



Media Release

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Real Amigos to Three Amigos: “Don’t ratify the TPP, a Trojan horse for lost social and environmental protections”

Ottawa — With the “three amigos” — U.S. President Barack Obama, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto — meeting in Ottawa today, representatives of groups from the three countries urged them to not ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The groups placed a 10-metre tall inflatable Trojan horse on Parliament Hill, symbolizing the growing concerns about the TPP’s insidious effects on the environment, health and labour rights, amongst others. **Victor Suarez**, former member of the Mexican house of representatives and representative of [Mexico Better Off Without the TPP](#), and **Arthur Stamoulis**, from the U.S. [Citizens Trade Campaign](#) along with Canadian and Quebec groups reminded the leaders of NAFTA’s devastating effects.

“More than two decades under NAFTA have taught working people in Canada, Mexico and the United States what to expect from trade deals that put corporate profits ahead of human needs: lost jobs, suppressed wages, displaced families and attacks on democratically-enacted environmental and social protections,” said **Stamoulis**. “The TPP is NAFTA on steroids, and would accelerate the damage that’s already being done by NAFTA”.

Mr. Suarez and Mr. Stamoulis are also available for interviews during their visit to Ottawa on June 28 and 29. Their visit has been organized by Réseau québécois sur l’intégration continentale (RQIC), Common Frontiers (CF), and the Trade Justice Network (TJN).

“Before NAFTA, Mexico was a developing country. But now it’s an *underdeveloping* country, with 70 percent of people in rural areas and 85 percent of the indigenous population living in poverty,” said **Suarez**. “The TPP represents the final nail in the coffin for Mexican farmers as it would cement the complete loss of food sovereignty. Our governments are abandoning rural communities.”

The TPP has sparked controversy in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., and has become a central issue in the American election. The corporate rights pact is expected to go to the U.S. Congress in November for a vote during a lame-duck session.

“The TPP is about everything but trade, with 97% of TPP markets already free of tariffs. The secretly negotiated deal is a Trojan horse treaty that aims at giving unacceptable powers to big business at the expense of the public interest,” said **Pierre-Yves Serinet**, RQIC spokesperson. “The TPP is a slap in the face to democracy. It’s an obstacle to what people want, like sound actions to reverse climate change. The Three Amigos can’t ignore this reality.”

“The TPP is just one more international corporate constitution, sought by corporations, useful to big business, but destructive to people, the environment, and democracy,” said **Larry Brown**, co-chair of the Trade Justice Network.



“The TPP, like other corporate-led trade and investment agreements, forms part of the broader neoliberal framework which seeks to shift power away from governments and towards the corporate sector through deregulation, privatization, and elimination of public services through smaller government,” said **Raul Burbano** of Common Frontiers.

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