



CHARLIE RANGEL VOTED FOR CRUELTY TO FARMED ANIMALS

On October 12, Representative Charlie Rangel voted for free trade agreements with South Korea and Panama that will dramatically increase factory farming and meat consumption. The Korea-US Free Trade Agreement will allow subsidized US industrial farm exports to flood the South Korean market tariff-free at prices lower than Korea's domestically produced animal products and imports from other nations. According to the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, this will result in increased consumption of pork by 9%, chicken by 6.1 %, cheese by 13.1, and butter by 14.1%. This will doom tens of millions of additional animals every year to hellish lives on factory farms and painful and terrifying slaughterhouse deaths as a direct result. According to Patrick Boyle, president and CEO of the American Meat Institute, "The U.S. Korean Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), if ratified, would be the biggest shot in the arm to the meat and poultry industry since the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994." To stay competitive with foreign exports, South Korea has increasingly shifted away from traditional family farm agriculture towards corporate agribusiness using high concentration, intensive confinement factory farms. This shift to factory farming has resulted in outbreaks of dangerous livestock diseases like swine flu and hoof and mouth disease and annual mass culls of farmed animals. Between December 2010 and March 2011, close to 10 million animals - pigs, chickens, cattle, goats, and deer - were culled, with 8 million buried alive.



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The increased pressure placed on Korea's domestic agriculture from tariff-free free US imports will wipe out our Korea's family farms and guarantee that the trend towards factory farming in South Korea will continue, making more culls inevitable. Similarly, the Panama Free Trade Agreement will allow factory farms to wipe out Panama's domestic, family farm agriculture as US factory farm exports are allowed to dominate the Panamanian market. These trade agreements also outsource jobs to sweatshops, prevent Wall Street regulation, undermine auto emissions standards, help corporations avoid paying taxes by hiding money in overseas accounts, violate the rights of indigenous communities, expand toxic factory farms, violate Korea's ban on genetically modified food, and endanger Panamanian forests with new mining and logging projects! Call Rep. Rangel's Chief of Staff George Henry at 202-225-4365 and email him at george.henry@mail.house.gov. Tell him you are disgusted that Rep. Rangel voted for these trade agreements and that you will remember how he sold out to the factory farming industry when he runs for reelection in November 2012.

Global Justice for Animals & the Environment

Phone: (718) 218-4523 Email: info@gjae.org Web: <http://gjae.org>

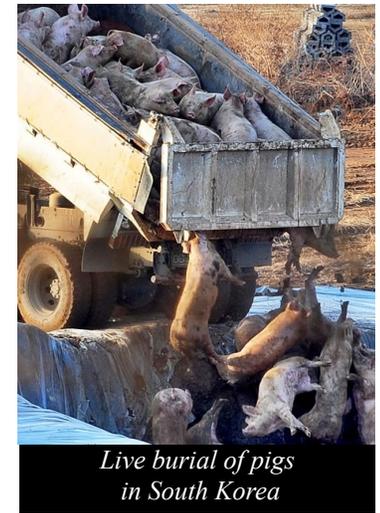


Live burial of pigs in South Korea

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