

the free trade agreement from being implemented, and once the free trade agreement goes into effect the U.S. will lack any leverage with Columbia to stop the murders and improve labor rights.

If the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is any model, there will be an increase in murders if the FTA is passed. When CAFTA was under consideration, the murders of trade unionists in Guatemala dropped to zero, only to increase to sixteen in 2009 and ten in 2010. The labor protections in CAFTA have been a failure; last year the Guatemalan labor leader who filed the first labor complaint under CAFTA was murdered.

The agricultural provisions of the FTA fail to address the displacement of over 5.2 million Afro-Columbians and indigenous peoples within Columbia, which now has more internally displaced citizens than any other country in the world.

Before a trade agreement with Columbia goes forward, Columbia needs to demonstrate to the world that it has a zero tolerance for violence against trade unionists and that human rights will be protected. The U.S. needs to show the world that it is serious about protecting basic human rights and that it will not sacrifice that agenda for higher profits for multinational corporations.

NO TO THE U.S.-PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

As the U.S. struggles with a budget deficit of historical proportions, it is incredible that we would be considering extending trade privileges to Panama, one of the world's top countries for tax cheats. Panama has long been a heaven for money laundering both for multinationals and narco-traffickers. Unfortunately, the FTA fails to effectively close this huge loop hole. Nor does the FTA allow U.S. companies the ability to bid on improvement projects in the Panama Canal Zone.

All three of these flawed FTAs contain the NAFTA Investment Chapters which provides foreign investors and corporations extraordinary rights to challenge state and federal laws pertaining to procurement (e.g., Buy American requirements), consumer and public health protections, and environmental regulations. Such challenges would not take place in U.S. courts, but before secret international tribunals which would have the power to require compensation for "regulatory takings." This is no hypothetical matter, as the federal and state governments have spent millions defending NAFTA challenges to regulations while Canada and Mex-

ico have had to pay millions because of these challenges.

CHINA—THE REAL TRADE CHALLENGE

Like most Americans, we do not understand why Congress and the Administration continue to focus on passing these free trade agreements while our manufacturing base and economy strain from the impact of the unfair trade practices of China. Last year our trade imbalance with China was over \$273 billion, an imbalance that costs the U.S. millions of jobs and billions in lost tax revenue. China is a country that gives generous subsidies to state owned enterprises, engages in intellectual property theft, has no independent labor unions, and continues to manipulate its currency, which is estimated to be undervalued by as much as 40 percent. The undervalued currency makes Chinese manufactured products artificially cheap and U.S. made products more expensive. Failing to address China's numerous unfair trade practices will prevent the U.S. from "winning the future" as President Obama has proclaimed America must do.

FAIR TRADE—A NEW TEMPLATE

We have stated repeatedly that the U.S. should take a strategic pause and evaluate the full impact of past trade agreements and practices before ratifying any new agreements. Such a pause is more important than ever before as our weak economy continues to struggle with the lasting effects of bad trade deals and the wreckage of the global financial crisis brought on by deregulation. The KORUS FTA has yet to be ratified by the South Korean Parliament, and 2012 parliamentary and presidential elections may push off ratification even further into the future.

Economically, the KORUS FTA has the potential to do as much damage to the living standards of ordinary Americans and NAFTA. Linking Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) to the KORUS FTA is a clear indication that the FTA will result in the loss of American jobs. American workers need jobs, not the burial insurance of TAA. Morally, no FTA is as repugnant as the agreement with Columbia, the murder capitol of the world when it comes to violence against trade unionists. As previously stated, the so-called Action Plan is a fig leaf that seeks to provide cover for the inaction of the Columbia government and the impunity with which murders take place in that country.

America can no longer afford "free" trade agreements that benefit Wall Street and multinational corporations at the expense of U.S. workers. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject these job killing agreements.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative and Political Director Matthew McKinnon.

Sincerely,

R. THOMAS BUFFENBARGER,
International President.

ANNOUNCING THE NAVEEN JINDAL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 21, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to announce before the United States House of Representatives the naming of The Naveen Jindal School of Management at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas).

UT Dallas is the educational institution of choice for over 17,000 students from North Texas and around the world. Its School of Management, established in 1974 and alma mater to over 600 new graduates per year, plays a crucial role in fulfilling the university's mission statement: to serve as a global leader in innovative, high quality science, engineering, and business education and research.

The Honorable Naveen Jindal, now the namesake of the School of Management, earned his Masters of Business Administration degree from UT Dallas in 1992. During his time in the MBA program, he was named Student Government president and the university's Student Leader of the Year.

Mr. Jindal now serves as an esteemed Member of Parliament in his homeland of India. He is known as a responsible industrialist and youth icon for his work in the private and public sectors alike.

As a proud representative of UT Dallas in the United States Congress, it is my privilege to recognize Naveen Jindal for his leadership, innovation and philanthropy.

I look forward to the many stories of success and growth which will continue to come from the students, administrators, and faculty of The Naveen Jindal School of Management.