

NAFTA & Mexican Extractive Industries Report and Campaign Proposals

Prepared for TradeJustice NY Metro by Holly McDede of Global Justice for Animals and the Environment



NAFTA and Mexican Extractive Industries

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	2-5
- Mexico Overview - Ecological significance and brief intro to extraction problems	
- NAFTA Overview	
- Extraction Problems Exacerbated by NAFTA Overview	
- Solutions Overview	
2. Details	
a) Mexico's Environmental Significance.....	6
b) Threats to Mexico's Environment (brief overview).....	7
c) Free Trade and Constitutional Reform.....	8
e) Plan MesoAmerica.....	9-10
f) NAFTA Provisions (SPP, Competitiveness Council, Labor, Investor Rights).....	11
g) NAFTA Cases.....	11-13
h) Extractive Industries in Mexico.....	14-16
i) .Mining.....	14-15
ii) Water extraction.....	16
iii) Logging.....	16
3. Solutions	
a) Oppose Evictions from the Lacandon Forest	17-20
b) Support Third Peace Caravan To Oaxaca.....	21-23
c) Oppose corporations in Oaxaca.....	24-25
d) Support Bill C-300.....	26-28
e) Support the Bill to Repeal NAFTA.....	29
f) Support the TRADE ACT.....	30-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mexico contains 10-12% of the world's biodiversity, with its grand biodiversity hotspots including Chiapas and Oaxaca.¹ The Selva Lacandona of southeastern Chiapas is Mexico's last significant tropical rainforest and is filled with endangered species, such as howling monkeys, giant tapirs, pumas, and ocelots.² Oaxaca contains 40% of the rivers in all of Mexico as well as 50% of Mexico's plant species.³ Oaxaca and Chiapas, however, must make room for extractive industries, more powerful than ever before since free trade.

Before the enactment of NAFTA, the Mexican government proceeded to set the stage for free trade and environmental ruin on the massive scale by initiating water and mining privatization schemes to hand over Chiapas and Oaxaca to foreign investors. This meant elimination of Article 27, which prevented foreign industries from controlling extraction industries, and the enactment of new Mining Laws, thus giving foreign corporations precedence to land claims. To create a free trade paradise, President Fox began outlining his "Plan Puebla" to transform the area from Southern Mexico, Central America, into a "neoliberalism paradise" for extraction industries. Now under the title "The MesoAmerica Project", this new version of Plan Puebla Panama led to the eviction of indigenous groups from the Lacandon Rainforest in Chiapas⁴ in order to create Eco-tourism sites and palm oil plantations in this new free trade zone.⁵

The Security and Prosperity Partnership, created to militarily protect and defend NAFTA the foreign investors who use it, no longer exists⁶, but Plan Merida continues as a military strategy to use the war on drugs to expand US control of global resources.⁷ The North American Competitive Council, made up of thirty giant North American companies⁸ who meet to ensure that resources, especially Mexican oil and water are available for foreign investors, also lives on.⁹ The North American Agreement on Labor Corporation requires NAFTA signatories to agree to enforce their own labor laws as well as eleven international worker rights.¹⁰ In the end, it also lacks any means for enforcement.¹¹ Both NAFTA and CAFTA contain an investment chapter that grants corporations the right to sue NAFTA signatory governments for profit violations.¹²

There have been numerous cases brought to NAFTA in relation to Mexico. Recently, the United States Steelworkers filed a claim through NAFTA that charged that the Mexican government had violated the North American

-
- 1 "The Indigenous Struggle Against NAFTA." *Thomas Paine's Corner* (2005): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://civillibertarian.blogspot.com/2005/12/zapatista-struggle-against-nafta.html>>.
 - 2 Lundberg, Jan. "Opposing the Plan Puebla Panama and FTAA." *Culture Change* n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://www.culturechange.org/e-letter-40.html>>.
 - 3 "Facts about Oaxaca." *S! Paz* (2010): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <http://www.sipaz.org/data/oax_en_01.htm#RECNAURALES>.
 - 4 "Mexico: The Lacandona Rainforest is being cleared of its People." *Intercontinental City* (2010): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <<http://intercontinentalcry.org/mexico-the-lacandona-rainforest-is-being-cleared-of-its-people/>>.
 - 5 Wilson, Japhy. "The New Phase of the Plan Puebla Panama in Chiapas (1/3)." *Bullitens of Ciapec* (2008): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.ciepac.org/boletines/chiapas_en.php?id=560>.
 - 6
 - 7 Rafael, Azul. "US, Mexico in crisis talks on "drug war"." *World Socialist Website* (2010): n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2010/mar2010/mexi-m24.shtml>>.
 - 8 "Enhancing Competitiveness In Canada, Mexico, and the United States: Private." US Chamber of Commerce. United States Chamber of Commerce, 2007. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://library.uschamber.com/reports/enhancing-competitiveness-canada-mexico-and-united-states-private>>.
 - 9 Fogal, Constance. "# 2 Security and Prosperity Partnership: Militarized NAFTA." *Project Censored: Media Democracy in Action* n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/articles/2-security-and-prosperity-partnership-militarized-nafta/>>.
 - 10 "NAFTA Labor Side Agreement: Lessons for the." *CRS Report for Congress* (2002): n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/8118.pdf>>.
 - 11 Costantini, Peter. "NAFTA and after: Unions Test Labor Side Agreement." *Speakeasy* (1999): n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://www.speakeasy.org/~peterc/nafta/labor.htm/corporate/2009/Sept-28.html>>.
 - 12 "NAFTA Chapter 11 Investor-to-State Cases: Bankrupting Democracy." *Trade Observatory* (2001): n. pag. Web. 10 Aug 2010. <<http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?refID=25342>>.

Agreement on Labor Corporation by replacing the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union Mexico's General Secretary with their own government appointee¹³ as well as failing to carry out safety inspections at the Pasta de Cochos mine where sixty five mine workers were killed in an explosion.¹⁴ In *Metalclad Corp v. Mexico*, NAFTA tribunals concluded that Mexico had expropriated the United States investor, Metalclad Corp, for forcing Metal clad to stop construction after it had failed to obtain a municipal construction permit in an area later deemed a protected natural site.¹⁵ In a pending NAFTA case brought against Mexico by Texas water users and irrigation districts, Mexico was charged violating NAFTA with violating Chapter 11 of NAFTA for "capturing, seizing, and diverting" approximately 1,219,512 acre-feet of naturally flowing Rio Grande irrigation water for Mexican farmers in violation with the 1924 Water Sharing Treaty.¹⁶ Canada's Blackfire Exploration, whose employees have arrested for the murder of a prominent environmental activist in Chiapas, has threatened to sue the government of Chiapas for \$800 million under NAFTA for heavy profit damage after the Chiapas government closed their barite mine in 2009.¹⁷

Mining operations in Mexico continue to violate human and environmental rights. In preparation for NAFTA, then-Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortaria gave away Cananea, a northern Mexican state of Sonora, to German Larrea, who soon created the industrial empire of Grupo Mexico, which fired workers in sweeping numbers in 1998 and blacklisted those who went on strike afterwards. On February 19, 2006, 65 miners were killed in Grupo Mexico's Pasta de Cochos coal mine in an explosion that was, based on already identified health and safety violations on the mine as well as complaints by workers of high concentrations of explosive methane gas in the shafts before hand, preventable.¹⁸ The Fortuna Silver "Trinidad" mine, to be built by a Canadian company, would contaminate the water for the people of Oaxaca and potentially mimic the Aura Silver and Intrepid Canadian mining companies in causing deaths due to toxic materials from the mining projects.¹⁹ During a blockade of this mine, police with riot gas were brought in and a protestor was later beaten by Institutional Revolutionary Party members.²⁰ In response to a blockade against the Canadian Continuum Resources reopened mining project, called "La Natividad", the government of Capulálpán, Oaxaca issued several environmental complaints against this Canadian company, but Canadian Continuum Resources issued a reply that their mining project would continue.²⁰ On May 6, 2009, seven hundred armed police ended a 40-day blockade led by local citizens in Oaxaca against the Canadian owned Fortuna Silver mine, which had poisoned their clean water sources, and then proceeded to arrest twenty protestors and illegally search homes.²¹

Water privatization and logging plantation projects are major problems in Mexico. When President Vicente Fox established PROMAQUA, he received \$250 million in grants from the World Bank for encouraging the privatization of water, which is often of poor quality, more expensive than ever before,²² and operates under water irrigation subsidies that

- 13 "IMF: Defend Union Autonomy in Mexico." *Mexican Labor News & Analysis*. UE International Solidary, n.d. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <http://www.ueinternational.org/Mexico_info/mlna_articles.php?id=169>.
- 14 "Steelworkers File NAFTA Labor Complaint against Mexico." *United Steel Workers* n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://legacy.usw.org/usw/program/content/3536.php>>.
- 15 "Metalclad v. Mexico." *The Forum on Democracy and Trade*. Forum, 2001. Web. 25 Jul 2010. <<http://www.forumdemocracy.net/article.php?id=110>>.
- 16 Quealy, David M. "Bayview Irrigation District et al. v. United Mexican States: NAFTA, Foreign Investment, and International Trade in Water—A Hard Pill to Swallow." *17 MINN. J. INT'L L.* 99. Quealy Final Online, 2008. Web. 25 Jul 2010. <http://www.law.umn.edu/uploads/Kd/6J/Kd6JPMVn11VgVfAS_HoaEQ/Quealy-Final-Online-PDF-04.07.09.pdf>.
- 17 "Blackfire adding threats to injury in Mexico: Canadian mining firm looks to pocket \$800 million via NAFTA Ch. 11." *Mining Watch Canada* (2010): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.miningwatch.ca/en/blackfire-adding-threats-injury-mexico-canadian-mining-firm-looks-pocket-800-million-nafta-ch-11>>.
- 18 Bacon, David. "Mexican Miners' Strike for Life." *American Prospect* (2007): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=mexican_miners_strike_for_life>.
- 19 "MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SENDS TROOPS IN SUPPORT OF CANADIAN MINING COMPANY - FORTUNA SILVER MINES Inc.." *Rights Action* (2009): n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010. <http://www.rightsaction.org/articles/mexico_troops_050809.html>.
- 20 "SIPAZ Blog: The International Service for Peace Blog." *Oaxaca: Mining in Capulálpán* (2008): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://sipazen.wordpress.com/2008/01/27/oaxaca/>>.
- 21 "Mexico's perfect storm - mining, militarization and resistance ." *NACA: Narco News* 19/5/2009: n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.minesandcommunities.org/article.php?a=9277>>.
- 22 Wilder, Margaret. "Water, power and social transformation Neoliberal Reforms in Mexico." *Vertigo*. Vertigo, 9/2005. Web. 25 Jul 2010. <<http://vertigo.revues.org/1925>>.

make it impossible for Mexico's small farmers to complete.²³ Those who oppose logging in Oaxaca and logging plantation projects have been murdered, injured, assaulted, and imprisoned by those linked to the Institutional Revolutionary Party of Mexico.²⁴

To combat problems in extractive industries in Mexico, our group should oppose the removal of indigenous groups from the Lacandona Forest, organize in solidarity with Oaxaca against paramilitary oppression, illegal logging, and illegal oil extraction, oppose foreign corporations in Oaxaca, particularly Coca Cola, and support Bill C-300, the Trade Act, and the Bill to Repeal NAFTA. Throughout our opposition to the removal of indigenous groups from the Lacadon Forest, we would join the Zapatistas in solidarity and through aid work that would support their coffee produce, jewelry produce, democratic education system, and health care system. To organize in solidarity with Oaxaca against paramilitary oppression, illegal logging, and illegal oil extraction, this would also mean aid work with the goal of arranging for more peace caravans in Oaxaca in memory of the other caravan through Oaxaca that had received paramilitary attack. In opposing foreign corporations in Oaxaca, we would use lists online of companies to protest, denounce in media campaigns, and write letters, send faxes, and write emails to. To do a specific campaign against corporations, we could focus on Coca-Cola and their corrupt support of the Industrial Revolution Party in Mexico, which is linked to corrupt free trade parties as well as the murder of Brad Will. In supporting Bill C-300, we would send phone calls, letters, and faxes to Canadian companies that do not support this bill, politicians that could potentially support this bill in Canada, and we would also engage in a media campaign of online articles and editorials to Canadian papers to reverse the media campaign led by industries. The Bill to Repeal NAFTA and the TRADE Act could be attached to the campaigns of solidarity with Oaxaca and against evictions in the Lacadon Forest, and should feature phone calls, letters, and faxes to legislatures.

23 Contreras, Joe. "Divining Destiny: Water Challenges in Mexico's Tehuacán Valley." *Circle of Blue Waternews* (2010): n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010. <<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2010/world/tehuacan-divining-destiny/>>.

24 "Repression in San Isidro Aloapam, Oaxaca of our brothers and sisters of the CIPO-RFM." *Centre for Media Alternatives, Quebec* (2007): n. pag. Web. 29 Jul 2010. <<http://www.cmaq.net/en/node/27608>>.



MEXICO'S ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

Mexico Broad Overview

Mexico is home to 10-12% of the world's biodiversity, and ranks first in reptile biodiversity, second in mammals, and fourth in both amphibians and flora. It places second for ecosystems and fourth in overall species. No one has given the environment a medal yet and, instead, it has been penalized by man kind. ²⁵ Consequently, 48 percent of vascular plants and 34 percent of amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles are endemic in Mexico. ²⁶

Chiapas

Chiapas is located in Southern Mexico and covered by rain forests, mountains, and an abundance of natural resources. It has been inhabited by the Mayan people for over five hundred years.²⁷ The Selva Lacandona of southeastern Chiapas is Mexico's last significant tropical rainforest. Endangered species such as jaguars, pumas, ocelots, spider and howling monkeys, crocodiles, giant tapirs and anteaters, harpy eagles, and numerous species of other birds consider this area to be their home. ²⁸ Although Chiapas makes up only 0.5% of the world's land mass, southern Mexico and Central

25 "Mexico." *Wikipedia* n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico>>.

26 "The Indigenous Struggle Against NAFTA." *Thomas Paine's Corner* (2005): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://civillibertarian.blogspot.com/2005/12/zapatista-struggle-against-nafta.html>>.

27 "The Indigenous Struggle Against NAFTA." *Thomas Paine's Corner* (2005): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://civillibertarian.blogspot.com/2005/12/zapatista-struggle-against-nafta.html>>.

28 Bruce, Rich. "Time Running Out for Mexico's Last Tropical Forest." *Cultural Survival* n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010.

America constitute over 7% of the known species on the planet.²⁹

Oaxaca

Oaxaca tops the Mexican charts with its rivers, plant species, and forested surface area. Percentage-wise, the Chiapas region in Oaxaca is the source of 40% of the rivers in Mexico. More than 50% of Mexico's plants species are located in Oaxaca. Oaxaca holds the third place national for forested surface area, with 5,105,020 hectares of forest and jungle, located mainly in the Sierra Norse and Sur regions, the lower Mixteca, and the Chimalapas region, which stores precious woods.³⁰



OVERVIEW OF THREATS TO MEXICO'S ENVIRONMENT

Agricultural and industrial expansion have caused Mexico to lose its forests at an annual rate of about 0.9%, with 5,925,000 hectares of primary forests in Mexico lost between 1990 and 2005³¹ Due to industrial, agricultural, and public wastes, only 69% of the Mexico's rural inhabitants have pure drinking water. While the water for northerners is scarce and polluted, the water in the central southeast region is often accessible and polluted.³² The pursuit of oil in the Lacandona Forest threatens the region and has caused the displacement of tribes in the area, including capitalists. Plan Puebla Panama, of course, is a threat to Mexico's environment because it is composed of almost all possible sources of environmental destruction, including plans for oil extraction, water extraction, hydroelectric dams, roads, and mining as undertaken by foreign investors in the area from southern Mexico to Central America and Panama.³³

<http://www.culturalsurvival.org/ourpublications/csq/article/time-running-out-mexicos-last-tropical-forest>.

29 Lundberg, Jan. "Opposing the Plan Puebla Panama and FTAA." *Culture Change* n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010.

<http://www.culturechange.org/e-letter-40.html>.

30 "Facts about Oaxaca." *S! Paz* (2010): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010.

http://www.sipaz.org/data/oax_en_01.htm#RECNAURALES.

31 "Mexico - Environment ." *Encyclopedia of the Nations* n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Mexico-ENVIRONMENT.html>.

32 "Mexico - Environment ." *Encyclopedia of the Nations* n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Mexico-ENVIRONMENT.html>.

33 Lundberg, Jan. ""Free trade" for Mesoamerica: roads, dams and death." *Culture Change* n. pag. Web. 24 Jul 2010.

[http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?](http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#)

[start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#](http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#).



Deforestation in Veracruz, Mexico

FREE TRADE AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Neoliberalism Reform Begins

Although NAFTA marked the complete shift from this opposition to foreign exploitation to foreign exploitation promotion, this reversal began in the late 1980s when the Institutional Revolutionary Party sought to use privatization to cure their massive debt, as the International Monetary Fund had informed them it would. In this way, the International Monetary Fund, used to promote free trade, certainly did its job: the International Monetary Fund plagued Mexico with such debts that they began to see free trade as their only option.³⁴

Eradicating Article 27

In preparation for the enactment of NAFTA, Article 27 was removed from the Mexican Constitution in 1992. Article 27 had provided only natural born or naturalized Mexicans the right to own land and water as well as extract oil.³⁵

34 Bacon, David. "Mexican Miners' Strike for Life." *American Prospect* (2007): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=mexican_miners_strike_for_life>.

35 Bacon, David. "Mexican Miners' Strike for Life." *American Prospect* (2007): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010.

By 1990, Mexico, looking forward to the increased industrial interests that would result from NAFTA, was convinced that their previous ideologies, such as commitment to distributing land to the peasants, would create too great an economic strain on the country. As a result, land distribution to foreign investors was done with little oversight and many small landowners were defrauded of their holdings.³⁶ With the eradication of Article 27, the Mexican government was no longer obliged to protect the rights of its own citizens over the rights of foreign investors.

Mexican Mining Law

To continue eliminating the barriers to trade and foreign investment, the 1992 Mexican Mining Law established mining as a "public interest" activity, thereby an activity with more priority than any other use of land. When peasants negotiate with mining corporations, they face the threat of having their land expropriated "in the public interest" and as a result, they often accept unfair contracts.³⁷ Amendments in 1996 to the 1992 Mining Law removed many of the restrictions regarding the participation of private and foreign companies, permitting direct investment with up to 100% ownership of equity in exploration works and activities, and allowing up to 100% foreign participation in production. By 1997, nearly all previously state-owned mines were privatized. Further revisions in 1999 were geared to increase participation of the private sector.³⁸ In the pursuit of free trade, the Mexican government has enacted laws, such as their new mining laws, to ensure that foreign mining corporations face no barriers to expropriating land belonging to peasants and indigenous groups in order to accumulate mass profit.

PLAN MESOAMERICA

Plan Puebla Panam

Another privatization scheme that would end in environmental destruction was President Vincente Fox's Plan Puebla-Panam. Plan Puebla-Panam sought to transform the area from Southern Mexico, Central America, and Panama into a "colossal free trade paradise." Mexican President Fox wanted to induce private investors with the regions natural resources, including its oil, water, minerals, timber, and ecological diversity. The landscape itself would be transformed into ports, airports, bullet trains, bridges, superhighways, 25 hydroelectric dams, electrical grids, and a new Panama Canal.³⁹ Among those who would have profited from Plan Puebla were International Paper Company and Grupo Pulsar, both of which were investing in research for genetically engineered trees. Other investors included Tribasa, Caros, GAN, ICA, Imbursa, Texas Connection, International Shipholding Corporation, Monsanto, Shell, Dow Chemical, Exxon, Shell, and Hutchinson Holdings.⁴⁰ Aside from the oil and rich timber in Chiapas, the Indian Chiapas population would also provide cheap labor, as the industrialists see it. According to Ryan Zinn of CorpWatch, "the development scheme would turn Southern Mexico and all of Central America into a corporate extraction paradise." Such a paradise, as President Fox saw it,

<http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=mexican_miners_strike_for_life>.

36 Clark, Tim. "Canadian Mining Companies in Latin America:." *Initiative for Peace Building*. Cerclac: Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, 11/5/2002. Web. 24 Jul 2010.

<http://www.initiativeforpeacebuilding.eu/resources/Canadian_Mining_Companies_in_Latin_America.pdf>.

37 Clark, Tim. "Canadian Mining Companies in Latin America:." *Initiative for Peace Building*. Cerclac: Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, 11/5/2002. Web. 24 Jul 2010.

<http://www.initiativeforpeacebuilding.eu/resources/Canadian_Mining_Companies_in_Latin_America.pdf>.

38 "Mexico-Mining ." *Encyclopedia of the Nation*. Encyclopedia of the Nations, 3/21/2007. Web. 23 Jul 2010.

<<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Mexico-MINING.html>>.

39 Lundberg, Jan. ""Free trade" for Mesoamerica: roads, dams and death." *Culture Change* n. pag. Web. 24 Jul 2010.

<[http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?](http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#)

[start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#](http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#)>.

40 Lundberg, Jan. ""Free trade" for Mesoamerica: roads, dams and death." *Culture Change* n. pag. Web. 24 Jul 2010.

<[http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?](http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#)

[start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#](http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?start=&reqstyleid=1&mode=form&reqsrcid=MLAJournalOnline&more=&nameCnt=1#)>.

was necessary for complete free trade. ⁴¹

Mesoamerica Project

On April 23, 2007, Felipe Calderon relaunched Plan Puebla. On June 4, 2008, the Mexican foreign minister stated that up to 95% of the projects Puebla Panama had intended would be eliminated. ⁴² Under its new name (the Mesoamerica Project), it would continue to focus on highways and, according to a press statement by President Felipe Calderón, its new focus would be on reducing the effects of climate change and to guarantee the region's environmental sustainability. Clearly, the anti-free trade groups that emerged to directly challenge NAFTA have managed to make completely free, unrestricted, unregulated trade out to be the impossible ideal, for it can not exist unchallenged by environmentalists and indigenous groups alike.

Mini Plan Puebla Panama in Chiapas

In the past 15 years, over half of the Lacandon Forest has been destroyed and if the trends in agricultural colonization, lumber, and cattle raising continue, all of the Landmine Forest will disappear within ten years. ⁴³ Oil has also become a target within the Lacandon Forest. In July 2010, Energy Secretary Georgina Kessel announced plans for drilling in this rainforest. Pemex had conducted a study that found that Chiapas fields could lead to the production of 500,000 barrels a day from 17,000 new wells by 2021, a year after predictions state that the Lacandon Forest will be gone anyway. The Energy Secretary also proclaimed plans to begin bio diesel productions at levels requiring 7,500 acres. This is a component of the Mesoamerica Project and its four regional development engines that include tourism, minerals, oil, and bio-energy. ⁴⁴



The Comitán Declaration has been nicknamed a "mini-Plan Puebla Panama" for several reasons. This declaration states that "Chiapas looks to enter the future with great and legitimate ambitions for progress. The state has everything necessary to achieve its structural transformation, and to realize the great works that this transformation demands." This includes "an extensive zone of tropical agricultural plantations for export" and the construction of a "new Cancun in the north of Chiapas." It also promotes maquiladoras through the creation of "free trade zones, exempt from taxes, and provided with communication, energy and water systems." ⁴⁵ Likewise, Albores Gleason, the new Minister of Economic Development for Chiapas, launched the 'Strategic Plan for the Attraction of Investments in Chiapas.' The stated goals of this Strategic Plan include "making Chiapas a more competitive state for the attraction of foreign and national investment." Albores Gleason explained role of the Strategic Plan as the "radical transformation of the economic structure" of Chiapas, based on "tourism- strategic projects, economic corridors, and competitiveness", with the aim of "positioning Chiapas as a paradise of investment opportunities." ⁴⁶

Indigenous people already live in the Lacandon Forest, and they must be removed for this plan to be completed. ⁴⁷

41 Lendman, Stephen. "The Incredible Damage Of NAFTA." *Rense*. Rense, 3/21/2007. Web. 23 Jul 2010.

<<http://www.rense.com/general75/sazp.htm>>.

42 "Puebla Panama Plan eliminates 95% of projects." *Politics and Government* 2008: n. pag. Web. 24 Jul 2010.

<[http://translate.google.com/translate?](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=es&u=http://www.centralamericadata.com/es/article/home/Plan_Puebla_Panama_se_convierte_en_Proyecto_Mesoamerica&ei=axJLTO2TIsH78Aa5yIgz&sa=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCAQ7gEwAQ&prev=/search%3Fq%3DPlan%2BPuebla%2BPanam%25C3%25A1%2B2010%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Doff)

[hl=en&sl=es&u=http://www.centralamericadata.com/es/article/home/Plan_Puebla_Panama_se_convierte_en_Proyecto_Mesoamerica&ei=axJLTO2TIsH78Aa5yIgz&sa=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCAQ7gEwAQ&prev=/search%3Fq%3DPlan%2BPuebla%2BPanam%25C3%25A1%2B2010%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Doff](http://www.centralamericadata.com/es/article/home/Plan_Puebla_Panama_se_convierte_en_Proyecto_Mesoamerica&ei=axJLTO2TIsH78Aa5yIgz&sa=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCAQ7gEwAQ&prev=/search%3Fq%3DPlan%2BPuebla%2BPanam%25C3%25A1%2B2010%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Doff)>.

43 Bruce, Rich. "Time Running Out for Mexico's Last Tropical Forest." *Cultural Survival* n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010.

<<http://www.culturalsurvival.org/ourpublications/csq/article/time-running-out-mexicos-last-tropical-forest>>.

44 "Oil, renewables in Lacandon Forest ." *Daily Glyph* (2008): n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010.

<<http://www.gomaya.com/glyph/archives/002294.html>>.

45 Wilson, Japhy. "The New Phase of the Plan Puebla Panama in Chiapas (1/3)." *Bullitens of Ciapec* (2008): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.ciepac.org/boletines/chiapas_en.php?id=560>.

46 Wilson, Japhy. "The New Phase of the Plan Puebla Panama in Chiapas (1/3)." *Bullitens of Ciapec* (2008): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.ciepac.org/boletines/chiapas_en.php?id=560>.

47 "Mexico: The Lacandona Rainforest is being cleared of its People." *Intercontinental City* (2010): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug

So far, a series of evictions have already taken place, starting on January 21 and January 22, 2010 at the indigenous Tselales settlements of Laguna El Suspiro and Laguna San Pedro, which is a base community for Zapatista rebel groups.⁴⁸ In the process of forcing indigenous people off their land, the houses of indigenous peoples were burned. Federal police, army troops, government officials, cameramen, and journalists participated in the removal.⁴⁹ Twelve villagers from Laguna San Pedro Guanil were taken to the government ministry and were interrogated without a solicitor or interpreter. Before being released, the villagers were made to sign a document without understanding the content. Those evicted were not allowed to bring personal belongings, and the belongings they left behind, as well as their houses, clothes, and work tools have been destroyed. Their fruit trees, maize and beans have been uprooted and their communal shop has been ransacked. Throughout the current and previous administrations in Mexico, nearly forty communities have been evicted from the Lacandona forest, but there have not been any official documents or court orders warranting the removal. Both the federal government of Mexico and the state government of Chiapas justify their actions by labeling the entire indigenous Tzeltal, Tzotzil, Ch'ol and Tojolabal population in the Lacandon area as 'irregular people', 'invaders' and 'predators'.⁵⁰ According to a recent report by Global Exchange, "the eviction would serve two purposes: 1) it would attack the heart of Zapatista communities, and 2) grease the wheels for the absolute exploitation of prolific natural resources. These include biodiversity, oil, uranium and hydroelectricity."⁵¹

NAFTA PROVISIONS

Security and Prosperity Partnership

The Security and Prosperity Partnership, created in 2005 and disbanded in 2009, sought to "increase security and enhance property" according to the United States government web page.⁵² In effect, the aim of the Security is to militarily protect and defend NAFTA and business interests. The Merida Initiative, nicknamed Plan Mexico, was created in the context of the Security and Prosperity Partnership in 2008 as a three year plan. It was signed into law as part of an Iraq Supplemental funding bill, its relationship with this funding bill being that both bills are parts of a larger global strategy to ensure and expand US control of global resources. Like Iraq, Mexico also produces oil. 1.3 billion dollars from the United States budget was used to buy equipment and pay US subcontractors to train the Mexican military in torture techniques. Although the Security and Prosperity Partnership no longer exists, the Merida Initiative will continue under the Obama Administration.⁵³

North American Competitiveness Council

The Security and Prosperity Partnership also created the North American Competitive Council, which has not died yet. This group is composed of thirty giant North American companies, such as General Electric, Ford Motors, General Motors, Wal-Mart, Lockheed-Martin, Merck, and Chevron. According to the US Chamber of Commerce (whose motto is "Fighting for Your Business") "private sector involvement is a key step to enhancing North America's competitive position in global markets and is the driving force behind innovation and growth."⁵⁴ The agenda of the North American

2010. <<http://intercontinentalcry.org/mexico-the-lacandona-rainforest-is-being-cleared-of-its-people/>>.

48 "Mexico: The Lacandona Rainforest is being cleared of its People." *Intercontinental City* (2010): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <<http://intercontinentalcry.org/mexico-the-lacandona-rainforest-is-being-cleared-of-its-people/>>.

49 "Eviction and destruction of the indigenous community of Laguna San Pedro." *Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group* (2010): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <<http://www.edinchiapas.org.uk/node/263>>.

50 "Mexico: The Lacandona Rainforest is being cleared of its People." *Intercontinental City* (2010): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <<http://intercontinentalcry.org/mexico-the-lacandona-rainforest-is-being-cleared-of-its-people/>>.

51 Cropley, Michael. "Communities in Resistance in the Lacandon Jungle." *Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group* n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.edinchiapas.org.uk/communities_in_resistance>.

52 Foal, Constance. "# 2 Security and Prosperity Partnership: Militarized NAFTA." *Project Censored: Media Democracy in Action* n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/articles/2-security-and-prosperity-partnership-militarized-nafta/>>.

53 Rafael, Azul. "US, Mexico in crisis talks on "drug war"." *World Socialist Website* (2010): n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2010/mar2010/mexi-m24.shtml>>.

54 "Enhancing Competitiveness In Canada, Mexico, and the United States: Private." US Chamber of Commerce. United States Chamber of Commerce, 2007 . Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://library.uschamber.com/reports/enhancing-competitiveness-canada-mexico-and-united-states-private>>.

Competitiveness Council is to ensure that access to resources, especially Mexican oil and water, are a priority for the three nations. In many cases, this means unlimited access by US investors to the extraction industries in Mexico. It encourages privatization of enterprises, previously state-ran, like Mexico's nationalized oil company, PEMEX.⁵⁵ During the first meeting of the North American Competitiveness Council, members "focused on eliminating pesky regulations, and agreed on the need to work 'under the radar screen' of public attention."⁵⁶

The North American Agreement on Labor Corporation

The North American Agreement on Labor Corporation requires NAFTA signatories to agree to enforce their own labor laws and standards as they also promote eleven international worker rights and principals. Sanctions are applicable to only to the labor principles of minimum wage, child labor, and occupational safety and health. Compliance with labor laws remains voluntary.⁵⁷ As such, the Wall Street Journal wrote in 1997: "Both supporters and opponents of NAFTA agree that the side agreements have had little impact, mainly because the mechanisms they created have no enforcement power. ... Not a single worker was ever reinstated, not a single employer was ever sanctioned, no union was ever recognized."⁵⁸

Investor Protection Clause

NAFTA's investor protections allows for what is called "investor-to-state" dispute resolutions where private investors and corporations can sue NAFTA signatories for monetary compensation. This compensation comes in the form of taxpayer dollars from the losing government's treasury.

NAFTA Article 1110 grants foreign investors compensation for any indirect or direct expropriation. NAFTA Article 1102 mentions a "national treatment" provision, meaning governments must treat foreign investors as they would treat their domestic investors. NAFTA Article 1103 calls for "most favored nation treatment", meaning the governments must give Mexican, Canadian, and United States investors the best possible treatment given to investors. NAFTA Article 1105 contains a "minimum standard of treatment" provision, and this means that the treatment of investors must follow standards of international law, including "fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security." NAFTA Article 1106 outlaws "performance requirements."

NAFTA disputes are taken to special tribunals with representatives from the NAFTA signatories. Even if the corporation is only asked to follow the same standards as domestic companies, if this regulatory measure causes this company to lose profit, they can seek NAFTA tribunals for lost profit compensation. To handle this investor to state disputes, NAFTA uses a resolution system under the auspices of the World Bank and another operating under the auspices of the United Nations. This cases are strictly confidential.⁵⁹

NAFTA Cases

United States Steel Workers vs. Mexico

The United States Steelworkers have filed a claim through NAFTA that charges that the Mexican government has violated the NAFTA's North American Agreement on Labor Corporation. In February 2006, the Mexican government

55 Fogal, Constance. "# 2 Security and Prosperity Partnership: Militarized NAFTA." *Project Censored: Media Democracy in Action* n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/articles/2-security-and-prosperity-partnership-militarized-nafta/>>.

56 Pastor, Robert. "The Future of Foreign Affairs: Replacing a Bad Neighbor Policy." *Foreign Affairs* (2008): n. pag. Web. 24 Jul 2010. <http://www.american.edu/sis/cnas/upload/ForeignAffairs_Pastor_On_NA_072008.pdf>.

57 "NAFTA Labor Side Agreement: Lessons for the." *CRS Report for Congress* (2002): n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/8118.pdf>>.

58 Costantini, Peter. "NAFTA and after: Unions Test Labor Side Agreement." *Speakeasy* (1999): n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://www.speakeasy.org/~peterc/nafta/labor.htm/corporate/2009/Sept-28.html>>.

59 "NAFTA Chapter 11 Investor-to-State Cases: Bankrupting Democracy." *Trade Observatory* (2001): n. pag. Web. 10 Aug 2010. <<http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?refID=25342>>.

replaced the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union of Mexico's General Secretary, Napoleón Gómez Urrutia, with a government appointee, Elias Morales Hernández.⁶⁰ Gomez Urrutia had won 6% to 8% wage increases for miners, won better housing, and killed a plan by President Fox to tax workers' benefits. After all this, Urrutia was charged with corruption and embezzlement for stealing the \$55 million that Grupo Mexico paid miners when it took over the state-owned properties.⁶¹ These claims, however, were disproved by an independent audit of the union's accounts that had been commissioned by the IMF.⁶² In the words of Steelworkers president Leo W. Gerard, "The Mexican government saw Napoleon Gómez as a threat because he fought successfully for higher wages, because he engaged in international solidarity, and because he challenged the government-controlled labor federations." Aside from wanting justice for the displacement of their leader, the United Steelworkers also claim that the government of Mexico had not properly carried out safety inspections at the Pasta de Cochos mine, the setting of the explosion that killed 65 mineworkers.⁶³

Metalclad Corp v. Mexico

In *Metalclad Corp v. Mexico*, NAFTA tribunals concluded that Mexico had expropriated the property of the United States investor Metalclad Corp. Metalclad, a Delaware corporation, had sought to acquire Coterin, a Mexican firm seeking to construct a hazardous waste landfill. In order for Metalclad to acquire this operation, the corporation needed a permit from Mexico's National Ecological Institute and to agree that Mexico Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology could continue to advise Metalclad. Four months after Metalclad began constructing their landfill, the City of Guadalcázar condemned Metalclad for failing to obtain a municipal construction permit, and thereby ordered a stop to the construction. In September 1997, Governor of San Luis Potosí established the landfill site as a protected natural area. After Metalclad won this case, the United States firm received \$16.5 million in compensation from the Mexican government.⁶⁴

Texas Water Users and Irrigation Districts vs. Mexico

A dispute regarding water extraction has also gone to NAFTA. In 1924, the United States gained access to the water of the Rio-Grande through the Water Sharing Treaty. By January 19, 2005, the Claimants, a group of Texas water users and irrigation districts, charged Mexico with violating Chapter 11 of NAFTA for "capturing, seizing, and diverting" approximately 1,219,512 acre-feet of naturally flowing Rio Grande irrigation water for Mexican farmers.⁶⁵ Currently, approximately 12 million of Mexico's 100 million citizens have no running water at home. Some 26 million have no sewage service.⁶⁶ In Paredones, a hilltop hamlet in Mexico, the only source of water is a tiny reservoir. When Eloy Hernández Llanos of Paredones returned from America, he remarked,

"More than anything, it makes me angry that here there is so little water and there is so much over there," says Hernández. "Many people [in the U.S.] waste water, they throw it away without recycling it to produce something or irrigate something. It could be put to so much better use here."⁶⁷

Only two per cent of the nation's surface water is classified as being of high quality, and yet the Water Sharing Treaty leaves Mexico hopeless and NAFTA will likely leave the Water Sharing Treaty protected by international law. This case is still pending and, although the Mexican farmers are in dire need of their own water, it is likely that NAFTA will state profit

60 "IMF: Defend Union Autonomy in Mexico." *Mexican Labor News & Analysis*. UE International Solidary, n.d. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <http://www.ueinternational.org/Mexico_info/mlna_articles.php?id=169>.

61 Bacon, David. "Mexican Miners' Strike for Life." *American Prospect* (2007): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=mexican_miners_strike_for_life>.

62 "IMF: Defend Union Autonomy in Mexico." *Mexican Labor News & Analysis*. UE International Solidary, n.d. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <http://www.ueinternational.org/Mexico_info/mlna_articles.php?id=169>.

63 "Steelworkers File NAFTA Labor Complaint against Mexico." *United Steel Workers* n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://legacy.usw.org/usw/program/content/3536.php>>.

64 "Metalclad v. Mexico." *The Forum on Democracy and Trade*. Forum, 2001. Web. 25 Jul 2010. <<http://www.forumdemocracy.net/article.php?id=110>>.

65 Quealy, David M. "Bayview Irrigation District et al. v. United Mexican States: NAFTA, Foreign Investment, and International Trade in Water—A Hard Pill to Swallow." *17 MINN. J. INT'L L.* 99. Quealy Final Online, 2008. Web. 25 Jul 2010. <http://www.law.umn.edu/uploads/Kd/6J/Kd6JPMVn11VgVfAS_HoaEQ/Quealy-Final-Online-PDF-04.07.09.pdf>.

66 Tegel, Simeon. "Parched: Mexico's development depends on water—and foreign cash - Infrastructure." *Business Services Industry* (2002): n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010. <http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0BEK/is_5_10/ai_86429466/>.

67 Contreras, Joe. "Divining Destiny: Water Challenges in Mexico's Tehuacán Valley." *Circle of Blue Waternews* (2010): n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010. <<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2010/world/tehuacan-divining-destiny/>>.

damage of United States farmers' and penalize Mexico for their inability to allow the United States to consume its water.

Canadian Blackfire Mining vs. Mexico

Canada's Blackfire Exploration has threatened to sue the government of Chiapas for \$800 million under NAFTA's Chapter 11. The company claimed it experienced unjust and heavy profit damage after the Chiapas government closed their barite mine in 2009. This mine has been closed due to the environmental pollution, irreversible environmental impacts, and significant contribution to Climate Change it had caused. Before this, in November 2009, several employees of Blackfire Exploration had been arrested for murdering a prominent environmental activist, Mariano Abarca Roblero, in the Mexican State of Chiapas. Others were accused of corrupting the Chiapas government. As Rick Arnold of Common Frontiers states: "You'd think that Blackfire, mired as it is in controversy, would seek to mend fences with the affected communities in Chiapas by offering compensation. Instead the company is proceeding to bully Mexican public authorities by threatening a mega-million dollar NAFTA Ch. 11 action that the country could ill afford to pay."⁶⁸

This case indicates the unwarranted power of NAFTA's Chapter 11, wherein a government seeking to protect its environments and citizens can be charged with committing "expropriation."

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN MEXICO

MINING

Canadian Mining Dominance

Many of the human right abuse and environmental abuse in Mexico comes from extraction industries belonging to Canadian. According to the *Vancouver Sun*, mining activities abroad helped keep Canadian mining industry afloat in 2009 when it completed 442 foreign deals worth \$10.2 billion. Large ties of the Canadian mining sector in Mexico are largely due to the apparently profitable low standards in Mexican mining. When Canada saw an increase in environmental regulations in mining in the 1990s, Canadian mining industries turned to Mexico. By 1991, the number of properties owned by Canadian companies in Mexico went from 52 to 244. Two-thirds of the Mexican mining industry went into Canadian control. Currently, sixty percent of the world's mining corporations come from Canada, and these mining firms use NAFTA as their tool to ensure there are no barriers on their profits.⁶⁹

Grupo Mexico, Copper Mine

In an attempt to transform Mexico into the perfect landscape for free trade three years before NAFTA was to be enacted, then-Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari initiated a sweeping sell-off to large mines, railroads, airlines, and other state owned businesses. Gortaria simply gave away Cananea, a northern Mexican state of Sonora, to German Larrea. Larrea soon transformed Cananea into the home of one of the largest open-pit copper mines in Mexico as apart of his the industrial empire called Grupo Mexico.⁷⁰

Grupo Mexico is incredibly prone to worker abuse. In 1998, Larrea initiated a sweeping cut in his workforce, and

68 "Blackfire adding threats to injury in Mexico: Canadian mining firm looks to pocket \$800 million via NAFTA Ch. 11." *Mining Watch Canada* (2010): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.miningwatch.ca/en/blackfire-adding-threats-injury-mexico-canadian-mining-firm-looks-pocket-800-million-nafta-ch-11>>.

69 Enchin, Harvey. "Will mining suffer if Bill C-300 becomes law?." *Vancouver Sun* (2010): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Will+mining+suffer+Bill+becomes/3072115/story.html>>.

70 Bacon, David. "Mexican Miners' Strike for Life." *American Prospect* (2007): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=mexican_miners_strike_for_life>.

the union went on strike as a result. After the Mexican government threatened to send troops, the miners ended their strike, only to find that the copper smelter and other mining departments were closed. Eight hundred miners lost their jobs and were placed on a blacklist.⁷¹

On February 19, 2006, 65 miners were killed in a huge explosion in the Pasta de Conchos coal mine, which was owned by Grupo Mexico in the northern state of Coahuila. After a report was released in July 2006 by the National Human Rights Commission, it was revealed that the local office of the federal labor ministry were aware that conditions inside the mine would lead to the explosion, for in 2004, labor safety inspectors identified 48 health and safety violations in the mine. These included oil and gas leaks, missing safety devices, and broken lighting. The evening prior to the explosion, workers in their second shift had complained of high concentrations of explosive methane gas in the shafts. By 2:20am, the third shift had begun, and the explosion did as well.⁷² Had inducements for foreign investment not included giveaways, and had NAFTA succeeded in its promise to protect workers from deregulation, the sixty miners would have not have died during a preventable explosion.

Intro to Oaxaca

Although it is one of the states with the greatest biodiversity in Mexico, Oaxaca has high rates of destruction of its natural resources: it is estimated that there is an annual loss of 30,000 hectares of forest and severe erosion of 20% of the state. This is primarily due to the unmoderated harvest of trees and the illegal trafficking of wood, forest fires that are recorded annually, the pillaging of protected species of flora and fauna, mineral extraction, and the capitalization of fresh water.⁷²

Trinidad Mine, Oaxaca

In the Valley of Ocotlán, just south of the capital city of Oaxaca, the Fortuna Silver Mines' "Trinidad" mine has cultivation plans. This mine, which would operate without a permit, would contaminate the water sources with metals, cyanide, mercury, copper sulfate and arsenic. During the first stage of exploration, the water table had already dropped noticeably, as the company intends to work from the lowest level of the mine. Aura Silver and Intrepid Mines, also Canadian mining companies, have active mining operations in the nearby municipality of San Jerónimo Taviche, where several deaths have been reported due to contact with toxic material used by the mine. Residents fear the new mining development largely because of the damage they have witnessed from previous developments. At least twenty heads of cattle have also been reported dead due to the heavily contaminated water from the Trinidad mine. Although the community held a symposium on the mine, the scientists and experts they had invited to the event canceled after their cities, Mexico City and San Luis Potosi, were shut down by swine flu on May 2, 2009.⁷³

Residents in the villages of El Cuajilote and Maguey Largo began their opposition to "La Trinidad" located on communal lands in the municipality of Ocotlán, Oaxaca in the spring of 2009 by attending meetings and forums facilitated by local parish priest Father Martín Octavio García Ortiz. When citizens blockaded the mine, police were brought in, armed with dogs and riot gas in order to defeat the protestors, who carried sticks and stones. A day later, Father Martín was beaten by supporters of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional, who promoted the mining project. A fight broke out when those returning home from a rally witnessed one of the bodyguards of the municipal president strike the head of an Assemblyman with his postal butt. A Partido Revolucionario Institucional authority, the registrar of Public Works, who had been intoxicated at the time, had begun firing his gun, shooting the mayor and Health director. In the incident, two had died, an estimation of seven were wounded, and ten were arrested.⁷⁴ The struggle against mining extraction and neo-liberalism has been deadly.⁷⁵

71 Bacon, David. "Mexican Miners' Strike for Life." *American Prospect* (2007): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010.

<http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=mexican_miners_strike_for_life>.

72 "Facts about Oaxaca." *S! Paz* (2010): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010.

<http://www.sipaz.org/data/oax_en_01.htm#RECNAURALES>.

73 "MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SENDS TROOPS IN SUPPORT OF CANADIAN MINING COMPANY - FORTUNA SILVER MINES Inc.," *Rights Action* (2009): n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010.

<http://www.rightsaction.org/articles/mexico_troops_050809.html>.

74 Davies, Nancy. "Environmental Priest Padre Martín Beaten." *Upside Down World* 2010: n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010.

<<http://upsidedownworld.org/main/mexico-archives-79/2559-two-dead-in-confrontation-in-oaxaca-near-site-of-canadian-mine>>.

75 Davies, Nancy. "Environmental Priest Padre Martín Beaten." *Upside Down World* 2010: n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010.

Continuum Resources La Natividad Mine, Oaxaca

The Vancouver based Continuum Resources mining company has announced that it will reopen their semi-abandoned La Natividad mine of Oaxaca's richest gold and silver field. The community of Capulálpán has seen its water supply diminish and deteriorate as a result of mining activity. To voice their opposition and entice their government into negotiations, this community resorted to blocking the main highway out of Oaxaca City for five hours to force the government into negotiations. As a result, Continuum had several environmental complaints logged against it from the government and La Natividad was temporarily closed. In response, Continuum states that this will not stop its plans for their mining project. ⁷⁶

Fortuna Silver Mining

In 2006, the Fortuna Silver company sent engineers to explore the feasibility of mining in Ocotlán, and to lease thirty-year concessions from about thirty owners. No public information was made available after these purchases. Along with Fortuna Silver, the other companies named by CODEP as preparing to violate Oaxaca lands include Aura Silver, Intrepid Mines, Continuum Resources, Chesapeake Gold Corporation, Consolidated Spire Ventures Ltd., Horseshoe Goldmining Ltd, Linear Gold Corp., Mauricio Hochschild, Mercantile Gold Company and Pinnacle Mines Ltd. ⁷⁷

On May 6, 2009, seven hundred armed police ended a 40-day blockade led by local citizens in the Mexican state of Oaxaca against the Canadian-owned Fortuna Silver Mine in the area. This mine has poisoned their clean water sources with chemicals required to extract precious metals from the ore, such as cyanide and arsenic. These policemen were geared with arsenals of tear gas, dogs, assault rifles, and one helicopter. Twenty were arrested and many had their homes illegally searched. Although much of this US aid was intended to combat the drug war, it is increasingly being used to protect multinational extraction corporations. Like those activists who opposed Fortuna Silver Mines, activists are increasingly repressed for voicing their opposition to extraction industry mega projects. ⁷⁸

Water Extraction

In 1992, Mexico initiated a process called "transference" or "la transferencia" in 81 irrigation districts, wherein management authority was transferred from the federal government to a district organization network. While a decade prior to this, the Mexican government subsidized 60 to 80% of irrigation system costs, water users in 84% of transferred districts were paying 100% operation and maintenance costs, according to the World Bank, which had declared this transfer a success. For those in one of Sonora's largest irrigation district, Rio Yaqui, residents faced a water fee increase by 257 % between 1992 and 2000. This increase is also largely aided by increased market competition and the absence of private protection under free trade. In 2002, when President Vicente Fox established PROMAQUA, a national program to encourage cities to transfer their public water systems to private water corporations, he understands that this program would lead to more funds from the World Bank. Indeed, PROMAQUA is financed by a World Bank grant of \$250 million. Consequently, Suez and Vivendi, working with United Utilities and Aquas de Barcelona, have come to control public water systems in Mexico. Now close to 20% of municipal water systems in Mexico have been privatized. These companies have increased water rates while eliminating service when users fail to pay their water bills, and, frequently, the water is poor quality. ⁷⁹ In places like Tehuacan Valley, where the indigenous people domesticated corn as an agricultural crop for the first time in history between 5000 and 3400 BCE, privatization served to take away the livelihoods of the indigenous farmers. In 1994, the water irrigation subsidies, designed to protect the nation's farmers against foreign competition sixty years before this, had been eliminated and Mexico's small farmers could no longer compete. ⁸⁰

<<http://upsidedownworld.org/main/mexico-archives-79/2559-two-dead-in-confrontation-in-oaxaca-near-site-of-canadian-mine>>.

76 "SIPAZ Blog: The International Service for Peace Blog." *Oaxaca: Mining in Capulálpán* (2008): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://sipazen.wordpress.com/2008/01/27/oaxaca/>>.

77 Davies, Nancy. "Actions Strengthen Against Mining in Oaxaca." *Narco News* (2009): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://www.narconews.com/Issue57/article3537.html>>.

78 "Mexico's perfect storm - mining, militarization and resistance." *NACA: Narco News* 19/5/2009: n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.minesandcommunities.org/article.php?a=9277>>.

79 Wilder, Margaret. "Water, power and social transformation Neoliberal Reforms in Mexico." *Vertigo*. Vertigo, 9/2005. Web. 25 Jul 2010. <<http://vertigo.revues.org/1925>>.

80 Contreras, Joe. "Divining Destiny: Water Challenges in Mexico's Tehuacán Valley." *Circle of Blue Waternews* (2010): n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010. <<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2010/world/tehuacan-divining-destiny/>>.

Logging

The Sierra Madre de Oaxaca, a pine-oak forest of northern Oaxaca, deserves the special attention of activists due to its high number of endangered species, high plant endemism, and substantially number of indigenous people in the area.

⁸¹Oaxaca itself has been the center place for murder of activists, such as the murder of two radio activists in 2008 who opposed logging in the area. In the village of San Isidro Aloapam, where indigenous people have been protesting the destruction of their forest by commercial loggers, many villagers have been injured or imprisoned. The Indigenous Popular Council of Oaxaca says that the Mexican government uses communities that are affiliated with the Institutional Revolutionary Party to assault them. Afterwards, they claim it is only a conflict between two communities. In 2002 the people of San Isidro protested when the San Miguel municipal government seized land in the area to plant more trees for their logging plantations. A pregnant woman was assaulted, resulting in a miscarriage, and several residents were arrested on falsified charges. ⁸²

SOLUTIONS

My campaign ideas relating to Canada:

- oppose the removal of indigenous groups from the Lacandona Forest/Support the Zapitistas
- organize in solidarity with Oaxaca against paramilitary oppression, illegal logging, and illegal oil extraction
- oppose foreign corporations in Oaxaca
- oppose Coca Cola and its support of Vincent Fox
- support Bill C-300 (also mentioned in Canadian report)
- Support Bill C-300 (also mentioned in Canadian report)
- support the TRADE Act (also mentioned in Canadian report)
- support the Bill to Repeal NAFTA (also mentioned in Canadian report)

Oppose the Removal of Indigenous Groups from the Lacandona Forest

Campaign Summary

In this campaign, we would join Chiapas in solidarity while raising money for the Zapitistas of Chiapas who are being evicted off of our land. We would partner with other solidarity groups to help their educational and health care systems while incorporating freeganism principals to help them obtain school supplies. We would also support their craft collective and items from this collective could be sold during our performance fundraiser.

Mini Plan Puebla Panama for Chiapas

Much of the opposition to Plan Puebla Panama/Project MesoAmerica (the No PPP Network) has been abandoned because, seemingly, the Plan Puebla Panama Project itself has been abandoned. However, it continues in Chiapas, Mexico with far less publicity.

81 "Sierra Madre de Oaxaca pine-oak forests ." *Wild World* (2001): n. pag. Web. 27 Jul 2010. <<http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/nt>

82 "Repression in San Isidro Aloapam, Oaxaca of our brothers and sisters of the CIPO-RFM." *Centre for Media Alternatives, Quebec* (2007): n. pag. Web. 29 Jul 2010. <<http://www.cmaq.net/en/node/27608>>.

The plan for Chiapas is known as a “mini Plan Puebla Panama for Chiapas.” It will promote maquiladoras through the creation of “free trade zones, except from taxes and provided with communication, energy, and water systems.” It will also transform the Lacandona Forest into a centerpiece for oil palm plantations and bio diesel extraction.

Evictions

Evictions to begin this plan began January 2010. These evictions featured prosecution by police officers, harassment, the burning down of buildings, and the uprooting of fruit trees, maize, and beans. Those evicted were not permitted to bring their personal belongings.

According to a recent report by Global Exchange, “the eviction would serve two purposes: 1) it would attack the heart of Zapatista communities, and 2) grease the wheels for the absolute exploitation of prolific natural resources. These include biodiversity, oil, uranium and hydroelectricity.”⁸³

Zapitistas Background:

The day NAFTA went into effect on January 1, 2004, the indigenous people of Chiapas, represented by the Zapatista National Liberation Army, declared war on the Mexican government in the pursuit of implementing democracy and re-implementing tariffs and subsidies. Mainly, the Capitals understood that, before NAFTA, tariffs protected Mexican farmers from cheap grains imported from the United States and Canada. The Mayan Indians of Chiapas depended on this protection, because it enabled them to sell their corn, beans, and other products and earn enough income for basic necessities.⁸⁴

Reasons to Support the Zapitistas in this campaign

The Zapitistas are against NAFTA and supporters of democracy, and this is why we should join them in solidarity. By raising money for their cause, we would help them to defend themselves from the evictions while ensuring that their life styles, independent from corporations and the corrupt greed of the Mexican government, continue on.

Zapitistas and grassroots democracy

After the Chiapas uprising, local people in these areas took the land, school, and health care into the hands of grass root democracy. State officials and private business are banned from many of these communities.

Decisions are made communally at the General Assembly, where every man and woman over the age of 16 may vote. At these meetings, responsibilities for duties are chosen. Autonomous Municipalities serve to join forty villages together, with councils chosen to determine daily administration.

While before the insurrection, women were often made to marry prematurely to stay home and do house work, in the Zapitista communities, women can participate in the meetings, go to school, and hold positions of responsibility such as council members, health promoters, education promoters, shop owners, organic garden owners, baker y owners, and any other field of their choosing. The Zapitista Women's Revolutionary Laws state that women can freely choose their partners, be free from violence, and may occupy leadership titles.⁸⁵

Zapitista Economy

The economy of these communities include subsistence agriculture, maize and means, coffee production, as well as cattle ranching in some areas. A woman's collective in Morelia writes,

"Our main production project is coffee. We pick the coffee beans together and put them in great big baskets...Then we clean the beans well and put them out to dry in the sun...We do all this together, and when we sell the coffee the money is for all of us..."

Zapitista Education

83 Cropley, Michael. "Communities in Resistance in the Lacandon Jungle." *Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group* n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.edinchiapas.org.uk/communities_in_resistance>.

84 "Chiapas Uprising and Trade." *American Edu* (1995): n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <<http://www.edinchiapas.org.uk/node/263>>.

85 Cropley, Michael. "Communities in Resistance in the Lacandon Jungle." *Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group* n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.edinchiapas.org.uk/communities_in_resistance>.

In the Zapatista communities, local people, often teenagers, are selected as so-called education promoters. When they take on this role, they then learn to teach in the autonomous schools during a six month course in one of the two autonomous education centers. In these schools, there are standard courses, like history, language, and math as well as workshops on how to organize, resist exploitative systems, about the rights of children and women, and about indigenous culture and language. Classes are also offered that teach about natural medicine, herbs and plants, and about the need to preserve and protect nature.⁸⁶

Poverty

Many Zapatista communities lack electricity and their homes are typically wooden huts with dirt floors and lack piped water. Instead, water is acquired from stand pipes in the village. Cooking takes place over open wood fires.⁸⁷

The Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group Campaign

The Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group has imported Zapatista produce such as coffee, clothing and jewelry for sale with the money going directly back to the communities.

In Spring 2004 the Edinburgh-Chiapas Solidarity Group and the Glasgow Zapatista Solidarity Group twinned with the '16 de Febrero' Zapatista autonomous municipality. The municipality is in a poor, rural community which lacked access to basic medical care and education. They raised funding that enabled the community to build a health clinic in their area and further help is now needed to purchase medical equipment and supplies.

Preventative medicine campaign

"The Zapatistas are trying to develop locally-based preventative medicine. There are 8 small health centers in 8 different villages in the municipality. 36 villages, the majority, have health promoters, though the aim is that every village should have a promoter."

The Zapatista communities are striving to improve the quality of life by installing basic services, often with national and international solidarity. Projects include supplying drinking water, generating electricity, sometimes by solar power, building enclosed wood stoves, constructing compost toilets, etc.

School resources campaign

But Zapatista education is battling against a lack of resources. In one village the people told us: "We need a bigger school, where the children can grow up well to go forward in their lives and in the struggle. We are poor, we don't have the resources to build a bigger school. But we hope that one day with your help our education can improve and go forward."

The local children told us they enjoyed their autonomous schools, but lacked many things:

"It's difficult to study because we don't have proper seats or furniture for the school."

"We don't have proper materials for education, like notebooks and pencils, this makes it difficult."

"I like to draw but we don't have colored pencils."

Craft Collective Campaign

One of the few sources of income for the subsistence farmers of '16 de Febrero' is from selling their handicrafts. The Edinburgh Solidarity Group is seeking outlets for the beautiful amber jewelry and textiles from the Amber Workers and Women's Handicrafts collectives.

The Amber Workers Collective said: "The solidarity work you do is very important for us, it is the only road to follow. There are serious problems with finding a market for our work, there is no way to show or sell it."

Letter Campaign

86 Cropley, Michael. "Communities in Resistance in the Lacandon Jungle." *Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group* n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.edinchiapas.org.uk/communities_in_resistance>.

87 Cropley, Michael. "Communities in Resistance in the Lacandon Jungle." *Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group* n. pag. Web. 4 Aug 2010. <http://www.edinchiapas.org.uk/communities_in_resistance>.

Zapitista solidarity groups ask to send letters to the Mexican President, The Governor of the State of Chiapas and The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights calling for an end to the evictions, respect for human rights and a cessation in the cultivation of palm oil plantations.

In our letters, these would be our demand.

- The immediate halt to evictions of native peoples communities from Chiapas.
- The enforcement of the UN Convention of Human Rights and all the international legally binding agreements and conventions signed and ratified by the Mexican government.
- The rejection of false climate solutions that only benefit transnational corporations and corrupt politicians
- A halt to all the big mega-projects of the so called Mesoamerican Project
- A halt to tree monoculture plantations that are not forests and which, in turn increase greenhouse gas emissions and displace indigenous communities from their lands. ⁸⁸

Allies:

Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group, Friends of the Earth International, Glasgow Chiapas Solidarity Group, West Yorkshire Chiapas Solidarity Group, the Mexican Solidarity Network

The Edinburgh Solidarity Group would be very open to using us as an ally. On their website, it states, “We invite individuals, student unions, trade union branches, community groups and all kinds of organizations to get involved in the twinning. As well as the vital practical solidarity, the twinning involves direct contact with the people of '16 de Febrero', exchanging news on our lives and struggles. In the spirit of the Zapata-initiated 'Other Campaign', we want to encourage struggles "from below" to join together to create a fair ⁸⁹and just world.”

This campaign would be highly beneficial for our group because, by getting in touch with the Edinburgh Solidarity Group and the Zapitistas, we would have incredibly useful contact with the state of Chiapas. We could use freeganism skills to obtain school supplies, like notebooks, pencils, desks, and furniture. There can also be fundraisers, including performance events, like concerts, open mic night poetry readings, and bake sales, to aid them with health care and their other projects.



Support the Third Peace Caravan to Oaxaca

Summary

We should join Oaxaca in solidarity, as the indigenous groups of Oaxaca have declared itself autonomous from the Mexican state, and the neocolonial capitalist policies it enforces. In summary, they have the same viewpoints as our group-- only they fall victim to paramilitary attacks and we seem to have avoided that somehow. When a convoy was attacked on April 27, humanitarian aid was lost. However, we would support the third peace caravan to Oaxaca as well as other peace caravans to come. Fund raisers would take place to get more aid to Oaxaca, including performance events like concerts and open mic nights as well as freeganism drives and featured films about Oaxaca. There could be call-ins or protests at Mexican consulates, visits to corporations invested in Mexico, counter information and direct action are all necessary.

Paramilitary repression

In 2006, Oaxaca became the site of social rebellion from the Mexican government, and the result was “a brutal crackdown of the Mexican state and the constant harassment by paramilitaries; dozens of people have been killed and the rebellion was largely crushed, but parts of Oaxaca are still organizing their autonomy.”

“On April 27, 2010, paramilitaries attacked a convoy that included activists, anarchists, and humanitarian workers trying to reach the village to lift the paramilitary siege. Two people, Beatriz Alberto Cariño and Jyri Jaakkola, were killed and several were wounded. Beatriz, an indigenous Mixtec, was a long-time advocate for food sovereignty, community water management, soil conservation and indigenous autonomy. She directed the organization CACTUS (Centro de Apoyo Comunitario Trabajando Unidos). Jyri, 33 years old, was a Finnish human rights activist who had been involved in the Fair Trade movement and delivering humanitarian aid to Africa.”

“On May 15, 2010, paramilitaries kidnapped and beat 12 women and children inhabitants of the municipality, who were later released. On May 20, paramilitaries assassinated Cleriberta Castro and her husband, Timoteo Alejandro Ramirez, who was the leader of the indigenous Yosoyuxi community within the municipality.”

Free trade connection

The paramilitaries work on the behalf of the Mexican government and Mexican and international corporations invested in the area.

It is seen in logging plantations in Oaxaca. The Indigenous Popular Council of Oaxaca says that the Mexican government uses communities that are affiliated with the Institutional Revolutionary Party to assault them. Afterwards, they claimed it was only a conflict between two communities. In 2002 the people of San Isidro protested when the San Miguel municipal government seized land in the area to plant more trees for their logging plantations. A pregnant woman was assaulted, resulting in a miscarriage, and several residents were arrested on falsified charges.⁹⁰

From Twins City's IndyMedia: “In May of 2009, 700 armed police broke up the 40-day blockade of a silver mine by indigenous Zapotec people struggling against against Fortuna, a Canadian silver mining company. Cyanide is used in extracting silver; the cyanide, mercury, arsenic and lead leak into the local water supply. Prior to the blockade, twenty cattle had died from drinking contaminated water, a substantial loss in a poor agricultural community. People had met in assembly and decided to blockade the mines, over threats from the local mayor. The police came in with dogs, tear gas and guns. They beat protesters and detained 28 people. There are many other mining projects in Oaxaca, more now that the price of gold and silver has risen in response to global financial uncertainty.”

“Under NAFTA and the Merida initiative (a US-Mexico security plan heavily supported by the conservative Heritage Foundation), the US government provides money, training and occasionally troops to prosecute the drug war in

90 "Repression in San Isidro Aloapam, Oaxaca of our brothers and sisters of the CIPO-RFM." *Centre for Media Alternatives, Quebec* (2007): n. pag. Web. 29 Jul 2010. <<http://www.cmaq.net/en/node/27608>>.

Mexico. De facto, this means that the US government arms the police and soldiers who break up strikes, blockades and protests. US government funding also strengthens the Attorney General's Office of the Mexican Justice Department, which already routinely refuses information to opposition groups and human rights investigations. Naturally, the violence which accompanies the drug trade continues since poverty, government corruption and a lucrative US market do nothing to discourage it.”⁹¹

Solidarity with Oaxaca.

On June 7, 2010, there was a day of solidarity with Oaxaca. It called for an end to capitalism and its death squads and the expansion of indigenous self-determination. There can be another day of solidarity, led by us.

On June 7th, Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympian anarchists and others against free trade met at the Mexican Consulate in Seattle at 1 PM on Monday June 7th for a demonstration in front of the consulate. A similar event took place in Boston. In Chicago on June 6th, there were film screenings and event at BibPop to commemorate the murdered and tortured. On June 7th, there was an anti-authoritarian demonstration at the Mexican Consulate.⁹² In New York City, there was also a protest outside the Mexican consulate on April 30, 2010.⁹³

These events were, of course, a direct reaction to the ambush of the Support and Solidary Caravan for San Juan Copala of Oaxaca. Perhaps we could have a fundraiser to send more relief and support to the people of Oaxaca.

Caravan

The caravan was organized to provide basic necessities, such as water and food, and to accompany teachers from the Section 22 teacher's union who were denied from entering the community for over 5 months.

“Electricity has been turned off, the community has no access to drinking water or medical personnel...and (the community) is subjected to permanent harassment from military troops that set up roadblocks just outside the town.”

Third Peace Caravan

On August 23 the "Third Peace Caravan" will leave from Huajuapán de León, Oaxaca, for Mexico City.

The Caravan plans to stop in the community where human rights defender Beatriz Alberta Cariño lived. Cariño was murdered this past April 27 during an armed attack on the International Human Rights Observation Caravan, which was headed to San Juan Copala.⁹⁴

Caravan participants

Representatives from the Assembly of Peoples of Oaxaca, Center for Community Support Working Together, members of Independent Triqui Movement of Unity and Struggle), Oaxacan Voices Constructing Autonomy and Liberty, Mexican reporters, and international observers from Belgium, Finland, Italy, and Germany.⁹⁵

Santa Cruz Oaxaca Solidarity Group website allies

AgoraTV, Axis of Justice, cetlalic, Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Contraimagen, delete The Border, Derechos Humanos, Education Not Incarceration (Oakland), global indymedia, Granito de Arena, Immokalee Workers, Indybay Americas, Indymedia Chiapas, Indymedia México, indymedia.us, Intercontinental Cry, International Aurora, Mujeres Sin Miedo, My Word is My Weapon, NativObserver, No Estamos Todxs, Oaxaca Journals, Oaxaca Study Action Group, Osservatorio Latino Americano, Petate, Radio Zapatista, Rebelión, Rising Tide North America Roadblock Earth First, Root

91 "Neoliberalism hates indigenous autonomy: some history of the situation in Oaxaca." *TwinsCity Indy Media* (2010): n. pag. Web. 13 Aug 2010. <<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2010/05/19/18648388.php>>.

92 "Solidarity with Oaxaca." *Anarchist News* (2010): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11452>>.

93 "NYC - EMERGENCY DEMONSTRATION IN SOLIDARITY WITH OAXACA." *Angry White Kid* (2010): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://angrywhitekid.blogspot.com/weblog/2010/04/nyc-emergency-demonstration-in-solidarity-with-oaxaca.html>>.

94 Ruiz, Gladis Torres. "Triqui Women Prepare For Third Peace Caravan to Mexico City." *My Word is My Weapon* (2010): . pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://mywordismyweapon.blogspot.com/>>.

95 "Urgent Call: Raise Your Voice in Solidarity with Oaxaca and Against Militarization." *El Enemigo Común* (2010): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2010/04/29/18646159.php>>.

Force, Salón Chingón, SIPAZ, Sixth Declaration, SOA Watch, SOA Watch Latinoamerican, Solidaridad con Copala, Student Farmworker Alliance, Upside Down World, Viento de Libertad, wellington Zapatista Support Group, West Denver Copwatch, Women of Color Blog, Zapagringo, Zapateando ⁹⁶



***Activists killed during the delivery of the first peace caravan.
Beatríz Alberta Cariño and Jyri Jaakkola***

⁹⁶ "Santa Cruz – Oaxaca Solidarity." (2010): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://elenemigocomun.net/santacruz/>>.

Target Companies in Oaxaca

We would target companies who do business in Oaxaca and with the corrupt PRI government. There is an entire list of such international corporations as well as contact information for these corporations available online. Their corporate offices are also located online. We would protest outside them, write them letters, call them, and do all we can to make them aware that we do not support their operation in Oaxaca. We would also update the list of corporations in Oaxaca and publicize it so other Oaxaca activist groups can continue to vocalize opposition to these companies.

EG: Here's a particularly egregious example...Rio Tinto's subsidiary Kennecott has a history of illegal uranium extraction in Oaxaca, was fined and had its license canceled yet still operates in Oaxaca.

International Paper Company, Harken Energy, Applied Energy Service Corporation, Duke Energy, Tribasa, Caros, GAN, ICA, Imbursa, Texas Connection, International Shipholding Corporation, Monsanto, Shell, Dow Chemical, Exxon, Shell, and Hutchinson Holdings.

97

Puebla Panama Profiteers

... International Paper Company and Boise Cascade are currently purchasing land in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico for plantation forestry. International Paper is also investing in research for genetically engineered trees. (The logging corporations clear-cut the forests, depleting topsoil and causing erosion, making rainforest recovery slow and difficult.)

... Grupo Pulsar- a Mexican biotechnology corporation, is investing in Chiapas in plantation forestry, biotechnology, and research on genetically engineered trees.

... ENDESA (a Spanish corporation) is the principal investor in the regional energy interconnection initiative to privatize energy and develop hydroelectric dams.

... Harken Energy, Applied Energy Services (AES), Duke Energy, and Harza are all U.S. energy corporations that are investing from Mexico to Panama in the development of hydroelectric dams and the privatization of the energy grid.

... DELASA Prescott and Follet is U.S.-based investment group that has a 25-year lease on the privatization, port modernization and creation of mega projects (including factory zones and road expansion) in the port town of Bilwi-Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua.

Other investors include:

Tribasa, Caros, GAN, ICA, Imbursa, Texas Connection, International Shipholding Corporation, Monsanto, Shell, Dow Chemical, Exxon, Shell, and Hutchinson Holdings.⁹⁸

Coca-Cola Campaign Summary

To put the enterprise in perspective, the same Group that bottles Coke in Cuernavaca built the mezcal plant in Oaxaca. It also built the international airport in Cuernavaca. In Mexico it has bought up almost all the soft drink brands sold in the country, and holds the greatest number of concessions for extraction of water. Coca-Cola Femsa owns twelve plants in nine states, including Oaxaca. Twenty-nine million liters of soda are sold daily to more than 169 million consumers in Latin America, which equals the normal water consumption of 14,500,000 persons, figuring two liters of water daily per person.

We have denounced the case of Coca Cola... which established a series of agreements...to exploit the hydraulic resources and which received several objections, for example the case of the neighbors of Viguera, when they were blocking the well located near the Juarez Monument. They informed us that the State Institute for Water and the National Water Commission had contracted with the Coca Cola company to drill wells in this zone of Viguera and in other places like Huitzo, Telixtlahuaca, and Etna, which have below-ground aquifers. Coca Cola has several wells drilled in this zone that have been granted by agreement with the government of Ulises Ruiz Ortiz.”

Coca-Cola supports and funds corrupt PR candidates

97 "A List of US, Canadian and European Corporations Profiting from Death and Repression in Oaxaca." *InfoShop News* (2006): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://news.infoshop.org/article.php?story=20061121134230518>>.

98 Lundberg, Jan. "Opposing the Plan Puebla Panama and FTAA." *Culture Change* n. pag. Web. 12 Aug 2010. <<http://www.culturechange.org/e-letter-40.html>>.

“According to the website oaxacalibre.com on September 11, 2007, Governor Ulises Ruiz made an agreement with Coca-Cola to exploit water in exchange for money for political PRI campaigns. Allegedly, Coke was given permission to drill wells in the Central Valley. Interviewing APPO activist Florentino Lopez, the site reported:

Coca Cola has repeatedly shelled out massive amounts of money and support for PRI candidates in Mexico. The murderers of Brad Will in Oaxaca have been identified as PRI party members. It is well known that the PRI has been behind the majority of paramilitary attacks on the people of Oaxaca. The Oaxaca state government is currently controlled by PRI.

Mexican President Vicente Fox previous job was President of Coca-Cola's Mexico and Central American division. He no doubt enjoys continued support and close ties with Coca Cola. Vicente Fox has just ordered a massive assault on the barricades in Oaxaca with Federal Police.

To this end we are calling for all those who cannot make it to an embassy or consulate to take their demands for freedom and justice to the Coca Cola Corporation, due there continued support of murderous regimes.”⁹⁹

Columbus Day Protests

“Last year on Columbus Day sixty thousand people gathered in small towns throughout the U.S. and on dirt roads in Central American villages, as well as in the largest cities and in the middle of the largest highways. From Canada to Colombia, they protested in front of U.S. embassies, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and World Bank offices, Spanish embassies, monuments to Christopher Columbus and the headquarters of corporations involved in the PPP. Teodosio Angel of the Union of Indigenous Communities of the Isthmus's Northern Zone (UCIZONI) explained a few days before the demonstration:

"We will block roads, ports and borders and will protest multinationals like Coca-Cola, to demand that corporations and governments stop robbing our natural resources and basic rights. For 510 years, governments and corporations have ignored us, and it continues today with the PPP."



⁹⁹ "Oaxaca Solidarity: Take action against Coca-Cola's support of PRI and Vicente Fox." *InfoShop News* (2006): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://news.infoshop.org/article.php?story=20061029103525736>>.

BILL C-300

This solution is also discussed in my report on Canada, but here it is again. This bill is very important for Mexico because it has been heavily abused by Canadian companies.

Canadian companies in Mexico

Nearly 60 percent of the world's mining corporations are Canadian, and mining companies from that country have at least 578 projects in Mexico.¹⁰⁰

Brief summary of abuse by Canadian Companies in Mexico

The Fortuna Silver "Trinidad" mine, to be built by a Canadian company, will contaminate the water for the people of Oaxaca and potentially mimic the Aura Silver and Intrepid Canadian mining companies in causing deaths due to toxic materials from the mining projects.¹⁰¹ During a blockade of this mine, police with riot gas were brought in and a protestor was later beaten by Institutional Revolutionary Party members.¹⁰² In response to a blockade against the Canadian Continnum Resources reopened mining project, called "La Natividad", the government of Capulálpán, Oaxaca issued several environmental complaints against this Canadian company, but Canadian Continnum Resources issued a reply that their mining project would continue.¹⁰³ On May 6, 2009, seven hundred armed police ended a 40-day blockade led by local citizens in Oaxaca against the Canadian owned Fortuna Silver mine, which had poisoned their clean water sources, and then proceeded to arrest twenty protestors and illegally search homes.¹⁰⁴

Details

The Corporate Accountability in the Canadian Mineral Extraction Bill, otherwise known as Bill C-300, is currently being considered by the Canadian parliament. This bill would impose sanctions on Canadian resource companies that violate human rights and environmental standards in foreign companies.¹⁰⁵ With this bill, every citizen or resident of Canada, and every citizen or resident of a country in which Canadian mining company has or had operations, has the right to lodge a complaint with the Foreign Affairs or International Trade ministers, or both, and Canada will be obligated by law to conduct an investigation. Peter Foster writes, fearing what he perceives as great negative consequences of the bill, "Bill C-300 would open Canadian companies to an onslaught of accusations and investigations promoted by people whose fundamental stance is that mining activity should be stopped. The last thing [mining companies] need is to have the other hand tied behind their backs by government-funded anti-development Eco-fanatics."¹⁰⁶ This statement highlights the extent proponents see free trade and the accumulation of wealth that comes with it as the direct result of lack of environmental standards.

According to Mining Watch, if passed, this bill will:

"- put in place human rights, labor, and environmental standards that Canadian extractive companies receiving government

¹⁰⁰<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50561>

¹⁰¹"MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SENDS TROOPS IN SUPPORT OF CANADIAN MINING COMPANY - FORTUNA SILVER MINES Inc.." *Rights Action* (2009): n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010. <http://www.rightsaction.org/articles/mexico_troops_050809.html>.

¹⁰²Davies, Nancy. "Environmental Priest Padre Martín Beaten." *Upside Down World* 2010: n. pag. Web. 26 Jul 2010. <<http://upsidedownworld.org/main/mexico-archives-79/2559-two-dead-in-confrontation-in-oaxaca-near-site-of-canadian-mine>>.

¹⁰³"SIPAZ Blog: The International Service for Peace Blog." *Oaxaca: Mining in Capulálpán* (2008): n. pag. Web. 11 Aug 2010. <<http://sipazen.wordpress.com/2008/01/27/oaxaca/>>.

¹⁰⁴"Mexico's perfect storm - mining, militarization and resistance ." *NACA: Narco News* 19/5/2009: n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.minesandcommunities.org/article.php?a=9277>>.

¹⁰⁵Hoffman, Andy, and Gloria Galloway. "Officials cite environmental infractions for temporary closing of barite operation; deny action has any connection to slaying of activist." *Globe and Mail* (2010): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.minesandcommunities.org/article.php?a=9719>>.

¹⁰⁶Foster, Peter. "Peter Foster: 'Kill the Avatar bill!'" *National Post* (2010): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/03/09/peter-foster-kill-the-avatar-bill.aspx>>.

support must live up to when they operate in developing countries;

- create a complaints mechanism that will allow members of affected communities abroad, or Canadians, to file complaints against companies that are not living up to those standards;

- create a possible sanction for companies that are found to be out of compliance with the standards, in the form of loss of government financial and political support.”¹⁰⁷

Legislative Process

Bill C-300 goes to a vote in the House of Commons in September or October. The vote is expected to be very close. Bill C-300 passed second reading in the House of Commons in April 2009 (in a 137 to 133 vote) and is now being reviewed by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. If accepted by the majority of the committee's members, it will return to the House of Commons for third and final reading.¹⁰⁸

Said McKay: “With the third reading vote approaching I am encouraged by the overwhelming support I have received both here in Canada and from abroad. It is high time that Canada, as a significant player in the global mining industry take the lead in promoting corporate social responsibility by passing the Responsible Mining Bill”¹⁰⁹

Barrick Gold as a critic

Barrick Gold Corp. (TSX:ABX), Goldcorp Inc. (TSX:G) and Kinross Gold Corp. (TSX:K) say Bill C-300 is "unnecessary and damaging to Canadian business."

Barrick Gold Corp. spokesman Vince Borg told the committee Thursday the very testimony that it has unearthed demonstrates the risks to mining companies of an open-ended complaints-and-investigation process.

"Our industry is often confronted with false allegations of misconduct in countries in which we operate," said Dina Aloi, Goldcorp Inc.'s vice-president of corporate social responsibility. "Regardless of merit, once made, allegations have lasting impact on our industry's reputation."¹¹⁰

Anti-C-300 media campaign

“Anti-C-300' pamphlets, buttons and large signs were everywhere at the 2010 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC's) annual convention, as Canadian mining industry groups turn the heat up in efforts to block the controversial legislation.

We hold a special influence during this campaign because the campaign led by Protest Barrick, for example, has cost Barrick Gold shareholders. When we target corporations who oppose this bill, we should make it clear that supporting this bill will in fact make them seem more environmentally friendly and more sound, ultimately, as a company. Supporting this bill, as we have the power to make clear to them, will work in their favor given the marketability found in the green movement.

“PDAC is calling on industry stakeholders to write to MPs, urging them to vote against the bill. Parliamentary secretary David Anderson, who voted against the bill in the April 2009 vote, said on Monday he will continue to oppose the legislation. Canada's new Minister of Natural Resources, Christian Paradis, also voted against the bill.”

We need to engage in media initiatives and phone call and letter writing campaigns to make the support for this bill

107"Urgent Action: Support legislation to impose standards on Canadian government support for mining companies operating internationally." *MiningWatch Canada* (2010): n. pag. Web. 9 Aug 2010.

<<http://www.miningwatch.ca/en/urgent-action-support-legislation-hold-canadian-mining-companies-account-abuses-overseas>>.

108"ACTION ALERT: Support Bill C-300 to hold Canadian mining companies accountable." *Council of Canadians* (2009): n. pag. Web. 9 Aug 2010. <<http://www.canadians.org/campaignblog/?p=2378>>.

109"Third Reading Vote for the Responsible Mining Bill to take Place in the Fall." *Honourable John McKay* (2010): n. pag. Web. 9 Aug 2010. <http://www.johnmckaymp.on.ca/newsshow.asp?int_id=80656>.

110"Mining companies deny abuses." *Star* (2009): n. pag. Web. 9 Aug 2010. <<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/731559--mining-companies-deny-abuses>>.

louder than the opposition, while painting the opposing forces (the industries) as the enemies of human and environmental rights.¹¹¹

Supports of this Bill: ACAT-CANADA, Africa Files, Amnesty International, Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network, Shawn Atleo, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), Canadian Labour Congress Canada Tibet Committee, Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA), Cause Canada CEDHA, CoDevelopment Canada, Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL) Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA), Ecojustice Canada, Entraide Missionnaire, The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Fredericton Peace Coalition, The Halifax Initiative, Horizons of Friendship Inter Pares, KAIROS - Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Make Poverty History, Maquila Solidarity Network, MiningWatch Canada, United Church of Canada, Results Canada, United Steelworkers, Maquila Solidarity Network, The Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada Mennonite Central Committee of Canada, North-South Institute, Public Service Alliance of Canada Rights and Democracy, Social Justice Committee of Montreal, World Vision

Campaign Overview:

Barrick Gold is a key opponent to Bill C-300, and so supporting Bill C-300 is also opposing Barrick Gold. Conveniently, it is also opposing Pac Rim. There is a draconian media campaign by industries to make out Bill C-300 to represent pure evil, and a media campaign in the opposite direction would serve to clarify that these companies, in fact, are unregulated evil promoted by free trade. If more Canadians knew about the human rights and environmental abuse committed by Barrick Gold and other Canadian companies, they too would oppose this bill. Furthermore, these companies are worried that this Bill will damage their image. We should make it clear that opposing this bill, also, damages their images by showing that they have human rights and environmental abuses to hide.

But Spring notes that the campaign supporting Bill C-300 has overshadowed a stronger legislation, the International Protection and Promotion of Human Rights Act, or Bill C-354. Proposed by New Democratic Party (NDP) MP Peter Julian, the bill would allow foreigners to sue Canadian companies in Canadian courts for human rights abuses, regardless of where the abuses take place. It replicates the United States' Alien Tort Claims Act, which survivors of torture in other countries have used to sue their torturers in US courts.



111Hill, Liezel. "Canadian miners ramp up PR campaign against controversial bill ." *Mining Journal* (2010): n. pag. Web. 9 Aug 2010. <<http://www.mining-journal.com/reports/pdac-president-attacks-damaging-c-300-bill>>.

SUPPORT THE BILL TO REPEAL NAFTA

The bill spearheaded by Rep. Gene Taylor, a Mississippi Democrat, would require President Barack Obama to give Mexico and Canada six months notice that the United States will no longer be part of the 16-year-old trade pact.

CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT

The 28 diverse House members who are sponsoring this bill range from conservative, to moderate to leftist. This means that the opposition to NAFTA is strong, and if conservatives see some of the names attached to this bill as well as rightest organizations that support it, they will back us in our agenda to repeal NAFTA.

Quotes from the Council of Conservative Citizens:

“Opposing NAFTA was one of the first major issues of the CofCC, and an issue in the CofCC statement of principles. “

“As recently as 2008, conservatives were still being ridiculed by the left-wing media for calling for the repeal of NAFTA.”

And also from their website: “It’s encouraging to see left-wing Democrats co-opting one of our issues!” Going on the idea that Obama is a bipartisan man, our campaign will also include him, while highlighting the fact that both the right and the left want out of NAFTA. Surely he knows that opposing NAFTA is a popular choice-- he campaigned for it originally.

Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel is aware of the political consequences for continuing to support the free trade policies of the Bush Administration and now the policies Obama seems to be endorsing. We will contact him, through emails, letters, faxes, petitions, and phone calls, to make it clear that allowing NAFTA to continue will isolate much of the public.

“Rep. Gene Taylor, who also serves on the House Armed Services Committee, called the 29 percent loss of jobs in US manufacturing since 1993 a matter of national defense and pointed to a number of companies who have moved their production to Mexico as cause for concern.”

BIPARTISAN EFFORT

However, for our campaign, the most important part is to convince representatives of all parties that supporting NAFTA will isolate voters. During election year, Republicans are expected to capture many seats in Congress. Obama may want to push more free trade agreements because he believes that free trade means bipartisanship. However, we will inform him that this is not true. The real bipartisan effort, in fact, comes from opposing free trade. If we manage to join with the right in supporting the Bill to Repeal NAFTA, having the names of leftist organizations next to organizations from the right will send this extremely powerful message directly to the Obama Administration.

CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

Allies would include any and all organizations that do not like free trade and want it to go away. Basically, all the other campaigns are based on the concept that NAFTA is horrible, due to proportionality clause, investor states provisions, and the means these sections in NAFTA are used, such as with the creation of the TransCanada pipeline. Therefore, any groups opposed to those actions, which are listed in the other campaigns, would inherently be opposed to NAFTA. Our tactic would be to link NAFTA to all these cases and rally groups opposed to tar sands and the abuse seen with Canadian mining industries and the investor protection clause, and thereby incorporate an anti-free trade agenda into their campaigns. This Bill also needs more cosponsors, and so we would make calls, send faxes, send letters, and send emails to gain more sponsors.

SUPPORT THE TRADE ACT

The TRADE Act would mean a review of NAFTA, and thereby a review of all the human and environmental rights abuses that NAFTA has exuberated in Mexico, including the investor rights chapter that has sought to compensate those who were not allowed to ruin the environment with mining and water operations.

Chapter 11 Cases in Mexico

In *Metalclad Corp v. Mexico*, NAFTA tribunals concluded that Mexico had expropriated the United States investor, Metalclad Corp, for forcing Metalclad to stop construction after it had failed to obtain a municipal construction permit in an area later deemed a protected natural site.¹¹² In a pending NAFTA case brought against Mexico by Texas water users and irrigation districts, Mexico was charged violating NAFTA with violating Chapter 11 of NAFTA for “capturing, seizing, and diverting” approximately 1,219,512 acre-feet of naturally flowing Rio Grande irrigation water for Mexican farmers in violation with the 1924 Water Sharing Treaty.¹¹³ Canada's Blackfire Exploration, whose employees have arrested for the murder of a prominent environmental activist in Chiapas, has threatened to sue the government of Chiapas for \$800 million under NAFTA for heavy profit damage after the Chiapas government closed their barite mine in 2009.¹¹⁴

TRADE Act Overview

According to Public Citizen: “The TRADE Act requires a review of existing pacts, including NAFTA, and sets forth requirements for future pacts. It requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive review of existing major trade pacts by June 10, 2010, including economic outcomes in the U.S. and abroad and various security, human rights, social and environmental indicators. It requires the president to submit renegotiation plans to Congress to remedy the gaps identified by the GAO between our current pacts and the criteria for good agreements listed in the bill prior to negotiating new agreements and prior to congressional consideration of pending agreements. “

Endorsement

Politicians:

147 members of the House are cosponsoring the TRADE Act, which was first introduced by Representative Mike Michaud. In 2009, over 350 organizations sent a joint letter to congress backing the TRADE act. There is a list available online of all the representatives who support the TRADE Act, and we should write and call them to make their support of this act even louder. All representatives who are not on that list can still be convinced to be on that list.

Groups who support the TRADE Act:

Public Citizen, AFL-CIO, Change to Win, Communications Workers of America (CWA), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME), International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, United Steelworkers (USW), Sierra Club, National Farmers Union, National Family Farm Coalition, UNITE-HERE, United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, Friends of the Earth, Public Citizen, Citizens Trade Campaign, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Americans for Democratic Action

112"Metalclad v. Mexico." *The Forum on Democracy and Trade*. Forum, 2001. Web. 25 Jul 2010.

<<http://www.forumdemocracy.net/article.php?id=110>>.

113Quealy, David M. "Bayview Irrigation District et al. v. United Mexican States: NAFTA, Foreign Investment, and International Trade in Water—A Hard Pill to Swallow." *17 MINN. J. INT'L L.* 99. Quealy Final Online, 2008.

Web. 25 Jul 2010. <http://www.law.umn.edu/uploads/Kd/6J/Kd6JPMVn11VgVfAS_HoaEQ/Quealy-Final-Online-PDF-04.07.09.pdf>.

114"Blackfire adding threats to injury in Mexico: Canadian mining firm looks to pocket \$800 million via NAFTA Ch. 11." *Mining Watch Canada* (2010): n. pag. Web. 23 Jul 2010. <<http://www.miningwatch.ca/en/blackfire-adding-threats->

Points to highlight during the campaign

Because the TRADE Act would require a review of NAFTA, Trade Justice should rally in support of the TRADE Act, through petitions, fliers, phone calls to legislatures, organized educational seminars, and our campaign should also address Chapter 11 of NAFTA as urgently in need of review. Due to NAFTA's state investor protections, corporate investors in Mexico, Canada, and the United States have the right to challenge environmental policies and laws as NAFTA violations and potentially obtain cash compensations.¹¹⁵ We could cite cases, such as *Bilicon vs. the Government of Canada*, *AbitibiBowater Inc. vs. United States of America*, as reasons to repeal NAFTA. *Pac Rim against El Salvador*, which NAFTA tribunals recently decided to take in, is an especially recent case that serves as a testimony to the need to repeal NAFTA. We could also phone call legislatures to specifically send their favor in the environment, as opposed to corporations who filed these claims, and ensure a victory for the environment.

In regards to opposing the TRADE Act, the proportionality clause should also be highlighted as a key component that must be removed from NAFTA. The proportionality clause in NAFTA demands that Canada may cut exports to the United States only if it cuts the same proportion of supplies to Canadians. The public should be made aware of the environmental damage caused by tar sands industries, of which the proportionality clause seems to require. Such environmental damage includes acid precipitation, river and lake contamination, and the feminization of turtles.

Campaign targets

In this campaign, we would target politicians who already support the TRADE Act to continue verbalizing their support, attempt to gain endorsement from politicians who have not supported the TRADE Act yet, and use phone calls, letters, faxes, and petitions to do so. We would also make the public aware of the gruesome features of NAFTA and CAFTA, such as the investor protection clause, with the hope that they too join us in our campaign to reform NAFTA and CAFTA and participate in making phone calls and sending letters, faxes, and signing petitions.

On the Public Citizen website, it says: "Contact James Ploeser at jploeser@citizen.org or 202-454-5111 to connect with local Citizens Trade Campaign staff and activists who arrange local meetings with congress people, protests and more."

Certainly, meeting with congress people would be highly beneficial. After all, our goal in this campaign is to convince politicians to endorse the trade act, and meeting them directly would add to our chances of succeeding.

Ron Kirk

As United States Trade Representative (USTR), Ron Kirk serves as the President's principal trade adviser, negotiator and spokesperson. We must focus a lot of our campaign on him. Again, this will be in the form of phone calls, letters, emails, faxes, and petitions.

On August 6, 2010, Ron Kirk visited Verso Paper's Bucksport mill and participated in a discussion on the future of the free trade agreements. Here is an excerpt of the article on this from Congressman Mike Michaud's website:

"This morning, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk joined Congressman Mike Michaud to visit with workers at Verso Paper's Bucksport mill to hear how U.S. trade policy has affected Maine's paper industry. The two were then joined in Bangor at noon by state officials, agriculture and aquaculture representatives, forest products representatives, trade and manufacturing experts, and workers affected by trade for a roundtable discussion on how trade policy can be improved so that it helps, not hurts, Maine.

'I am glad that Ambassador Kirk had the opportunity to hear directly from Mainers,' said Michaud. 'I think the message he got was clear. While we appreciate the Obama Administration's focus on increasing exports, it is not a complete strategy. Our businesses and our workers can't truly get ahead unless there is a level international playing field. Our current trade policy is failing them. But we have an opportunity to promote meaningful reform by pursuing a new trade model that boosts prosperity and security at home and around the world. I am hopeful that the Administration listens to the

[injury-mexico-canadian-mining-firm-looks-pocket-800-million-nafta-ch-11](#)>.

115" NAFTA Chapter 11 Investor-to-State Cases: Bankrupting Democracy ." *Public Citizen*. Public Citizen, 2010. Web. 30 Jul 2010. <NAFTA Chapter 11 Investor-to-State Cases: Bankrupting Democracy >.

Mainers hurt by trade and stops pursuing more NAFTA-style trade deals.'¹¹⁶

Clearly, the fact that Ambassador Kirk has taken the time to meet with those opposed to free trade in person shows that he is aware of the political consequences of continuing to support free trade. We will ensure that he is aware just how many people oppose free trade by vocalizing our opposition and informing others through editorials and educational seminars at universities, libraries, and any and other available forums to add to the volume of the vocalized outcry against free trade.

Groups who support the TRADE Act:

Public Citizen, AFL-CIO, Change to Win, Communications Workers of America (CWA), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME), International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, United Steelworkers (USW), Sierra Club, National Farmers Union, National Family Farm Coalition, UNITE-HERE, United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, Friends of the Earth, Public Citizen, Citizens Trade Campaign, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Americans for Democratic Action

CURRENT SPONSORS¹¹⁷

Rep Taylor, Gene [MS-4] (introduced 3/4/2010)	Rep Hinchey, Maurice D. [NY-22] – 3/4/2010	Rep Stark, Fortney Pete [CA-13] – 3/4/2010
Rep Arcuri, Michael A. [NY-24] – 3/4/2010	–Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr. [NC-3] – 3/4/2010	Rep Stupak, Bart [MI-1] – 3/4/2010
Rep Baca, Joe [CA-43] – 3/4/2010	Rep Kagen, Steve [WI-8] – 3/4/2010	Rep Visclosky, Peter J. [IN-1] – 3/4/2010
Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] – 3/4/2010	–Rep Kaptur, Marcy [OH-9] – 3/4/2010	Rep Wilson, Charles A. [OH-6] – 3/4/2010
	Rep Kildee, Dale E. [MI-5] – 3/4/2010	Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6]
Rep Braley, Bruce L. [IA-1] – 3/4/2010	Rep Kissell, Larry [NC-8] – 3/4/2010	
Rep Capuano, Michael E. [MA-8] – 3/4/2010	– Rep Kucinich, Dennis J. [OH-10] – 3/4/2010	
Rep Costello, Jerry F. [IL-12] – 3/4/2010	Rep Massa, Eric J. J. [NY-29] – 3/4/2010	
Rep DeFazio, Peter A. [OR-4] – 3/4/2010	– Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] – 3/4/2010	
Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] – 3/4/2010	Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] – 3/4/2010	
Rep Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-7] – 3/4/2010	Rep Paul, Ron [TX-14] – 3/4/2010	
Rep Hare, Phil [IL-17] – 3/4/2010	Rep Schauer, Mark H. [MI-7] – 3/4/2010	

116"Michaud Meets with U.S. Trade Rep. Kirk; Highlights the Need for Trade Reform ." *Congressman Mike Michaud* (2010): n. pag. Web. 15 Aug 2010. <http://www.michaud.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1097&Itemid=76>.

117"Congress shocker. Democrats buck Obama, introduce bill to repeal NAFTA!." *Council of Conservative Citizens* n. pag. Web. 10 Aug 2010. <<http://cofcc.org/2010/03/congress-shocker-democrat-blue-dogs-buck-obama-introduce-bill-to-repeal-nafta/>>.