerging SPP threatens a hemispheric military and internal security state monster and a loss of local and regional control over natural resources.

3:15 – 3:50 Questions and Discussion from the floor, moderated by Barbara Clancy of the Alliance for Democracy. Each speaker may have a maximum of 90 seconds. Speakers' responses to questions will have a maximum of 90 seconds. Time limits will be strictly controlled.

3:50 – 4:05 Break

4:05 -- 4:35 Maria Clemencia Ramirez: Associate and former Director of the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History, author of forthcoming revised and updated English version of *Between the State and the Guerilla: Colombian Reality: Recent History, Civil War, Paramilitaries, Repression of Unions*. Including *Plan Colombia: US counterinsurgency war and program for neoliberal repression of democracy masquerading as a war on drugs--\$1 billion a year for 7 years and counting*.
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4:35 – 5:05 Luis Fernández-Castro: member ColombiaVive, community organizer in Colombia, social worker in Massachusetts: **Campaign to Stop the US—Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (CTPA):** NAFTA, CAFTA, Peru Agreement, CTPA Campaign -- likely impacts of the CTPA, why do we have a good chance to stop this one, what can you do? Brief mention of support for proposed Massachusetts Globalization Impact Bill.

5:05 – 5:30 Questions and Discussion from the floor. Moderated by Richard Krushnic from the Greater Boston Latin American and Caribbean Coalition

5:30 Adjourn: Kendra Johnson

Sponsoring Organizations

Alliance for Democracy, Greater Boston Latin American and Caribbean Coalition (and its 6 member organizations), Massachusetts Global Action, Jobs for Justice, MIT Western Hemisphere Project, Global Exchange, American Friends Service Committee Project Voice, Grassroots International