10,000 South Korean Farmers Protest Free Trade Agreement

author: zed 06.Dec.2006

Wednesday, December 6, 2006 (Seoul): Thousands of farmers and factory workers took to the streets of Seoul on Wednesday to protest against a free trade agreement (FTA) between South Korea and the US.

Holding anti-FTA banners and chanting slogans, the protesters gathered as a fifth round of talks continued at the Big Sky Resort in the US state of Montana to discuss removing tariffs and other trade barriers.

The plan has drawn strong resistance from South Korean labour, agriculture and social groups, as well as the film industry.

Farmers have been among the most vocal in protesting against any reduction in protections for agriculture, particularly rice.

Korean police imposed a ban on anti-FTA rallies after similar protests turned violent and raised public criticism on November 22.

But around five-thousand protesters were seen gathering in the city on Wednesday.

Humiliating agreement

The Chairman of Farmers' Union Moon Kyung-sik denounced a "humiliating agreement, not a fair one."

"And then us workers, farmers and people of this country will get huge damages."

"So (the government) should make the process of negotiation public, and proceed to the FTA between Korea and the US under national consensus," he said.

Protesters and riot police were seen pushing each other, but no violence was reported.

Seoul and Washington kicked off their negotiations in June and have since made little progress, with the last round of talks held on the Korean island of Jeju in late October.

Their officials said they hope to seal a deal by early next year. If they do, it would be the biggest for Washington since the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1993.

Schumacher to Fold up Portland Fur Shop


Gregg Schumacher, of Schumacher's Furs, announced today that he will be folding up his fur operation in downtown Portland. His announcement came almost a year since animal rights activists began holding vigils every Saturday in front of the store that has been a fixture in the Portland area since 1865.

Schumacher stated on the Lars Larson Show that he will be running a 50% off sale and then move in a few months to a new undisclosed location. When pressed by Larson about the new location, Gregg Schumacher said he can't disclose it due to "legal" reasons.

Although animal rights activists have a reason to celebrate this recent announcement from Schumacher Furs, the fur store will continue in another form in an Oregon City near you.

homepage: http://dharmavision.org

Remember Revolutionary Stew Albert

author: FLEETA DRUMGO 02.Dec.2006

December 4th is the date that the chicago police along with the f.b.i. murdered chicago black panther party chairman FRED HAMPTON while he slept in his bed. It is also the birthday of STEWALBERT longtime revolutionary activist who died in portland this year.Stew passed away in his home from cancer on feb 1 this year. Stew was a POWERFULL force in our and any community he lived in. He was well loved and will be missed by so many. He spoke at red and black cafe in 2001 and the tape of that awesome speech will be played, as well as a reading from his book Who the hell is Stew Albert. In the speech Stew tells his story of working with the black panther party the yippies S.D.S the weatherunderground and how we can learn from the lessons of buried revolutionary history.
Fouad Kaady, we still remember you


Another month passes, as the wheels of justice roll agonizingly slowly, in the case of Fouad Kaady. The months will not pass unnoticed, however. For those who are unfamiliar with Fouad’s case, I have included some links below, although there are many more, should you want to do a search. The short version is as follows:

Fouad's pickup truck had apparently run out of gas in Gresham. He walked/ran home to get a gas can and his parents' car, so that he could rescue his truck. At this point, little is known about what happened next, or why he was where he was ultimately murdered by the police. At some point, apparently the gasoline caught on fire inside the cab of the car that he was driving. This was either before, or at the same time as, he ran into the back of a woman's car. Being on fire kind of removes much of your normal responses, and therefore, from this point on, apparently Fouad and his parents' car were out of control, careening down a country road, where he struck a couple more cars before running off the road, and bailing out, tearing off the remaining burning clothes from his body, and running into the woods in terror. At this point, he was accosted by a relative of the driver of the first vehicle that he struck. When this man tried to grab him, or hit him, or whatever (this is open for questioning), Fouad kicked out with his foot, and was promptly dumped by the pursuer, who grabbed his foot. Fouad got up, and continued running, and his pursuer apparently lost interest in any further pursuit, perhaps because Fouad was bleeding profusely, and his badly burned skin was peeling from his body. Meanwhile, many hysterical callers were calling 911, reporting multiple hit and runs, and even possible gunfire.

Enter our intrepid first responders, Officer Bergin (Sandy Police) and Deputy Willard (Clackamas County Sheriff's Office). Both were busy snacking in separate locations, far from the scene of the "crime." Being intrepid, they hotly responded to the area, where there were already several fire fighters, other officers, and at least one ambulance, within about a one half mile circle. When our heroes arrived, all out of breath and full of testosterone, someone told them that the "suspect" (Fouad was, of course, a victim, not a suspect, but I digress) had emerged from the woods about a quarter mile from their location. Willard jumped into Bergin's car, packing a locked and loaded shotgun, and both sped off to "collar" the heinous criminal. When they spotted the victim, he was, according to both officers, "seated, naked, crosslegged, and catatonic, moaning, and rocking back and forth." Upon seeing this, Willard, being a trained investigator, made note of the fact that Fouad was not armed, and therefore made the decision to "transition to less lethal force (taser)." He tossed his still cocked and loaded shotgun onto the hood of the running patrol car, and both officers baled out with their tasers set on stun. They approached the victim, in the style that we are all familiar with, yelling and squealing like wild turkeys, for the victim to lie face down on the pavement (at least that is what they say they were saying, witnesses could make out little of what they were screaming). Fouad, though in shock, bleeding, burned, and severely injured, apparently had better sense than to lie his burned body down on the hot pavement, so they began tasering him until both of their "less lethal" weapons were completely discharged. The victim first proned, then bucked, and screamed from the pain, and finally, when the electricity stopped, again exercised better sense than either of his tormentors, he fled. He fled to the top of Bergin's car, practically tripping over Willard's shotgun, and then to the roof, and the rear of the car, where Willard and Bergin, who had determined that they were not going to let this bleeding and burned apparition touch them, finished their job, by shooting and killing him.

The grand jury, as always, found no fault. The rest of us find plenty, and when Gerry Spence (famous Wyoming lawyer who is suing the city of Sandy, and the Clackamas County SO) gets finished with the city of Sandy and Clackamas County, maybe some measure of justice will be had. Meanwhile, it is all that we can do, just remember him, and his family.

Durban, South Africa: Action in Solidarity with Greenscare indictees


In response to the call for a global day of action in solidarity with Greenscare indictees, people in Durban gathered outside the local U.S. Consulate at 303 West Street, right in the city centre. A banner reading "Durban Against the Greenscare" was raised and fliers with information on the case were handed out to those passing by.

A small contribution to the global day of action, to show them we're truly everywhere!

Our warmest solidarity greetings to all people organising and participating in greenscare events in Belgium, Australia, the US, Canada, Greece, Switzerland, France...