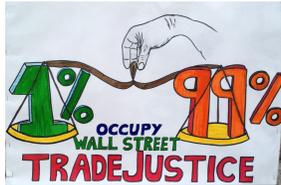




**TRADEJUSTICE**  
New York Metro



## MEDIA ADVISORY/ PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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### Obama Dances with Pfizer Lobbyist in Trans-Pacific Partnership Street Theater Protest Part of Week of Action Against San Diego Free Trade Summit

**Who:** Occupy Wall Street Trade Justice Working Group, TradeJustice New York Metro, Health Global Access Project, Queerocracy, New York Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, American Jobs Alliance, Global Justice for Animals and the Environment, Friends of Animals United, and Caring Activists Against Fur.

**What:** In a street theater performance, an actor playing President Obama will dance with a “Pfizer lobbyist”, an actor wearing the Pfizer logo as a face mask. The lobbyist will woo Obama with wads of campaign cash, urging the President to push for the inclusion of intellectual property rules that will extend corporate patents and limit access to lifesaving generic drugs in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an 11 country free trade agreement being negotiated this week in San Diego/

**When:** Monday, July 2nd, 2012, 12:30-2PM

**Where:** Pfizer Corporate Office, 235 East 42nd Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue, Manhattan, NYC

**Why:** Despite campaign promises to oppose NAFTA-style trade deals, the Obama administration is negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a new free trade agreement with Chile, Singapore, Peru, Brunei Darassalam, Malaysia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Canada, and Mexico. US negotiators are pushing for terms in the agreement that over time will expand drug patent monopolies for about half the world. The high costs of patent monopolies, particularly for newer second- and third-line HIV/AIDS medicines — still commonly thousands of dollars per person per year — seriously limit the ability of governments and donors to scale up treatment access. High prices force impossible choices for health departments allocating fixed budgets insufficient to meet all of their public health obligations. Aid programs including the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief struggle to expand current treatment levels.

The impetus for these proposed trade rules is the political and economic power of the patent-based pharmaceutical industry. Pfizer paid lobbying firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld \$80,000 in 2012 to lobby Congress, the US Trade Representative, The US Department of Commerce and other agencies on issues including “intellectual property protections in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; issues relating to the protection of U.S. intellectual property rights overseas.” Trade justice activists argue that TPP will also undermine labor rights and environmental protections and outsource US jobs to sweatshops.

To avoid public scrutiny, the negotiators have agreed that all documents except the final text will be kept secret for four years after the agreement comes into force or the negotiations collapse- completely shutting civil society out of the negotiating process. As the negotiators meet in California this week, trade justice, AIDS, environmental, and labor rights activists will take action to expose these secret negotiations.

According to David Goode of Queerocracy, “With his Trans-Pacific Partnership, Obama is selling out to Pfizer’s high-priced lobbyists, undermining the Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and signing a death warrant for people with AIDS and other who require affordable medications for life threatening illnesses.”

Additional Info: <http://tradejustice.net/tpp>