

## **Colombia Free Trade Act Passes**

The Colombia Free Trade agreement was ratified by both Houses of Congress recently, and signed into law by President Barack Obama despite opposition by many faith and human rights organizations. The concern is for the ongoing human rights abuses that have been and continue to be committed by both radical groups and the government of Colombia. In spite of passage of the

trade agreement, as members of a concerned faith community we can still ask our elected representatives to ensure that citizen's rights abuses in Colombia will be scrutinized in the weeks, months and years ahead, and that we will continue to hold our government accountable for trade agreements that not only benefit both countries economically, but do not perpetuate or escalate human rights abuses, destroy creation or the environment, foment degradation of indigenous peoples rights, and encourage workers' rights under international law.

For more information on the economic benefits published about the agreement, visit the Office of the United States Trade Representative / Executive Office of the President of the United States website:

<http://www.ustr.gov/uscolombiatpa>

For more information about the ongoing concerns about the trade agreement visit the Amazon Watch website:

<http://amazonwatch.org/news/2011/1010-stop-the-colombia-fta>

Eternal vigilance is one of tasks we must follow through on as part and parcel of our freedom we enjoy in this country. We encourage continued scrutiny of this agreement, and ask individuals and organizations with objective evidence of improprieties or abuses that arise from the ratification and execution of this agreement to share that information through their websites, contact us through our website, and together we will enlighten and educate our elected officials and their staffs

-- Katy Black, IPMOC Board Member