

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY: DEMOCRACY OR DIRTY TRICKS?

END THE NED!

The Colombia Action Network (CAN) is joining AFL-CIO trade unionists and solidarity activists to protest the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) outside the AFL-CIO convention in Chicago, July 24, 2005. The CAN has high hopes that the delegates and leaders of the AFL-CIO will break their ties with the NED and its pro-corporate/anti-union policies. Like workers in the US, workers in Latin America want unions that struggle for the working class and defend their rights.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEATH SQUADS

In Colombia, *two to three* trade unionists are murdered by paramilitary death squads EVERY WEEK. According to the ILO, in 2004 over 90 Colombian trade unionists died at the hands of death squads and 295 were threatened according to the ILO. Coca-Cola death squads killed nine SINALTRAINAL, the beverage workers' union, members. The leaders of USO, the oil workers union, must drive to meetings with the bosses in armored vehicles with bulletproof windows! The death squads are run by the Colombian Military and partially funded by US corporations and Colombian narco-traffickers. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented that US military aid funds not only the repressive Colombian Military, but also the right wing paramilitaries responsible for the violence against trade unionists. US Generals have command and control over the Colombian Military, with 800 US troop advisors and 600 US mercenary contractors. US government and corporate officials know exactly what is going on in Colombia. They are running the show. The CAN wants to stop Plan Colombia and end US intervention in Colombia. Plan Colombia is a plan for poverty, misery, and death, spending a total of over \$3.1 billion for war on workers, and chemical fumigation of poor peasants and their lands.

AFL-CIO STRANGLING SUCCESS

Many AFL-CIO trade unionists and Colombia solidarity activists are aware that the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center created a program to bring Colombian trade unionists to the US for a six month respite from the killing fields. It was a welcomed change from the usual AFL-CIO role of riding shotgun for US corporate policy. This program was successful, but its funding was cut and it was brought to an end. Colombian trade unionists are still being killed in the factories, fields, and streets, but nothing new is being done by the AFL-CIO to help them. Colombian trade unionists are asking themselves "Why is the AFL-CIO helping in coup plots to overthrow a pro-union, pro-worker, uplift the poor people president like Hugo Chavez, when our union leaders are being killed at the rate of two to three per week by pro-corporate death squads?"



DIRTY TRICKS AND FLORIDA-STYLE DEMOCRACY

The NED is the political arm of the CIA and the Pentagon. The NED is the "legal" front for CIA policy that manipulates and buys elections in other countries—like the 2000 "chad" elections in Florida. With the help of the AFL-CIO, the NED sets up and funds company unions to undermine the honest unions that struggle for the working class in other countries. The NED's conservative business unions are like the mobbed up company unions sometimes found here in the US. The NED supports unions with corrupt leaders who will cut deals with US companies in return for personal power and financial gain. The NED funds "civil society" organizations and NGO's that are opposed to pro-people governments like the Venezuelan Government of Hugo Chavez or the overthrown government of President Aristide in Haiti. The NED has spent over \$900,000 in Venezuela trying to get rid of President Chavez. In 2002, the AFL-CIO helped funnel at least \$150,000 to the corrupt union leaders of the CTV, who helped organize the coup attempt. American trade unionists should be asking themselves "Why is the AFL-CIO funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars to overthrow the democratically elected President of Venezuela, when we cannot get decent contracts with health care and pensions here at home? "

One would think that AFL-CIO President Sweeney would want to visit Venezuela and President Chavez to learn how to build "unity and trust". Sweeney could learn a lesson about workers' power. Under the Chavez administration, the transformation of unions has been dramatic. A new union federation, the UNT, has created new unions in many industries. The old corrupt union federation (CTV) has collapsed. Chavez has helped workers to take control of and reopen closed factories. The workers run the factories! Chavez has helped workers to create new industries and end over reliance on imports.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY—END THE NED!

The AFL-CIO needs to practice international solidarity that is independent of the US Government and US corporations' interests. The collusion must end! The AFL-CIO can spend more wisely and fund effective solidarity programs. The American union movement will gain strength from its unity with other union movements. New lessons will be learned, the strategies and tactics of other movements can be useful here in the US. US corporations that have shipped jobs overseas will face united unions and workers across borders. **JOIN US AND HELP END THE NED NOW!**



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