

October 12th Call to Action

Join the Stop CAFTA Coalition to Say NO to CAFTA!

From July 19th-21st, 2004, Central Americans around the region gathered together at the Fifth Mesoamerican Forum in El Salvador to strategize and demonstrate against the US-DR Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and other neo-liberal policies. Participants and organizers put out a call to action on October 12th to oppose these initiatives that hurt Central Americans and asked for hemisphere-wide participation.

This is another chance for you to join the thousands of citizens in Central America, the Dominican Republic, and the U.S. who disapprove of CAFTA's emphasis on profit for multinational business over the needs of most people. Take action on October 12 to make sure you are heard along with the multitudes! This struggle will continue until CAFTA is defeated!

Act in solidarity with our Central American brothers and sisters on October 12th to promote and ensure:

Access to vital public services

Food security and work for small farmers

Safe working conditions

Public healthcare

Women's rights

Environmental protections

All of which would be damaged or destroyed by CAFTA

Tell your representatives to say NO to CAFTA!

Some suggested ideas for action:

* Meet, call, or write your congressional representative. Find your representative's contact information at www.house.gov. If you'd like to join fellow constituents in a congressional visit, contact iblackman@citizen.org.

* Organize with friends and neighbors to pass out leaflets about CAFTA at the offices of your congressional representative. Visit www.campaignforlaborrights.org for downloadable flyers and contact clr@clrlabor.org to find out about actions near you

* Organize a workshop to educate your community about CAFTA. Bilingual materials are available from United for a Fair Economy or the Stop CAFTA Coalition (http://www.faireconomy.org/activist/fair_trade/CAFTA/ or www.stopcafta.org)

* Hold a "fair trade" sale with Central American fair trade products, and educational materials about Fair Trade vs. Free Trade. Visit <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/> for information on Fair Trade goods.

The October 12th call to action is sponsored by the Stop CAFTA Coalition, a network of organizations, including NISGUA, which opposes CAFTA and calls for policies that promote equitable trade in Central America.