

Mingas Statement Regarding the Nov. 2, U.S. Elections

The Mingas Network is a group of individuals from across the United States, Canada and Colombia who are concerned with promoting sovereignty, strengthening democracy and improving labor conditions in Colombia. We are integrated within the Hemispheric Social Alliance and are active in North America. We are united in our support for social movements and our rejection of all acts of violence in Colombia, regardless of their source. We oppose the imposition of neoliberal economic policies and Free Trade Agreements, as they negatively affect the majority of people not only in Colombia but also in the United States. Our position with respect to the U.S. elections of November 2, 2010, reflects these concerns; we favor candidates:

Who oppose the pending Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, as these are not in the interests of U.S. workers or their counterparts abroad.

Who understand that millions of undocumented immigrant workers are economic exiles negatively affected by the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) and neoliberal economic policies in general. Who realize that immigrant workers contribute greatly to the U.S. economy and deserve fair and comprehensive immigration reform, which is long overdue. Who openly denounce raids and deportations, the persecution of immigrant workers, discrimination against all Latinos and the dangerous trends of xenophobia and racism that are fueled by the politics of scapegoating.

Who oppose the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, U.S. support for the military coup in Honduras, the establishment of military bases in Colombia, the deployment of troops to Costa Rica, the reactivation of the Fourth Fleet in the Caribbean, the militarization of drug policy, the harassment of progressive Latin American governments and the persecution of democratic popular movements in the hemisphere.

Who actively defend environmental concerns regarding the damage caused by transnational mining corporations as they seek to control and exploit natural resources across the hemisphere.

Who support the fundamental interests of the democratic majority and oppose budget cuts in the areas of health, education, housing, child care, and senior care; defend the rights of workers in the areas of health benefits, and pensions; and who will not try to ride out an economic crisis, brought on by corporate greed and neoliberal policies on the backs of workers and the population at large.

The Mingas Network will promote these important principles as we seek to develop broad backing in our opposition to the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia, and in support of the struggle by the people and workers of Colombia and the United States against the failed neoliberal economic model.

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