

CONVERGENCE SPACE IN BERLIN



**KICK OFF
21 MAY 2007**



More than only *a centre* - more than an *activists gathering!*

Similar to Hamburg and Rostock, here in Berlin we are also setting a CONVERGENCE SPACE for those organising around the **G8 SUMMIT IN HEILIGENDAMM**. However, as our understanding of such a Convergence Space is slightly different to those presented so far in Hamburg and Rostock, we would like take this chance to present you with our idea.

We are assuming that many activists from eastern and southern Europe, as well as from south/central Germany, will pass through and wish to **MAKE A STOP IN BERLIN** on their way to the places they have chosen to undertake the resistance/struggle. Hundreds, if not thousands, of activists from Berlin and the province will also be present. For all of them we want to offer a SPACE to get in touch, get the news, exchange, coordinate, take part in various workshops and trainings, organise and in this well prepared condition make ready to resist ... wherever they choose to do it.



As the network of activists **SETTING UP AND COORDINATING** this Convergence, we do not want to put ourselves in the position of explaining to anyone **WHERE, WHEN** and **HOW** it is best to undertake the struggle. We understand our role in collecting all relevant information (from legal info, logistical info, action preparation news etc.) and providing them to all activists/people, as well as offering the space of convergence with infrastructure. But its stays in the hands of the particular person, group or organisation of how, where and when they choose to strike against the system of oppression, against the summit or the structures and institutions linked to it.

At the same time we wish to stress that our concept of a Convergence Space comes from the anarchist tradition of a permanent approach to society and not of close doors and separating "unorganised people" from activists, in a passive or active way. Therefore we are planning to offer, not only **INFO-POINTS and ROOMS FOR MEETINGS** in the traditional Berlin libertarian projects but also to raise a CONVERGENCE SPACE in public spaces: parks, squares, streets, clubs and cafes, in one of the neighbourhoods:

- 1) A space without any walls and borders aimed at the non-activist spectrum;
- 2) A space easily accessible to "common people";
- 3) A space based on interaction, public presence and public debate;

This is the reason why we call our concept a Convergence "Space" and not a "Centre"! We want for example that the **GENERAL ASSEMBLIES** (planned for each evening with updated info and open debate) to take place in a public place so that not only hundreds of activists but also people from the neighbourhoods can participate.





We would like to do the same with many of the **TRININGS and WORKSHOPS** e.g. medical training, climbing training, trauma workshops, creating an affinity-group workshop, samba band workshop, art-works for action preparations, banners painting, critical information events, etc. In this way the Convergence Space does not become a centrally-localised, comparative and isolated event explicitly for activists but is spread to the whole neighbourhood and hopefully influences and maybe even involves critical thinking people from outside of the movement.

The SPACE is also meant in following sense: everyone is responsible to fill this space up with **REVOLUTIONARY ENERGY** - it should not be just be an informative event. The interaction, and the dynamic for wider social resistance coming from it, is in the centre of the whole idea; while we understand ourselves only as initiators with a slight function as coordinators (which function may dissolve in the case of the active participation of all of you).



Of course we know that some of the meetings or workshops have to be conducted in more **SAFE PLACES**- for these cases rooms will be prepared in the libertarian locations.

At the same time we want to encourage all activists to break the feelings of anxiety and isolation by conducting their activities during their days in Berlin **AS PUBLICLY AS POSSIBLE!**

To make this idea more realistic and interesting, the Berlin Convergence Space will be spread within the **NEIGHBOURHOOD** of **KREUZBERG** - a district with a large amount of radical, or at least critically thinking people of various generations and cultural backgrounds, with some workers-cooperatives, left-wing bookstores, libertarian house projects, organised migrants networks, gay-lesbian and trans-gender communities and its spaces, subcultural and ecological activities, and many ordinary working and unemployed people who are generally fed up with capital-ism and state-ism... We expect quite a large level of solidarity from at least part of the neighbourhood towards the arriving activists and the anti-G8-unrest. Of course the interaction between the local people and the activists will only be possible if the latter will make the first step towards this approach. How to do this starts with all of us! The idea of the Convergence SPACE should just be to help with this.



We believe that in the days before the massive actions against the G8, and also the expected state repression, the raising of revolutionary consciousness, or at least of **SOLIDARITY** among the common people (e.g. through civil disobedience), is more than worthy to being undertaken. This is what has been missing over the last couple of years in many other places where the activists' convergences took the form of closed and isolated Centres.

The Convergence Space in Berlin will start its activities from the 21st of May 2007 but **EVERYONE is STRONGLY WELCOME** to arrive earlier and to bring own ideas and energy into the process.

We will make our best in terms of **ACCOMODATION and WARM MEALS** for all arriving activists - this will also be organised in a decentralised manner as a wide spectrum of Berlin libertarian projects will be asked to join/support the Convergence. How long the Convergence Space will be active is still open. In general, we want to be flexible according to the development of the situation ... in Heiligendamm, in Rostock, in Hamburg, in Berlin ... all over the world! We are and will be in permanent contact with our comrades from Convergences Centres in Hamburg and Rostock, as well as those on the camp(s) around Heiligendamm. We understand ourselves as **PART OF THE SAME STRUGGLE** just with a slightly different local approach.



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