

# How the FTAA could affect Immigrants

What can make things worse for immigrants?



A new trade treaty, now being negotiated, will:

- \* Increase poverty, misery, and the loss of sovereignty throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.
- \* Transfer power from people and give it to corporations.
- \* Let corporations take the scarce public funds that we need for health care, schools, food, and other services.
- \* Cut down wages and laws that protect workers on the job.
- \* Increase tension between immigrant workers and native-born US workers.
- \* Allow corporations to "import workers" for specific jobs--and deport them if they dare to organize.

This new trade treaty is called  
The FTAA.

The FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas), GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services), and CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement)--are all being negotiated behind closed doors. But we have time to stop them, until 2005.

How could global trade agreements hurt immigrants?

- \* Increase poverty and misery in your country of origin. The FTAA is a giant Structural Adjustment Program for the entire hemisphere. It will give corporations new rights to privatize public services and use public money. It will help them undercut labor laws and consumer protections. It will let them destroy the environment. In the rest of the world, the GATS will have the same effect.
- \* Cut down services, and access to services, in this country. Corporations will take over public services, but they will not have to provide them everywhere. They will be able to pick the most "profitable areas." They will not have to serve areas with poor people, people with lots of children, people who don't speak English well. They can leave these areas to the government, which will have less money for services.
- \* Cut down wages and laws that protect workers. Corporations will be able to challenge laws simply because they create a "burden" for the employer--as well as minimum wage and living wage laws.
- \* Allow corporations to import workers for specific jobs. If workers organized or insisted on fair wages, the employer could fire them and they would be deported. This system of legalized slavery would increase tension between immigrant workers and native-born US workers.

These new trade agreements--the FTAA (Free Trade Area in the Americas), GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services), and CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement)--are now being negotiated behind closed doors. But we have time to stop them, until 2005. Learn about the campaign and see what you can do by contacting the Stop the FTAA campaign. We are a project of the Thomas Merton Center that is working to educate and mobilize our region around efforts to stop passage of the agreement. Surveys, flyering, door to door outreach, tabling, protests, rallies, lobbying, and more are taking place as part of this mobilization. We are also available to do presentations on the FTAA for your organization, workplace, or group.



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