

GOOD

LIFE

A special paper for the European Social Forum 2008 in Malmö and the World Social Forum 2009 in Belem

MALMÖ - BELEM



- Ending corporate monocultures
- Movements
- Stop corporate rule and war
- Food sovereignty
- Solving ecological and social crisis
- Social change
- Climate change
- Repression
- Future action
- Transport

Why this paper?

The purpose of this paper is to contribute to strengthening the global justice movement and to bring in wider concerns to the European Social Forum in Malmö 2008 and the World Social Forum 2009 in Belem. These concerns are shared by many activist organisations and people in common emphasizing both environmental and social justice.

The paper is made in a time when many crises appear at the same time. Sharp food and oil price increases result in famine and rising conflicts. Soil and eco-system destruction is caused by expanding monoculture plantations. To this is added global warming. Repression grows also in Europe, military controlling the streets in Italy, the Roma people blamed for all disorder while social movements are criminalised in the name of war on terror. In many places women are forced to give up their equal rights. We see continued military occupations in many countries, new wars and extreme growing social inequality within and between countries.

To this multi-issue crisis there are no ready answers. With the growing inequalities, privileged countries and social classes feel that they can postpone any solution which questions their position, as this minority also believes they control the power in the world. Through stating that solutions to the crisis should not be based in social realities but only in technology and growth through market mechanisms an illusion is created that we live in the best of worlds. However, when common people, which include most of us, believe that we can, want and dare to be part of a social change where solidarity, democracy and respect for all forms of life are the central values, the societal transformation can become real for the benefit of the unprivileged and the future generations.

The paper is produced by Friends of the Earth Finland and Sweden in close cooperation with Friends of the Earth sister organisations all over the world, the peasant organisation Via Campesina, the comprehensive democracy organisation Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Latin American solidarity movements. The opinions in this paper may differ from that of the organisations supporting the project. Responsible for the content are the authors and the editorial team.

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Johanna Nuorteva

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Noora Ojala

Thomas Wallgren

Every day, in every village and neighbourhood, at every workplace and school, in every forest and every field and even in every army barrack people build dignity for all, justice for all and prosperity for all living beings.

We must stick to this simple fact, despite the wars, the genocidal imperial capitalism and the ecological crisis. The most important force for change are the daily struggles that engages billions of individuals in their common lives.

People everywhere are keeping alive old and creating new cultural values that place solidarity, truth and joy ahead of competition and greed.

It is true that the present world order is such that our egoistic drives and our aggressive impulses are often easier to realise than our desire for friendship and search for conviviality. The dream of consumer paradise has invaded and shaped the imagination of almost all people of the planet.

But that is not the whole truth. We are also struggling to find ways out of this state of degradation. We are saddened and angry

at ourselves and others, but we are also hopeful and creative.

Everywhere mothers hold on to their babies, men passing by give their hand to strangers in need, there is love that overcomes all fears, millionaires secretly give way to their burning desire to serve the poor, the oppressed stand up together and fight, people celebrate their victories and share their grief in moments of defeat.

There is a culture of resistance, struggle, joy, solidarity, and change that makes a green, socialist, feminist century a reality, even if partly only, this very day.

Cultural struggle needs as its arms and legs common action and organisation, politics by people and technologies and economies for democracy and self-reliance.

The politics we need will be a nonhierarchical, multipolar politics of truth-force, satyagraha organised as comprehensive democracy at all levels from family and neighbourhood to the regions and the globe and in all dimensions of life, including democracy of gender, ecology, politics, economics, culture and knowledge.

-- We see it emerging in the increasingly non-competitive relations between on the one hand new local and global movements,

such as the movement of peasants, landless rural workers, feminists, environmentalists, zapatistas and indigenous people, and old political organisations such as the Confederation of Free Trade Unions and national socialist, communist, green and agrarian based parties.

This movement of movement has a common direction and many different answers. The answers do not form a coherent whole, but an intense process of joint learning has started for which the World Social Forum may be the single most important experiment so far.

This new historical force is young and it is still unnamed.

We should have no illusions about its strength. But it may be growing as can be seen on every global women's day, 8th of March, and on every global peasant's day, 17th of April, and on every worker's and student's day, 1st of May and on every day of September 11th, the day we commemorate the birth of satyagraha as a new political technology for our times that happened in Johannesburg in South Africa on 11th September 1906.

Welcome green, socialist feminist century – we are eager to hear your real name.



Paper and Ethanol - Northern Consumption, Southern Destruction

Christine Pohl

Timber and pulp, sugar cane and agrofuels are all exported from the South for consumption in Northern countries, earning vast profits for transnational companies.

European multinationals are responsible in large part for the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources worldwide through large-scale plantation of monocultures. This displaces local populations, devastates biodiversity, exhausts water sources, and impoverishes workers, farmers and communities.

Multinationals are able to get away with this because they are supported by economic policies which promote privatisation, increased exports and international trade liberalisation.

Large-scale monocultures have a series of negative environmental, economic, and social impacts. Land pressure has already resulted in the disappearance of half of the world's forests. Deforestation continues at an alarming rate. The health of remaining forests is rapidly declining with a high rate of biodiversity loss.

Cellulose: Paper consumption of the North deforests the South

South America has become the central region of expansion of the cellulose industry for exports. Forecasts show that by 2010 this region will provide the interna-

tional market with a fourth of the world's cellulose production. Less than 10% of the production will be used in the domestic market, while the rest will be exported.

Seven of the world's ten largest cellulose companies have in-



Verena Glass

stalled pulp mills and planted tree monocultures in South America, including European transnationals such as Botnia (Finland), Stora Enso (Finland-Sweden) and ENCE (Spain). These companies have put rights to labour, water, health and democratic influence at stake.

Agrofuels: wreaking havoc on the people and planet

Increasing amounts of sugar cane are being grown in response to the rising demand for agrofuels as an alternative fuel. In Brazil alone, exports of sugar cane-based ethanol increased by more than 600% between 2001 and 2005. This

massive expansion is not only wreaking environmental and social havoc, it is also significantly aggravating the current global food crisis because more and more land is converted to feed cars instead of people.

At the same time, agrofuel companies are making record profits enabled by loans, investments and other financial support from private banks. All of the major European banks have invested billions of Euros in recent years in agrofuel producing companies such as Cargill, Bunge, ADM, Cosan and Brasil Ecodiesel.

Economic Justice

Friends of the Earth is campaigning to halt the devastation caused by multinational corporations and their large-scale industries and destructive monoculture plantations. Forests need to be protected as they provide the livelihoods of many local communities and indigenous peoples. To conserve the forests that remain, it is crucial that we drastically reduce our energy consumption and paper use.

It is equally urgent to counter policies which place corporate in-

terests above peoples' rights. This destructive tendency is clearly reflected in the EU's external policies, pushing for competitiveness and economic growth at all costs.

The core of the EU's strategy is to open up markets, to protect foreign investment and to reduce the state's capacity to promote economic and social development.

Like other international institutions such as the WTO and international financial bodies, the EU has become an accomplice to the destructive activities of TNCs (transnational corporations).

There is a growing grassroots community resistance to the EU's economic policies and the impacts of European TNCs on social, human, economic, and environmental rights in the global South. Friends of the Earth, along with many other organisations and community groups across the globe, is campaigning for economic justice: placing human dignity over competitiveness of multinational companies and profits for rich elites.

Workshop ESF-Date & time: Thursday 18 Sept - 9.30-12.30: Place: Enskifteshagen, Tält 1

GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT HISTORY

*selected events from database
www.aktivism.info*

1970 September 20-25 Copenhagen. Counter conference and demonstrations with 10 000 participants against World Bank Summit. 3 days of riots with violence against demonstrators and the police with the use of police motorcycles driving into masses of demonstrators and molotov cocktails against motorcycles.

1972 Stockholm. Peoples Forum and Environmental Forum and a demonstration with 7 000 participants against the ecocide in Vietnam at the UN Conference on Human Environment. The beginning of full scale independent popular movement and NGO activities with interactive dialogue between official and alternative forums at Summits. The opening day of the Summit, 5.6, becomes the international World Environment Day. 60 activists from the Third World issues the OI Committee manifesto on world environmental, cultural and social issues.

1977 IBFAN, International Baby Food Action Network established, the first international action network soon to be followed by many others like PAN, Pesticide Action Network, WRM, World Rain Forest Movement, FIAN, Food International Action Network and others.

1977 Indigenous protestors in the Philippines force the World Bank to withdraw its financial backing for the construction of four large dams along the Chico River. The struggle of the Kalinga and Bontoc peoples against the Chico dam project became a national symbol of protest and was heavily repressed by military as the tribes prepared to resist the dam at all costs

for complete list of events see:
www.aktivism.info/wiki/index.php/Global_Justice_Movement_Chronology

Agrofuels are not a solution to climate change or to climate justice

Rainforest destruction, fuel instead of food, people being driven off their land, and greenhouse gas emissions from fertilizers are just some of the problems of the great rush for agrofuels. Friends of the Earth Europe's Agrofuels campaigner Raoul Bhambral explains what we are doing at the European Social Forum and why the issue is such a hot topic now.



Jose Marques Lopes /dreamstime

Sugarcane is a popular agrofuel and is burned before harvesting. This contributes to climate emissions and severe pollution in the surrounding area leading to health problems.

Raoul Bhambral

This year has seen an important piece of legislation being rushed through the European process

– the Renewable Energy Directive. This is part of the European Commission's climate and energy package to tackle climate change. One of the measures in the proposed Directive is for a 10% target for renewable energy in transport by 2020. Currently, most of this is expected to be met by agrofuels.

Friends of the Earth Europe believes that the current rush to develop agrofuels (also known as biofuels) on a large scale is ill-conceived and will contribute to an already unsustainable trade whilst not solving the problems of climate change or energy security.

Liquid agrofuels are promoted as a way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. In reality many agrofuels deliver poor greenhouse gas savings and some of them pose a threat to valuable ecosystems.

To prevent the most dangerous consequences of climate change it is necessary to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions

over the coming years. A more effective way to do this and to secure energy supply is to:

- reduce demand
- improve fuel and energy efficiency
- develop sustainable transport and energy systems.

Agrofuels are no substitute for these priorities, yet the EU is driving demand for agrofuels through the targets it is setting.

The international trade in important agricultural commodities such as soy (often used for animal feed) and palm oil is already unsustainable and leads to major environmental and social problems

- deforestation, damage to valuable ecosystems and carbon sinks, displacement of indigenous people and to the replacement of small-scale farming with intensively-grown monocultures. Europe's new demand for agrofuels from the same crops is likely to make this trade even more unsustainable.

Read our report on the devastating social impacts of the agrofuels boom on communities in Latin America (Fuelling destruction in Latin America can be download-

ed from <http://www.foeeurope.org/agrofuels/fuellingdestruction.html>).

The European Commission aims to avoid these problems by setting sustainability criteria for agrofuels. But these criteria are weak and will not be effective in preventing other environmental and social impacts.

Other sustainability initiatives have so far failed to solve the complex problems that arise from large scale agrofuels. Read our report on the flaws of certification schemes which concludes that they are unlikely to work in

the context of agrofuels (Sustainability as a smokescreen can be downloaded from <http://www.foeeurope.org/agrofuels/sustainabilitysmokescreen.html>).

Friends of the Earth Europe is working with activists and organisations across Europe to build a movement of people who can campaign against the rise for agrofuels due to the 10 per cent target for biofuels.

It is building a broad coalition to expose agrofuels as the false solution that they are. The campaign joins a growing body of opposition to agrofuels, including

the OECD, the FAO, Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and the World Bank.

Lobbying at the local level across the whole European Union will be critical to winning this important battle.

Workshop
ESF-Date & time:
Friday 18 Sept
1400-1700PM
Place: Sofielund Folkets hus Nobelorget, Sal 1
Raoul Bhambral
Friends of the Earth Europe.

MST letter

To the stockholders and managers of Stora Enso corporation And to the governments of Sweden and Finland

11 August 2008, Via Campesina Brazil and the Movement of Landless Peasants (MST) launched an international campaign against the activities of the Swedish-Finnish pulp and paper company Stora Enso. Via Campesina Brazil is asking people to write to the governments of Sweden and Finland and to the head office of Stora Enso, to protest against the company's operations in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

more: <http://pulpinc.wordpress.com/2008/08/19/international-campaign-against-stora-enso/>
<http://www.mstbrazil.org/>



Leonardo Megarejo



Another global justice movement

is possible!

Tord Björk

Why have Friends of the Earth in Finland and Sweden with the support of sister organisations initiated a new kind of debate on the history, present and future of the global justice movement?

Why do we see a need of bringing indigenous, peasant and ecological perspectives into the center of the debate?

Looking at earlier debates the WTO protests in Seattle 1999 in the Northern industrialised countries is by many seen as the birth of the global justice movement, also labelled anti-globalization or alter globalization movement.

At European Social Forum and in books about World Social Forum the debate has often been dominated by representatives from Left reformist or revolutionary political parties or groups focusing on social inequalities and especially between the industrial workers and owners of corporations, sometimes also seeing feminism as an important part of the global justice movement.

This needs to be changed. The first victory against economic globalization was the result of the fierce struggle of the Kalinga and Bontoc peoples which forced the World Bank to withdraw its financial backing for the construction of four large dams along the Chico River in the Philippines 1977.

Since then, indigenous and rural people have been a principal force in the global justice movement. 1985 the rubber tappers in

Amazonia started to organise an alliance across the racist divide with the low land Indians and the environmental movement which stopped a World Bank funded road project in the innermost of the Amazonian jungle.

This was a signal to the world, economic globalization was possible to stop!

The rubber tapper leader Chico Mendez also became a leader of the Workers Party in Acre, the only state in Brazil where PT won the elections in 1989, the same year he was murdered by ranch owners.

The lasting result was strong popular movement links between the workers movement and rural people of all colours in the Amazon region, links that still today is a back bone in the global justice movement.

In Europe European Youth Forest Action was able to make actions across the East West divide

and equally protesting against the Communist authoritarian regimes and Western corporate rule.

In the 1990s, indigeneous people in all of Americas celebrating 500 years of resistance against European occupation, the Karnataka farmers mass demonstration in India with half a million protest-

movement of movements to make another world possible.

With the establishment of World Social Forum 2001 a split occurred, as the indigenous Zapatistas and with them in practice their close allies as the Karnataka farmers and liberation movements became excluded.

This has caused rural but also environmental issues to be less important in the social forum process, at least in Europe.

At the same time the social forums have proven to be a rich gathering of a multiple of spaces for discussion, celebration and action especially for well educated people in many movements but also for many others.

This is why we want to bring all strands from the global justice movement to a joint discussion, whether they oppose, are ignorant or central part of the social forum process.

With representatives from the Gandhian mass movements in India criticising Western development, the leftist movement in Russia closely related to labour struggle and other social movements, the anti-debt movement from Kenya, the combatable Andean indigenous movements, the European G8 protests and the International Committee of WSF we hope this will contribute both to the greening of the social forums and to build a more united movement of movements linking rural and urban, ecological and social concerns.



Tord Björk

ing in the streets against WTO, the birth of Via Campesina and the rebellion in Chiapas against North American Free Trade Agreement gave new momentum, with the founding of Peoples Global Action as a main result, with non-violent mass civil disobedience promoted as a main way for creating social change.

With the workers' strike in France 1995 and the trade union AFL-CIO participating in the protests in Seattle along with earlier mass workers protests in the South against economic globalisation, the labour movement also became more part of a growing

GJM HISTORY

1984 First alternative forum at G7 meeting in London. An alternative World Economic Summit was staged under the title of "Global Challenge: Out of the Crisis, Out of Poverty". Politicians and economists from Europe, the USA and the Third World participated in this meeting.

1985 Mass protests against G7 in Bonn, West Germany. The radical left organised 'action days', there was a counter-conference, and a big demonstration followed by clashes with the police and 60 arrests made, with smaller events in other cities.

1985 Rubber tappers start CNS, Consejo Nacional dos Seringueiros under the leadership of Chico Mendes from Xapuri in Acre. CNS starts "empates" encircling trees under threat of being cut down in the rain forest and unites with Indians and other forest peoples. In alliance with the international environmental movement CNS is able to stop World Bank funded project to build a road through the innermost Amazon region, the second victory in the global justice movement struggle against global economic institutions.

1988 August 18 The first large-scale organised protests against the planned construction of dams in the Indian Narmada River, which would endanger the livelihood of over a million people as well as various habitats, took place in India. With Medha Patkar as a central figure the movement "Narmada Bachao Andolan" (Save the Narmada) was established in 1989 and won many international supporters. One of the main sponsors of the construction plans was the World Bank.

for complete list of events see:
www.aktivism.info/wiki/index.php/Global_Justice_Movement_Chronology

Appeal for Nordic fund for knowledge on activism and popular movements

Activism and popular movements are contributing to democracy, peace, social equality, a richer culture and ecological awareness. The Activism Fund will support knowledge on old and new movements and the movements to come. This by sharing experiences, and supporting and informing about archives, popular education and research. There is a lot of knowledge collected and available on earlier movements which once brought democracy and social equality to the Nordic countries.

There is now a need for collecting, discussing and sharing experiences from new social movements and the activism of today. Today a lot of material from new movements without economical and organizational resources risks destruction or never to be used for contributing to knowledge which future movements could make use of.

The Activism Fund is a common Nordic initiative to encourage sharing of experiences and knowledge of all kinds of activism and popular movements for social change. There is also a need for international exchange because movements influence each other across all borders.

To make this possible we request your support for a collection. Our objective is to make one thousand people or groups to guarantee their support for a thousand crowns each. When those guarantees are available, and not sooner, the funds will be collected. The funds will be administrated by Association Activism.info (nordiska Föreningen för kunskap om aktivism och folkrörelser) which have been founded for this purpose. The means will be used for:

- Collecting and sharing of experiences and knowledge about activism by an interactive website
- Publishing of Books and other printed material on new social movements in the nordic countries and social movements all over the world
- Archiving newer movements and cooperation with popular movements archives
- Organizing meeting for sharing experiences between different movements and older and younger activists
- Supporting activists telling or reflecting upon the story of their organization or movement
- Support of network for research on social movements, for example Rörelsenätverket
- Supporting current projects, like the Nordic Youth research project about the conflict around the Youth House in Copenhagen.
- Seminars to promote knowledge of social movements and activism.

On several of these points there are already preparations going on which would make it possible to within two years after that the funds are collected, build up a range of activities for making this work going.

Association Aktivism.info/ Föreningen för kunskap om aktivism och folkrörelser

Undersigned by (selected list):

Denmark: Bente Hesselund Andersen, NOAH – Friends of the Earth Denmark, Kenneth Haar, Attac, Knud Vilby, author and journalist, development consultant, Toni Liversage, author, Finland: Börje Mattsson, migrant coordinator, Cultural Association Etnokult Jaana Airaksinen, Voima – magazine, Lea Launokari, Women for Peace, theater producer, Thomas Wallgren, philosopher, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, founder of percentage movement, Ulla Klötzer, Alternative to EU, Viveca Hedengren, solidarity activist, International: Jacob von Uexkull, Right Livelihood Award, founder, Iceland: Einar Olafsson, Samtök hernaðarandsæðinga – Campaign against militarism, Ragnar Arnalds, Heimssýn, EU-critical organisation, Norge: Asbjørn Wahl, Aksjon for velferdsstaten – Action for the Welfare state, Berit Ås, founder of womens' university in Norway, Sjur Papazian, anti war movement, youth house Hausmania and Indymedia, Thomas Hylland Eriksen, professor in anthropology, Sverige: Carmen Blanco, Latin American groups, Ellie Cijvat, chair, Friends of the Earth Sweden, Gunnilla Andersson, Glocal folk high school, Malmö, Jan Öberg, peace researcher, Lund, Lars Ilshammar, director, Arbetarrörelsens arkiv – Labour Movement Archives and Library, Maria Hagberg, feminist, Rune Lanestrand, Småbrukarna – Small farmers, Ulrika Hävre, peace- and environmental activist, Ofog



Can popular movements change our daily lives?

www.ofog.org

Outside the headquarters of the Bofors weapon company in Karlskoga Sweden 2008

Tord Björk

Well what is the point if they don't? The strength of popular movements comes from making the many invisible acts of solidarity by people in common in daily life not only visible but the power in common action.

We can use grand words as the global justice movement and commemorate summit protests or social forums. In the end what counts is how our movements at the workplace, in the village, suburbs and at places of urban or rural conflict is able to be present and make a difference.

As the saying goes in Friends of the Earth Sweden: It is easier to organise an international seminar or campaign than to win a local struggle. It is about time to exchange experience between different popular movements on how we connect peoples daily life with common action.

Do we live in time when a repressive neoliberal state turns every human need into a question of profit in need of wars and policing the population. Are there no chances for action beyond market and state routines? Do we use a language that is understandable to people in common?

One hopeful social change at the world level is the emergence of the indigenous movement and a global leadership in major popular movements. In few decades indigenous people all over the world have been able to struggle and build alliances and become central to cooperation between popular movements. So have peasants with the emergence of Via Campesina.

What we can see in making are major popular movements with a leadership that is representing the global majority in its constituency of potential members. Feminists and the environmental movement follows this same trend with more and more people from the South as democratically elected spokespersons.

It is only the workers movement that is lagging behind and still in their global organisation have a strong Northern domination. But also they start to join the trend. More and more initiatives

comes from the South like Peoples Global Action or World Social Forum. How can these major movements working at the global level cooperate and have their most important presence in daily life?

How can we all strengthen cooperation within a movement of movements?

To this we can add on this page a piece from the appeal for establishing a fund for knowledge on activism, speakers messages and the like.



Noora Ojala

Artists and researchers at front of Finnish parliament house 2007



Greetings from Brazil:

Finally, what is agenda of your Environmental Ministry?

We have three! Agenda of Votorantim, agenda of Aracruz and agenda of Stora Enso!

Peoples' struggles - Rolling back the power of TNCs

Christine Pohl

European multinationals are responsible in large part for the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources worldwide, displacing populations, devastating biodiversity, exhausting water sources, and impoverishing the workers, farmers and communities.

In particular, the global South has been subjected to looting by multinational companies: rivers are polluted, biodiversity dwindles as a result of expansion of livestock farming and monoculture plantations for feed and fuel, vital ecosystems are destroyed by mining projects and oil extraction, and climate change continues to heat up the earth.

All this for the immediate ad-

vantage and huge profits of large multinational companies, among which are Scandinavian companies such as Botnia, Skanska and Stora Enso.

Consistently, economic policies place corporate interests above peoples' rights. This destructive tendency is clearly reflected in the EU's strategic document on trade and investment Global Europe - Competing in the world, which pushes for the deepening of policies of competition and economic growth at all costs. The core of the EU's strategy is to open up capital, goods and services markets, to protect foreign investment and to reduce the state's capacity to promote economic and social

development. Like other international institutions such as the WTO, and international financial institutions, the EU has become an accomplice to the destructive activities of TNCs.

There is growing grassroots community resistance to the EU's economic policies and the practices of European TNCs and their impacts on social, human, economic, and environmental rights in the global South. Now more than ever, it is urgent for all of us to converge our struggles, develop new strategies and to mobilize against this corporate-driven globalization. The European Social Forum (ESF) and the World Social Forum (WSF) provide a space to

coordinate these struggles, develop a more integrated, linked-up peoples' power campaign, and elaborate alternatives based on Economic Justice: placing human dignity over competitiveness of multinational companies, property rights of the powerful, and profits for the rich elites.

Workshop

ESF-Date & time:
Thursday 18 Sept
9.30-12.30:

Place: Sofielund
Enskifteshagen, Tält 1
Christine Pohl
(Friends of the Earth Europe)
Brid Brennan
(Transnational Institute)

GJM HISTORY

1990 SEED Popular forum gathers 150 people from CEE countries and 500 in total at a gathering in Bergen in Norway questioning the strategy behind sustainable development promoted by governments and corporations. SEED stands for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development. A sit-down action blocks official delegates from coming out from preparatory Summit for Europa and North America for UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio 1992.

1990 December 3 Brussels. During the final conference of the GATT World Trade talks, a protest conference titled "GATTastrophe" was organised. Over 10,000 farmers from Europe as well as delegations from the USA, Japan and South Korea met for a demonstration, which was accompanied by 3,500 Belgian police officers. Protests had already taken place worldwide in preparation for the Conference. In Argentina, as well as in Japan and in Switzerland, thousands of farmers protested against the agreement.

1991 October 9. Representatives of 120 Indian, trade union and black organisations starts a campaign to commemorate 500 years of resistance to European colonisation. In 1992 the International campaign starts. Indian movements in all parts of Americas protests with long marches and other activities against 500 years of oppression and against the official celebration of the European Columbus conquest of Americas called encounter. Others organise also broad campaigns in South, Central and North America and in Europe under the common label 500 years is enough.

1992 Birth of Critical Mass in San Francisco. Rebirth of action methods used by urban activists in the 1960s and 1970s in Europe. Thousands of bicyclists block the traffic in the city. A phenomena now appearing in 300 cities regularly all over the world.



www.ofog.org

Oscar Schön at the Ofog manifestation appointing Malmö a War Trade City.

Tord Björk

-I see the ESF as a golden opportunity to start cooperation between radical peace organizations in Europe. The work done by different peace movements today is good, but they cooperate surprisingly little internationally. And as military industry is global the resistance has to be it as well.

Oskar Schön says.

Revival of the Peace movement?

On the 17th of May the peace and civil disobedience group Ofog appointed Malmö to War Trade City. The purpose was to protest against the Swedish arms trade export which has tripled since the invasion of Iraq.

In Malmö the company Aimpoint have gained profits for a billion Swedish crowns by selling gun sights to the US army.

Ofog also initiated a broad coalition of anti-war and peace groups to start the European Peace Action during ESF. - "We will grab this opportunity to bring together different active peace movements from all over Europe. Our aim during the forum is to lay the groundwork for a future network of peace groups and organisations with a focus on direct action. That's why we have chosen to name the forum European Peace Action."

The forum will focus on 4 themes: NATO and the militarisation of the EU, nuclear weapons, militarisation of space, and the international military industrial complex.

The over-reaching theme for the European peace forum in Malmö will be how to strengthen resistance against militarisation. The forum welcomes anybody who is interested in peace work, not only people who are already ac-

tive but also those who don't have any previous experience at all in peace activism.

The European Peace Action Forum will co-ordinate nonviolent direct actions against arms companies in the south of Sweden. Both legal and civil disobedient actions will take place. Our aim is to disturb the war machinery as much as possible states European Peace Action.

Ofog is a small but effective network able of creating both action and building of broad alliances. The explanation of the name is given on the website of Ofog:

"Ofog translates into "mischief". But ofog is also a play with words. "Foga" is a Swedish verb meaning to conform, to obey. But in Swedish, if you put an O before a word, you turn it into its opposite.

"Foga" also means, roughly, fixating things together in a decided and unchangeable form, so in this meaning of the word, when we put the O before, this is an allusion to our function as a flexible, dynamic network.

You will find the program and lots of action news and practical information at the European peace action website. The program at: <http://europeanpeaceaction.org/programme-european-peace-action-forum>

The European Peace Action is well integrated into the ESF program and at the same time outside organizing action. This has made the anti-war and peace movement well coordinated before, during and hopefully after ESF. Both anti-imperialists and pacifists have many activities organised together during ESF.

Mikael Böök, active in the ESF and WSF process has written about the new European Peace Action and how ESF can become a revival of the strong peace movement in the 1980s and the European Nuclear Disarmament who gathered thousand of activists every year at European meetings. Böök's texts you find at: <http://blog.spinellisfootsteps.info>



www.ofog.org



Jean-Marc Desfilhes

The Nyeleni training centre is being used and developed and we hope organisations and movements from all over the world will choose Nyeleni for their meetings and training.

**Kirtana Chandrasekaran
Paul Nicholson**

In February 2007 hundreds of peasants/family farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, landless peoples, rural workers, migrants, pastoralists, forest communities, women, youth, consumers, environmental and urban movements from over 80 countries gathered together in the village of Nyéléni in Sélingué, Mali.

It was a unique moment that helped to shape a common international agenda for Food Sovereignty and described clearly how we want to realize food sovereignty and whom we have to resist.

It united international networks

and social movements in a common understanding that Food Sovereignty means putting wholesome, culturally appropriate local food and those who produce, distribute and need it the most, at the heart of food, agricultural, livestock and fisheries policies.

It means resisting corporations and international trade policies that devastate peasant agriculture and turn food into a commodity.

It described action agendas for promoting local markets and opposing international trade, developing traditional, local knowledge and technology, access and control over shared resources, sharing territories, dealing with threats from conflicts, occupations and natural disasters, migra-

tion and defined appropriate production models of food.

A year later the deepening climate crisis and a new scale of food crisis shows the importance of the agenda that was decided in Nyeleni!

Food Sovereignty provides a new framework for our food system. It also provides a springboard which inspires actions across the globe - In the Latin American region initiatives with national governments such as ALBA and the Petro-Caribe Conference; in Nepal a process to include food sovereignty in the constitution; in Mali the government increasing its priority for peasant based production.

In April the 3 year International

Assessment of Agriculture report supported by 58 Governments recognised the failure of industrial corporate lead agriculture.

It called for localised farming solutions, combining scientific research with traditional knowledge in full partnership with farmers and citizens. It called for Food Sovereignty!

In Europe farmers movements and organisations are coming together to reform the Common Agricultural Policy to represent small farmers rather than big business, to say no to GMOs, to give up industrial model of livestock farming, dominance of supermarkets promoting unsustainable consumption and high dependency

on imports of food and fuel.

A new level of threats means we need a new level of co-operation and union among the movements.

Farmers movements and consumer groups, environmental movements and Indigenous movements. From Malmo to Belem and beyond we must build an effective and strong movement for food sovereignty and bring this agenda to all the spaces where we are active at national, regional and international level.

**Time to carry our
action agenda forward!**

www.nyeleni.org

The Common Good - Women and Feminism in the struggle against commercialising nature

**Kirtana Chandrasekaran and
World Women's March**

The 'Common Good' describes specific goods that are shared by and beneficial for all. This includes the benefits that we must all share from a thriving planet - such as the provision of clean water and regulation of the climate.

When nature is privatised forests are transformed into merchandise by logging; agriculture is forced to produce for the 'market' and crops feed overfed livestock and cars rather than local people.

Peasants and Indigenous peoples who have lived on and cared for the land for hundreds of years are turned out and no longer have livelihoods and ancestral rights.

Fences come between them and access to planting land, medicines, firewood, pasture. When water is privatised reservoirs are

fenced in and impede women's access to clean water.

Sources of water dry up due to intensive agriculture and rivers are held back to provide energy that has few benefits for local populations.

When water is commercialised its distribution is no longer a public service. Bottled water is imposed as a consumer habit or is the only way to access potable water. Biodiversity is privatised by patent laws and ownership for transnational corporations allowed by free trade agreements.

Life and seeds are privatised by GMO technology. Nature is privatised when the benefits it provides are seen as a commodity rather than a common good.

These environmental conflicts mobilise women because of their role in society; as foragers and those responsible for providing water, fetching firewood and other basic amenities.

When scarcity and inequality strikes women often bear a large part of the burden. Women face the brunt of natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Data from the Women's Environment and Development Organization show women comprise 70-80% of overall deaths in the 2004 Asian Tsunami.

At the same time women have historically held the knowledge about agriculture and food and today are the principal custodians of biodiversity and seeds.

Women continue to produce up to 80% of the food in the poorest countries. The World March of Women want the promotion of equality and justice between women and men, among women themselves and between all peoples.

Our agenda is justice, our agen-



Viviane Brochardt

da is the environment, our agenda is peace and ensuring The Common Good. Therefore in Galecia, Spain this year we march along with hundreds of women, inviting Via Campesina and Friends of the Earth to demand investment in alternative energy, agroecology,

and denounce all those policies that cause the loss of energy and food sovereignty.

For more information see www.worldmarchofwomen.org/ www.foei.org

Polar bears on trial

Noora Ojala

Climate activists from Malmö were prosecuted in Sept 4th for protesting peacefully against domestic aviation at Sturup Airport in February, dressed up as polar bears or pinguines. The charge is attempt at sabotage.

Protest was named as Klimax and it happened in several Swedish

cities at the same weekend in February 2008.

Activists from Malmö were apprehended and transferred to a detention centre in another city in southern Sweden and kept in solitary confinement for more than 60 hours.

The seven activists were interrogated throughout the days, charged with "intent to sabotage air traffic" and threatened with

four years in prison if convicted. Next day from Klimax activists in Stockholm broke into a police station to demand the immediate release of their comrades in Malmö, and a solidarity manifestation was held in Gothenburg.

All in all, more than a hundred activists were involved in the coordinated activities over the weekend. On late Sunday, the last remaining Malmö-activist was re-

leased from the detention centre. - The real culprits are in the government, not hear at court, says Kajsa Lindquist, Klimax Malmö, one of the prosecuted.

Introduce a tax on aviation and extend the rail system and the problems will decrease, she adds.

read more: klimatet.org/2008/02/17/action-report/



MegaMarcha in June 2008 by Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO)

Jan Wiklund

- Globalisation and loss of members have forced us to think "outside the traditional union box", says Markus Pettersson from Swedish Transport Federation, one of the principal organisers of ESF.

Swedish trade unions have at least from the forties been used to routinely bargain for better labour conditions while Social Democratic governments have looked

to other needs of ordinary people. Other social movements have often been seen as meddling and jeopardizing the way of steady reform. But in the wake of a globalising regime, this model has gradually lost both force and appeal.

- The development of membership hasn't been positive the last decades, says Markus Pettersson. This has forced us to think new.

One possibility is cooperation with other organisations who, in some questions, share with broadly the same goals as us, for exam-

ple Attac which is a real resistance movement against neo-liberalism at a European level. We have started talks about what we can do together.

- There is also a growing resurgence of migrants, often living or working illegally.

And this has forced through organisations to organise them. We have the same interests, our purpose is the interest of working people. The illegality is of course problematic for us.

But this is something globalisation has enforced and which we

have to live with.

The Transport Federation has a long tradition of (from a Swedish perspective) unconventional tactics. International struggles for decent conditions for sailors on non-European ships have accustomed them to trust movement solidarity rather than government legislation.

And trans-European trucking offers a constant opportunity for truck-drivers to meet each-other at a European level and discuss unionist issues. A development supported by the Federation.

The urgent need

for a broad red-green ideological offensive

Håkan Sundberg

The free-wheeling capitalism we have experienced the last 30 years is running out of fuel. Today's financial crisis is combined with real global scarcity in energy, food and on top of it, the climat crisis.

Any attempt to solve this combined crisis by neoliberal means will only worsen everything. At the same time the fast growing social inequality in all countries is building up explosive social conflicts - and authoritarian solutions.

It is reasonably easy to present a red-green alternative - control of finance markets, investments in railways and renewable energy production, defence of social security and common welfare, shorter working hours. In economic terms - less private spending, more public spending.

To implement such a program though, there is a need for very

broad political and social mobilisation, as it is turning everything in today's economy and politics upside down.

To get this broad consensus we must in a convincing way explain that excessive private consumption of food, energy, clothing and other stuff can be compensated by better social service, shorter working hours and an overall better life.

Any vegetarian young female student can understand this, but what about the beef-loving young males that invest all there earnings in BMWs och american cars from the fifties? And what about the 300.000 Swedish middle-class people that go to Thailand for vacation every year?

The first task is to make it credible in economic terms. How will such a transfer look like, from today's short term profit maximising to a long term social and environmentally responsible economy?

What is the role of the state, the local community, the financial in-

stitutions and funds, the private companies? What will be the relationship between capital owners, the state, the employees and the common citizens in this transfer period? Of course we can make it easy for ourselves and ask for a planned socialist economy, but then the broad consensus suddenly seems a bit far off.

Secondly this transfer has to be attractive to a majority of the people, especially the young.

A prerequisite is the renewal of the democratic process, of broad ideological discussions in trade unions and other forums - on freedom, solidarity, individualism and life style.



Noora Ojala

GJM HISTORY

1992 June 3 – 14. UN Conference on Environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. 20 000 participated in the Global Forum for NGOs and social movements. A fair was organised where the organisations could display their material visited by some 500 000 people. Two bigger demonstrations were organised, one by neighbourhood organisation with 10,000 participants, one more radical with the organisations from the favelas with 5,000 participants.

1993 May. Establishment of the international peasant organisation Via Campesina.

1993 December 15. The term for completion of the GATT Contract. While the mediators of the member states met in Geneva, thousands of students and farmers took to the streets in Asia in order to protest against the planned liberalisation of the global market. There were uprisings in India after it became known that Prime Minister Rao agreed to the GATT result. In Seoul, street fights erupted between demonstrators and police. Leading Indian and Pakistani politicians complained that the US were not willing to reduce their tax on textiles far enough. In Geneva, Greenpeace members charged the participating states in a demonstration to come through on their promises made during the "Environment and Development Summit" in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro.

1994 January 1. The EZLN (Zapatista Army of National Liberation) declares revolt against North American Free Trade Agreement and war against Mexico, bringing its inspirational struggle for life and humanity to the forefront of political imaginations across the planet and inspires the formation of the Global Justice Movement. Within 24 hours, the Mexican army responds, bombing communities and killing at least 145 indigenous people. An outraged Mexican civil society retaliates with massive demonstrations calling for an end to military repression. The date of the uprising marks the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).



courtesy of CNS

MST - THE BRASILIAN MOVEMENT OF THE LANDLESS COMBINES SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL VALUES

Eduardo Seidl

**Pertti Simula
Sampo Villanen**

One of today's most significant social movements in the world is the Brazilian Movement of the Landless, the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra, aka the MST. The movement, founded in 1984 is developing a new society to replace capitalism; a society that respects Nature and where direct democracy would come out successfully in both economical and political life.

The MST has round one and a half million members. Its members have founded hundreds villages in Brazil, where the production has been arranged in an ecological and social way.

The goal of the MST is to create an equal, a solidary, human and nature protecting society, to eliminate poverty, to make work possible for everyone, to secure the national production of food and to retain the multiplicity of Nature. These goals are also equal to those of the national constitution. In reality, though, Brazil is having a typical capitalist system.

The landownership is especially concentrated, three percent of the farms own almost 60 percent of the land. Those, who hold the money, also hold the power, and they are able to manipulate both the press and the television networks holding the public opinion.

Almost five million landless families are waiting for the landreform to take place and to have the right to get their living from their own land. On the MST-

camp there are 150 000 families waiting for settlements.

At total, the movement is involving almost to million people. It has organized 400 associations, almost a hundred cooperatives and around a hundred small manufacturers of agricultural products. In the colonies there are about 1500 schools.

The MST tries to put their principle of direct democracy into practice in their own organization as well as in their economical and production communities. The members of the MTS found social and collective enterprises, similar to work cooperatives.

Social enterprises

When an area is taken over, it is rapidly organized into production. There is always an attempt to proceed cooperative solutions instead of traditional family agriculture. It has shown out that collective production is both socially and economically a better choice in every way.

A family agriculturist can not easily compete with an industrial peasant-proprietor.

In these social enterprises they put in practice democracy, where everyone has got one vote. All important issues are always decided in a democratic manner so, that the community is divided into main units, cores of about ten families, in which the issues are discussed thoroughly and and res-

olution recommendation is made.

It then taken to the next democratic level, as far as the case needs. This is living up to the principles of direct democracy, which is a completely new challenge for most people.

It requires a long time settling in as well as comprehension of economical, social and ecological issues. At the same time you learn how to work with social relations, together with other people and how to take other people in concern.

It helps growing your knowledge of yourself and to evolve as an ethical subject in society. The goal is to get all members of the community involved, also the youth and the elderly, all to take part after their possibilities.

This isn't an easy task, because people have gotten used to regular salary work or family centralized agriculture.

The cooperative production leads naturally to the settlement areas being organized physically into so called agrovila, an agricultural village, where the family houses are on their own small grounds (for example 500 square meters), close to each other.

The care-taking of children is organized together, as well as the

youths taking to school. In the village they build social rooms where a common lunch is held on working days, and where there are meeting rooms and often also a football field and a grocery store-bar, which is open at night.

The production establishments are near the village and the fields spread all around it.

Ecological agriculture and equality

Often the MST settlement areas are on ground where there has been short-sighted exploitation of the land, and therefore the first thing to do is to get the fertility of the soil back with natural methods.

The land is divided into smaller part and their fallowing is planned, as well as organic fertilizing.

The goal is to be

free of chemicals, which is an on-going informational and educational process, as many of the farmers are used to utilize toxic on the fields of the peasant-proprietors.

The MST is schooling agricultural technicians in its many institutions and on different courses, who then will be familiar with the

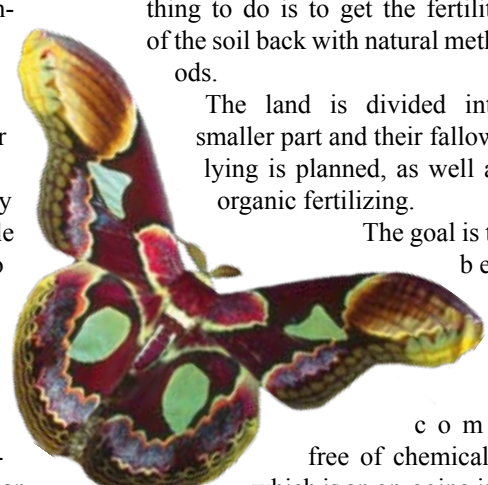
conditions of the small agriculturist and can give advise to ecological production.

The equal rights of women is also one of the big issues in which the MST concentrates, and in coordinational missions at least a half should be women. The macho-culture is going strong in Brazil, and trying to bring it down isn't an easy task.

The importance of land

Landownership and the right to soil is one of the most central questions when speaking of extreme poverty and overwhelming unequalness. One of the most central problems in Brazil as well as in many other countries is the landownership being centralized in the hands of a very small amount of people.

The centralization of landownership hasn't happened by itself; it has required and still requires active work, violence and often also oppression against all national laws and international commitments, with which the great landowners (individuals, banks, multinational corporations, speculators) and the governments close to them prohibit the majorities of the population even to try to get access to the fundamental human rights - food and sustenance.



GJM HISTORY

Indigenous struggle against mining industries

Ville-Veikko Hirvelä

World's deposits of many minerals and extractive/energy resources are searched, examined and found mostly in territories of indigenous peoples. Indigenous ways of using these areas have caused much less damage for nature or climate than our industries.

Corporations however invest millions to show how their firms' mining, extractive, energy, etc. industries are good for nature and climate change 'mitigation'. So they take away the last areas from those sustainable indigenous ways of life.

In India nearly 30 million indigenous people have been displaced during the last 60 years by development projects.

The takeover of the lands away from the indigenous Adivasi communities under modern commercially ruled control has led to rapid degradation of natural forest.

In Orissa near the Niyamgiri Mountain, the life of Dongria and Kutia Kondh Adivasis has been adapted to the hill's biodiversity. Now, Sterlite-Vedanta Corporation has however built a factory to produce bauxite from the hill up to 3 million tons per year for needs of car industry and plastic-like wrappings of chocolate bars etc.

The Supreme Court judged that mining will be allowed to destroy Kondhs' sacred ancestral mountain, which has for them however a unique value of being the God of Law.

Is the value of the Law-established



Ville-Veikko Hirvelä

Kutia Adivasis practice their shifting cultivation as one phase of the regeneration of the wild forest in hills. The trees up in the hill behind the Kuitas have naturally grown in 3 years to the place of the earlier cultivation.

lishing God of tribals now 10% of the bauxite profits of its displacement – as the Court suggested for 'tribal development'?

The Adivasi movement will struggle for indigenous rights and justice on land and biodiversity. www.maanystavat.fi/indigenous/Orissa.html

In Jarkhand, world's largest steel corporation, Arcelor Mittal aims to set up by 9.3 billion \$ investment a huge steel plant with 12 million tons annual capacity and

with a 2,500-MW power plant. This can lead to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Adivasis.

As tribals oppose such investment to 'tribal development', recently even the life of Adivasi movement leaders like Dayamani Barla, has been threatened. Dayamani, who participates to ESF, says "For the tribal community, land is not an asset to be sold, but it is our heritage, we are not master or owners of it, but its protectors for the next

generations". www.maanystavat.fi/indigenous/Jarkhand.html

The Mittal project would destroy the local jungle, water sources would dry up, the black smoke and gases from the factory chimneys would pollute the ecosystem.

Mittal has launched 100 million Euro carbon fund in July 2008 "to strategically engage in the carbon market and promote climate friendly solutions that are relevant for the steel industry" and its customers.

Also in Guatemala, Brazil and Burundi, indigenous communities struggle to protect their territories from mines and industries that threaten the natural forest biodiversity and their livelihoods and pollute their environment and health.

People are repressed by human rights violations and high inequality of land ownership. Mining corporations which threaten indigenous communities like Vedanta, Mittal and GoldCorp (opposed by Maya communities in Guatemala www.maanystavat.fi/indigenous/Maya.html) are greenwashed as members of UN Global Compact.

Indigenous representatives from India, Guatemala, Brazil, Burundi, Kenya, etc., share their experiences in press briefing and public debate on

"Rights to Indigenous Life and Worldview – struggles against mining"

Estelle ship on 19.9. at 9.30-12.30 in "Kajplats 31" in "Västra hamnområdet" and in ESF workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and Planetary Environmental Justice" on 21.9. at 9.30-12.30 in Cacaosalen, Bergsgatan 33.



Dayamani Barla

Adivasi movement protest against Mittal corporation, which aims to set up a steel plant in Adivasi areas. When Mittal representative was asked about annual profits sharing with the tribals, he replied that "it's ridiculous to share the profit with people who don't know what to do with it."

1994 April. Peasants form 850 self-defence committees across Bolivia to block roads and resist militarization, the result of the US demand that the Bolivian government eradicate 1,750 hectares of coca production, under threat of an international economic embargo from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

1994 July 20. One million Turkish workers stage a one-day strike to protest cutbacks ordered by the World Bank and private lending sources. The government threatens arrests, but is overwhelmed by the sheer size of the walkout.

1995 August 5. In a campaign to get multinational corporations out of India, the Karnataka Rajy Raitha Sangha (KRRS, Karnataka State Farmers Association), a ten million strong direct action movement of Indian farmers, manages to close down India's first Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, on health grounds. At the same time billboards belong to KFC owner PepsiCo are destroyed by activists throughout the state, while the KRRS sets up training centers in organic agriculture and seed banks.

1995 November 10. Protest against Shell erupt around the world, as the Nigerian government executes nine environmental activists, including writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, who were imprisoned on fabricated murder charges. The activists were resisting Shell's environmental destruction of Ogoniland, Nigeria, which has resulted in the loss of agricultural land to oil wells, spillage, pipelines and blowouts.

1996 March 18. 300 West Africans from Mali, Senegal and Mauretania steps up from anonymity as paperless to announce their need to become recognised by the French state, a conflict that continues. In Germany the network ein Mensch ist illegal (No human is illegal) is born and especially starts protesting against expulsion of refugees. In the Netherlands Autonom Centrum also takes part and starts boycotts against air companies who allows their planes to be used for expulsion of paperless.



Towards an Urgent 120 Per Cent Cut in Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Noora Ojala

**LET'S CUT
PAPER
CONSUMPTION
-AND
LIBERATE
OURSELVES
FROM
JUNK MAIL**

Marko Ulvila

The easiest and most effective way to decrease the various and serious environmental damages caused by pulp and paper industries is to reduce paper consumption. Europeans consume on average about 200 kg of paper products per person every year, four times more than the average inhabitant in the world.

The decreasing of paper consumption should start from such usages that have the most injurious effects. From this point of view, the wasteful use of paper for advertising purposes rises above all. The use of paper for advertising and other commercial propaganda upholds the culture of preposterous over consumption.

Or have you ever seen a commercial, that would encourage people to reduce their environmental load?

Everyone of us can by ourselves diminish the multitude of printed advertisements by rejecting direct advertising and by reading the papers at our neighbours house, at the library or on the internet. In these and many other ways of decreasing paper consumption, the joint campaign SHRINK by fifty European environmental organisation is an important resource.

To leave the responsibility of decreasing paper consumption on the shoulders of the enlightened consumers is of course not enough. Public actions and structural changes are needed.

First of all, direct and free marketing as printed products should be prohibited, just as the regulations of e-mail and text message advertising have been made; spamming is prohibited by the law in many countries.

It is an unforgivable waste of the decreasing natural resources to carry tons of printed advertisements into peoples mail boxes without asking; encouraging them to consume more.

Also the amounts of paper wasted into advertisements published in the papers must be decreased, by an act of the government.

Here the economical instruments work well. There should be a effective environmental tax on printed advertisement. With the tax non-profit advertisement-free publishers could be supported.'

<http://www.shrinkpaper.org/>

Risto Isomäki

The European Union has already decided, at least in a tentative way, that it will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 60-80 per cent by the year 2050. This sounds very good and definitely gives us more hope.

However, this policy would still mean, that the EU countries would keep on increasing the atmosphere's carbon dioxide content for 42 more years – even if all the countries in the world would agree to make a similar 60 – 80 per cent cut in their own emissions.

In practise we are very far from such a global agreement. The prime minister of India, for example, has only promised that India's greenhouse gas emissions will not exceed the per capita emissions of the OECD countries.

Many things related to global warming have suddenly started

to take place half a century before they should have happened, according to the existing climate models.

Many of these have to do with the changes which have already taken places in the polar regions and have changed the reflectivity of the planet so much, that this will further accelerate the warming of the planet.

Snow and ice often reflect more than 90 per cent of the solar radiation straight back to space, but open water or land only has a reflectivity of 4-10 per cent. Besides this, there are enormous frozen storages of methane and carbon in the Arctic regions.

In 2006 it was still predicted that the Arctic Sea might become totally ice-free at the height of the melting season by 2070 or 2080, at the earliest. Now the prediction is 2030, 2020 or 2013.

The West Siberian permafrost area should not have started to melt yet, and the disintegration of the Larsen B and Wilkes ice shelves at the West Antarctic was not expected to happen, until

much later. During the winter of 2007-2008 the sea between Finland and Sweden did not freeze at all. It was the first time in recorded history.

Also, the Greenland ice sheet is now melting two or three times faster than ten years ago. The melting is still concentrating on Southern and Central parts of the ice sheet. But when the Northern part of the ice sheet begins to melt, we will get three super-Amazons of ice.

There is already a growing number of turquoise meltwater lakes on the edges of the ice sheet also in North Greenland, so it may not take so long before the North starts to produce a lot of icebergs. Which, of course, will change everything.

This means that we cannot keep on increasing the greenhouse gas concentrations of the atmosphere. We have already went over the edge.

To halt the warming, we have to

start reducing the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere. This means that every country must absorb all of its carbon dioxide emissions – and some more – out from the air.

We should now demand for example an acute 120 per cent cut to our carbon dioxide emissions. This automatically means, that the countries which are producing the most carbon will have to do most of the work.

For ways to remove CO2 from the atmosphere or to increase the reflectivity, see for example Risto Isomäki's book 34 Ways to Prevent Global Warming at

<http://www.saded.in/publication.htm>

No to emission trading, yes to taxes!

Anna Jonsson and
Alfred Hallmert

It is easy in the charged climate debate to look for quick fixes. Individual emission rights sounds quick, easy and effortless. As if everything would be all-right if we got an allotment per person to buy or sell. As if we all, as individuals, would be able to take our

individual responsibility and find individual "creative" solutions for the climate crisis.

But individual emission rights are void of visions for sustainable solutions on the level of society. We will never get over the crisis without such solutions. The challenge is to stop motorway transport, get rid of airports, change the whole infrastructure. An individual trading system of emission

rights won't get us closer to this target.

Taxing carbon dioxide has turned out to be very efficient, one of the means for Sweden not to increase its discharges the last years. It is easy to manage and easy to raise gradually to reach the aims. It is easy to interpret and it attend to the problem at its source.

The most important difference between a tax and trading in emission rights is that a tax raises money for the public while emission rights just circulates money between the market actors.

The trading system is no environmental reform, just a way to redistribute money between individuals. To build a sustainable society will require large public investments in new infrastructure, and it is fair that those who emit carbon dioxide should contribute to them, through a tax.

Bluntly - should we in the environmental movement push for a complicated, unwieldy individual solution while the motorways just go on being rolled out?

That would be just comfortable or the politicians and the construction businesses, because they wouldn't need to take any responsibility.

When we put ceilings on emissions, they should have a feedback to real structural changes in our transport systems, our urban environments, our housing and industries etc. Real sustainability comes only from ourselves defining collectively the way we want society to be organised and structured.

The role of the environmental movement shouldn't be to incapacitate itself to the benefit of an automatic mechanism. Instead, we should dream about, plan for and carry out, together, a sustainable future.



Noora Ojala



Noora Ojala

Joseph Zacune

Friends of the Earth International
Climate and Energy Coordinator

During the climate talks in Bali last December, NASA scientist James Hansen presented new data showing that serious climate change impacts are already happening more rapidly and we need to move towards a post-fossil fuel clean energy system. These dire warnings are not being met by action by the G8 nations, who represent 13 % of global population but responsible for 45 % of greenhouse gas emissions.

These countries have caused this crisis while benefiting economically and accruing a climate debt to the South. Yet they are continuing to push unfair free trade and reliance on carbon trade initiatives which could accelerate

climate change and exacerbate developing countries' vulnerability.

Those least responsible for creating the current crisis such as Indigenous Peoples, peasant farmers and fisher peoples will be hit hardest by climate change and also dangerous, corporate-driven initiatives which are being perversely branded as climate solutions.

Indigenous Peoples continue to be marginalised in international decision-making processes including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). UNFCCC negotiations are even now taking place on ways to reduce emissions of deforestation in developing countries (REDD) that will have direct impacts on the lives of millions of Indigenous Peoples.

The central idea of carbon trading for forests is that developing countries reduce their deforestation rates and this will allow them to sell the carbon stored in their forests to the North.

This allows Northern countries and corporations to buy their way out of emission reductions and continue business-as-usual polluting. If our last remaining forests are to be included in carbon markets, who owns those trees and what happens to those forest-dwelling communities that have depended on them for generations?

The World Bank, with its highly polluting history is at the helm in the trading of forest carbon credits and its portfolio is rapidly expanding with its Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) which was launched amidst pro-

tests at climate talks in Bali.

The World Bank's conflict of interests is all too apparent must be excluded from the UN talks. The corporate takeover of the climate agenda poses grave dangers that will be resisted from the corridors of international negotiations to communities struggling for survival on the ground.

We need to radically reduce our unsustainable consumption, secure peoples' food sovereignty, leave fossil fuels in the ground, promote community-based forest conservation and invest in clean energy generated from the sun, wind and sea.

The North must repay its ecological debt to the South – it's time for climate justice

GJM HISTORY

1996 July 27-August 3. In Chiapas, Mexico, the Zapatistas organize the first Intercontinental Encuentro for Humanity and Against Neoliberalism. Thousands of people representing social movements from all five continents attended the seminars in the autonomous town of La Realidad, where they identify a common struggle and develop and strengthen networks of resistance.

1997 February 5. IMF restructuring in Ecuador forces overnight price rises of electricity (500 per cent), gas (340 per cent) and telephone charges (700 per cent), among others. A general strike brings over two million people into the streets under the slogan, "No one stays home." Leaflets circulating before the event declare: "We invite all Ecuadorians to the giant going-away party for [President] Bucaram... This event will take place in the country's plaza and streets... Dress informally. The entrance fee is a street barricade, a burning tyre, and the will to save the country's dignity." President Bucaram flees and is dismissed by Congress two days later.

1998 February 23-26 . Establishment of Peoples Global Action against "Free" Trade and World Trade Organisation (PGA) in Geneva at a meeting of about 400 people from all continents in Geneva, Switzerland. Inspired by work done at the Zapatista encuentros, PGA's intent is to coordinate global days of action, and to link activists worldwide through face-to-face meetings and improved communication channels. PGA is promoting mass civil disobedience.

1998 November. A massive campaign against the MAI convinces the French government to withdraw, leading to the total collapse of the negotiations. Lasting results of the campaign include a global network of connected activists.

GJM HISTORY

1999 November 30 - December 3. During the WTO conference in Seattle, 135 nations discussed the further reduction of trade barriers. Protest demonstrations already began on the morning of November 30. Over 50,000 people demonstrated against the WTO conference over the course of the day. Militant demonstrators disturbed the arrival of the conference participants by blocking street crossings and chaining themselves together. They even managed to put a halt to the elaborate opening ceremony. The WTO conference failed in the end because the 135 participant states could not agree on an agenda for the negotiation round about the further opening of world trade. The "Battle of Seattle" went down in history as the biggest demonstration in the US since the days of the civil rights movements and the Vietnam protests.

2000 September 26. Global Day of Action, Prague. To plan actions against the IMF and World Bank's meetings in Prague, activists from across Europe and the US came together months earlier and developed a plan to lay siege to the conference centre, blockading the bankers and delegates inside. A protest summit "Social Movements and Globalisation", was also organised by Inpeg (Initiative Protesting against Economic Globalisation), took place in Prague on September 22-24. Meanwhile upon the invitation of Czech President Václav Havel, representatives of the World Bank and the IMF met on September 23 with anti-globalisation groups for a podium discussion. The anti-globalisation groups demanded that a complete debt relief for the poorest countries be pushed through.

2000 December 14. African popular movements gather in Dakar and signs a program to cancel all debts.



The Gothenburg EU summit demonstrations 2001

HOW THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES BETRAYED THE GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT

Police and demonstrators during the EU Summit in Malmö 2001

Tord Björk

It happened in the most unlikely country at a most unlikely place.

The great international step in Sweden towards the repression of the global justice movement began right in the middle of the cradle of the Swedish labour movement, in Malmö in 2001.

When the EU ministers of finance met in April 2001 in Malmö, a demonstration was called by a number of local organisations - the Transport Workers, No to EU, Asylum for refugees among others.

Right in front of the first workers' daily, the police attacked and arrested 266 participants.

All parties in the local Police Board claimed that it was an act to promote democracy, but an official commission later claimed the police action was unjustified.

The stage was set for the July 2001 EU summit in Gothenburg.

Two main coalitions were formed before the Swedish EU presidency of 2001.

Friends of the Earth (FoE) Sweden and the small radical trade union Central Organisation of the Workers of Sweden initiated a broad anti-neoliberal and EU-critical coalition which also included mainstream trade unions from Denmark and Norway, Euromarches and others. No to EU initiated a coalition against the Swedish membership in the EU.

Both coalitions planned demonstrations, and both coalitions had the Greens and the Left party as members.

The Social Democrats, then in the government, had an opposing vision. The main trade union central LO declared that it was not of the tradition of the labour

movement to demonstrate. ABF, the Workers' Education Association, joined hand with Rotary and Lions to organise an NGO Forum instead.

Popular education organisations and a few social movements were given money by the state to organise seminars where broad cooperation among demonstrating organisations became marginal or not existent.

This rupture was clearly seen when the police stormed the counter-summit at Hvitfeldtska at the same time as Bush arrived to the Gothenburg Airport, under the pretext of securing non-existing arms and preventing hundreds of non-existing Italian activists to attack Bush's hotel.

The whole thing was later confirmed to be cooked up by Gothenburg chief of police Jaldung, in cooperation with US intelligence agents.

Next day, Jaldung continued his divisive strategy, publicly supported by all parliamentary parties. A demonstration, previously planned in dialogue with the police, was attacked by Jaldung with dogs and mounted police.

The counter-reaction was predictable. Some of the demonstrators began to hurl cobble-stones and forced the police to retire.

Angry youths began to smash windows, which was televised out over the country with the false story that first the demonstrators attacked throwing objects at the police and then the police responded by sending in dogs in the demonstration.

Media talked about Gothenburg being raped by wild animals. Left-wing journalists joined the

bandwagon, calling the activists terrorists.

According to Green MP Yvonne Ruwaida, the Foreign Ministry spread the lie to the EU parliamentary committee that three vehicles of arms had been seized by the police at Hvitfeldtska.

All parties, including the Left and the Green, went along with the Social Democrats stating that violent intentions only existed among the demonstrators naming activists hooligans.

Left leader Gudrun Schyman appeared on the TV stating the lie that the coalition organising demonstrations joined this one-sided judgement. This further legitimized escalated police violence. Which they used, attacking a Reclaim the Streets party, shooting at the demonstrators and wounding one gravely.

The Social Democratic Prime Minister Göran Persson began to spread rumours of "fascists", "military groups, well equipped, with excellent communication system, extraordinarily well planned and with big economic resources..."

What prevented a blood bath the final day of the EU Summit was that subordinate police refused to obey orders when ordered to attack the big international EU-critical demonstration.

However, some 400 persons of another demonstration were arrested, and a little later the terrorist squad stormed a second school to where counter-summit had regrouped, and arrested all present.

Rigged trials followed against the arrested demonstrators. Manipulated videos and claims that all accused had acted in unison against

democracy were used to put fifty of them in jail with a sentence of on average a year.

The scaring strategy had succeeded. There were very few protests against the unjust trials and sentences.

The only city where popular movements were not split apart was Malmö. The demonstration against the EU finance ministerial meeting had set an example of cooperation.

Local chapters of the Transport workers, Attac and Friends of the Earth started a movement for common welfare against privatisation, which soon became national.

These three organisations also were essential for initiating the ESF preparations, while members of the Left party and their affiliated student and youth organisation joined in later.

Whether ESF in Malmö will be a place where popular movements can regain strength against the anti-democratic tendencies among professionalised parliamentary parties in the hands of mass media is still to be seen.

But their betrayal of the Global Justice Movement will be addressed at a seminar on criminalisation and repression of social movements.

It will be the first time the focus of the Post Gothenburg 2001 debate is not on the police but on the professional politicians. A Swedish lesson learned which will perhaps trig conclusions for the Global Justice Movement in other countries.

Noora Ojala



www.ofog.org

Malmö-Belem-Copenhagen

Tord Björk

Time for social and ecological action 2009-2010

European Social Forum in Malmö takes place at the outlet of the most polluted sea in the world and next **World Social Forum** takes place in Belem at the outlet of the Amazon river from a basin with the largest rain forest on earth and huge richness of species in severe danger. In both forums the environment is made an important theme.

The main slogan for the ESF demonstration is "Power to the people - against capitalism and environmental destruction - Another world is possible!"

At both ESF and WSF the climate will be an important issue, global warming being a threat to all but posing a special threat against the Amazonian forest.

But there are many more targets for political interest at ESF. This year there will be many actions during ESF against social and ecological destructive places in Malmö. There is also many initiatives for starting new networks for action on a broad range of issues. There is also plans ahead for common campaigning next year to be decided at Assembly of Social Movements on Sunday.

Here all the movements and networks can come together to make a call for action for the coming years.

At a preparatory Assembly of social movements in Kiev in June it was clear that 2009 will be a year with many mobilisations.

The year begin with WSF in Belem and continue with EU Summits and **elections to the EU parliament**.

With the recent EU attacks on labor rights and for many other reasons this will be an occasion for many to make action. In May **NATO will have its 60th anniversary** in Strasbourg in France and Kehl in Germany, a target that have united many anti-war movements and pacifists in organising protests.

In July **G8** will have a meeting on Sardinia with Berlusconi as host and a European-wide movement that learned its lesson and were able to regain strength by mass civil disobedience blocking the G8 Summit held in Heiligendamm in Germany last year.

EU neoliberal policies, war and G8 are common targets for the global justice movement. But 2009 will also end with a new main issue. In December the **Climate Summit in Copenhagen** will take place at a time when global warming no longer can be ignored.

Also 2010 sees new interesting mass actions starting showing the broadness of the movement and how many issues at the same time are addressed.

There are plans for starting a new **Womens' World March** ten years after the first and a new **Euro-march** against unemployment and social exclusion 12 years after the Europeanwide action starting in Ivalo in Northern Finland, Tuzla in Bosnia and Tanger in Morocco ending at the EU-Summit in Amsterdam.

This year there is also a possibility to meet and make new decisions on common action at ESF in Istanbul.

In a message after the preparatory meeting in Kiev activists from different movements in Austria, Belgium, Italy, and Spain stated that:

"In Malmö, the Social Movements Assembly, like in previous meetings, risks being the sound box for different initiatives debated in seminars and workgroups (some more local, others more European in character) : this diversity of proposals is due to the lack of common initiative on the

European level. The unification of social movements could better address these proposals.

In the debate concerning Kiev, four initiatives that take into consideration all of Europe have been put on the table: the European Summit of March 2009 in Brussels, the movement during the 60th anniversary of NATO in Kehl and Strasbourg in May 2009, the July 2009 G8 Summit, and the December 2009 summit for "climate change" in Copenhagen.

The last three will most probably constitute strong moments for a Europe-wide campaign; however, in the strict sense they do not directly confront the neoliberal movement in Europe.

There will probably be other initiatives (like the Via Campesina meeting on April 17) that will be in the same nature (of international dimension).

In the discussion, the proposal to rally against the European Summit of March 2009 for its proximity to the European elections has roused some difficulties.

For this situation, the solution that we could discuss is the following: on one hand, create a common agenda that integrates different Europeans initiatives: against NATO, the G8, climate change, agricultural policies, etc.; it could be called "To Change Europe" or something else to that effect; on the other hand, define a common campaign against neoliberal policies in Europe (convergence of fights against economic, social, migratory, etc. policies) that may culminate in a day of Europe-wide mobilization (there are some groups that propose March 29th).

The choice of the date must be debated in order to come to an agreement and surpass the arguments against this point that have been expressed in Kiev."

<http://openesf.net/projects/asm/blog/2008/07/01/asm-kyievk-iev-report-call-for-mobilisation-2009/>

Actions during the ESF

Many movements, some partly active within ESF and others completely outside will organize actions during ESF. Information about these actions can be found on websites for more exact time and places.

On Thursday, 18 September there are plans for a migration demonstration and an action to protest against the treatment of migrants.

On Friday 19 September Dissent Disturb Disrupt Day of Action Organised by the European Peace Action with the aim to disturb the arms companies in the south of Sweden in as many ways as possible.

For more information. <http://europeanpeaceaction.org/action-day>

Climate Crash Klimax, organizes Klimatkrock at 16.00, an action to stop climate change by stopping car traffic and instead use the reclaimed street for cultural activities in the afternoon. Malmö is a city where such actions have been very common

StreetParty At 20.00 For more information <http://www.esf2008action.net>

On Saturday 20 September The biggest action will be the demonstration on Saturday starting from the working class suburb Rosengård via Möllvången, Triangeln and Gustav Adolfs Torg towards Tallriken in Pildammsparken. This will be the only political action organized by ESF. Gathering at Cronhielmsparken at 13.00, departure at 15.00. At Pildammsparken at 17.00.

GJM HISTORY

2001 January 25-30. The first World Social Forum is organised in Porto Alegre in Brazil. A lot more than anticipated take part in the forum. 15 000 participate from 122 countries.

2001 June 14 -16. During the EU Summit in Gothenburg, 50 000 people gathered to participate in For Another Europe conference Counter Summit, eight other international alternative conferences on issues as anti-racism, radical trade unionism, sustainability and global economic justice, as well as the Reclaim the City street party. It is attacked by the police but successfully defends itself while the police on the ground makes mutinuity and do not carry out their orders, the first time that the police deescalate their action against the protests they had targeted during the summit. The movements in Sweden gets split internally and among each other. The repression against the global justice movement takes a step forward in Northern countries.

2002 March 15. Despite the closing of borders, 400,000-500,000 people take to the streets of Barcelona, Spain to protest the EU summit. Achieving, through that, a more complete visualization of the resistances, of their diversity, beyond the framework of a medieval joust, which is what the police are proposing."

2002 October 26. About one million people around the planet demonstrate against the US plans to attack Iraq. With nearly 100,000 in San Francisco, US, tens of thousands in Zaragoza, Spain, Berlin, Germany, Washington, US, and thousands more from Seattle to São Paulo, people around the globe make it clear that they are organized and strongly opposed to war.

for complete list of events see: www.aktivism.info/wiki/index.php/Global_Justice_Movement_Chronology

New Study on the Ecological and Social Effects of the Global Freight

Olli Tammilehto

A new study on the material basis of globalization will be released during the European Social Forum. Globalization has meant a substantial growth in the interna-

tional freight traffic.

The study Tragedy of Transport deals mainly with the various environmental effects caused by this traffic. Taken together, these effects constitute a huge negative impact on the global environment.

Enormous material flows generated by globalized transport have the leading role in creating and maintaining our unequal world. The material trade balance between rich and poor countries shows a big deficit.

When ecological rucksacks of

traded goods are taken into account, trade deficit is massive. This means that when materials are transported from the Global South to the Global North, pollution and environmental degradation go in the opposite direction.

Why then is this enormous and destructive transportation activity taking place?

The reason given in the mainstream discourse is that transport and the accompanying trade contribute to human welfare and development. However, the theoretical and empirical bases of this

argument are very weak.

The real reason behind the present swollen transport activity is its role in the concentration of wealth and power to a small minority of people. A new transnational upper class of political and business leaders, capitalists and technocrats has used mobility as a tool to build an empire that gives fabulous riches to a few but generates misery to the rest and is on the path of destroying the earth as we know it.

There are no sustainable technical fixes to the present transportation

system. The only real alternative is a structural change in the global society.

The report The Tragedy of Transport, The Earth under Pressure from the Global Transport Net, by Olli Tammilehto will be released on the sailing ship Estelle Saturday 20.9 at 10 am.

Discussion session is organised by Uusi Tuuli (New Wind) and Democracy Forum Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The report is available also at

<http://www.tammilehto.info>

S/V Estelle - A Sailing Forum for Social Movements

S/V Estelle, a Finnish sailing ship for solidarity exchange, is serving as one of the forums for the ESF. The ship will be docked in "Kajplats 31" in Västra hamnområdet, next to the City Archive (Stadsarkivet) on Isbergs gata 13. During the ESF, various small workshops and meetings will be organised at Estelle.

Currently, Estelle is planning a journey to Mexico. The journey will be realised during years 2010 and 2011. She is capable of carrying 220 tons / 317 cubic meters of cargo, and is looking for collaborators for organising solidarity actions and cargo in support of social movements in Southern Mexico.

Estelle's ESF programme will be available at www.estelle.fi.

More information about Estelle's journey to Mexico:

mexico2011@estelle.fi.

Full program at www.estelle.fi

