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# NGOs: Withdraw TPPA talks

## Coalition hands memorandum on trade pact to US embassy

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A coalition of over 200 NGOs has handed a memorandum over to the United States Embassy calling on the Obama administration to withdraw the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement talks.

Two representatives from the Bantah TPPA coalition met embassy officials at around 3pm yesterday after about 30 members marched from the walking path in front of Lembaga Tabung Haji to the opposite side of the embassy.

One of the representatives, Hisham Hussein, who is also Malaysian AIDS Council honorary secretary, said one Mr Green, who introduced himself as the embassy's senior security manager, received their memorandum.

In the memorandum, the coalition said they would not accept the conclusion of the TPPA without their views, concerns and demands being heard and taken into account.

Bantah TPPA chairman Nizam Mahshar said although the Government had assured that nothing had been concluded, there had been 18 rounds of negotiations and 14 chapters had technically been completed.

Once completed, it would be difficult to undo those terms, he said.

"We are worried that the current negotiation in Brunei (from yesterday to Aug 30) will be the final tech-



**Making their stand:** Members of the Bantah TPPA coalition gathering in front of Lembaga Tabung Haji in Kuala Lumpur.

nical round," he said.

The TPPA is an international trade pact being negotiated among countries in the Pacific Rim.

MCA Young Professionals Bureau chairman Datuk Chua Tee Yong urged the Government to be more

transparent on the TPPA talks.

He suggested that a wider group of participants representing different sectors be involved in the government consultative group and be bound by the Official Secrets Act if necessary.

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for a video of the handing over of the memorandum

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