



US Lawmakers Urge Colombia Trade Vote Delay

By Doug Palmer

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Congress should delay voting on a free-trade agreement with Colombia until President Alvaro Uribe pro

The demand came as Uribe was making his second visit to Washington in five weeks to lobby for approv

"Mr. Uribe has come back to Washington too soon. Come back next year, Mr. Uribe, and let's see what t

Uribe has led a hard-line campaign to combat left-wing rebels and disarm illegal paramilitary gangs with

Violence has dropped sharply and foreign investment is flowing into the economy. But a probe into para

Uribe says that proves Colombia's justice system is working. He has also pushed for more investigations

But Rep. Phil Hare, an Illinois Democrat and former union leader, said violence against Colombian trade

"Twenty-one hundred labor leaders have been murdered in Colombia since 1991. There have been only

TIMING UNCERTAIN

Colombia should be required to show progress in reducing violence and bringing murderers to justice "o

Last month, the Bush administration struck a deal with congressional Democrats to include a commitme

But senior Democrats also have insisted Colombia take additional steps to address concerns about anti-

House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat who wa

"We're working with the State Department, the Treasury and USTR (U.S. Trade Representative's Office)

In a sign of the increased scrutiny Colombia faces, a House appropriations subcommittee on Tuesday p

The panel trimmed the military and drugs component of the package from 76 percent to 55 percent, and