



NEWS[★] FROM THE FIELDS AND BEYOND

thoughts for global anti-g8 actions

G8 Heiligendamm 07: just another counter-summit?

MOVE FAST, STRIKE HARDER...

The G8 circus is coming. Recent summits have moved to more remote areas, we have seen a decline, mainly because we do not control the playground around it. In Seattle, our strengths were in surprising the police. In Prague and Genoa, we had the freedom to stage effective actions and disrupt the summit. It has come to seize back

We all agree that Heiligendamm and staging actions there could be a constructive and interesting experience. However, previous experiences with summit mobilisations have shown the need for us to be more flexible in our protests. Being fenced in and blocked from taking effective actions as happened in Gleneagles and St. Petersburg is both unconstructive and disempowering.

Over the last few years the most effective way for the dispossessed to attack capital has been to do so directly. This was done by the dock workers on the American west coast in 2002, the unemployed in Argentina since 1997, the Algerian insurgents in 2001 and the CPE struggle in France, last year. We should learn from this and aim to block the flows of capital - be this the flow of numbers in the digital world of the stock exchanges or the flow of cargo trucks on the motorway.

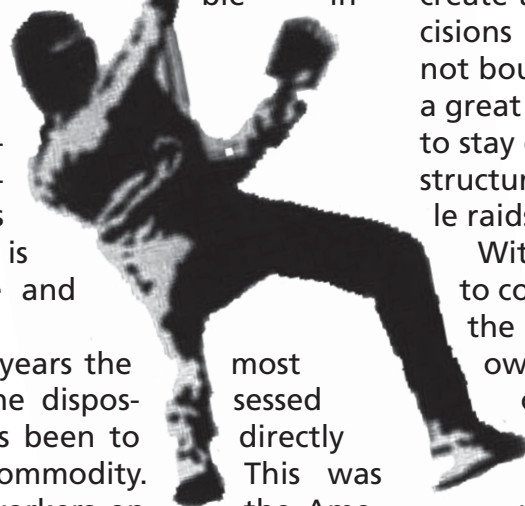
Our proposal is that we converge on the capi-

talist fortress in Heiligendamm and experience the power and energy of acting and living as a large group, but only for as long as we are effective and it increases our power. It means going along with the current perspectives of trying to block the summit and the flows all over Meck-Pomm but to come there prepared for radical changes of strategy: if the time comes when we are blocked from being effective, we should be prepared to move and take the battle to the capitalists where they are more vulnerable.

Through this shift in strategies we want to preserve the power and energy that we have felt in previous summit mobilisations, but at the same time create new capacity for disruption. Practically, and as a starting point, we need to create the collective capacity to make quick decisions and to be mobile at any time. We are not bound to one place as they are, and that is a great strength, allowing us to force the police to stay one step behind us, caught in their rigid structures. Our tactics should be those of mobile raids, not of laying an unwinnable siege.

With this in mind, we encourage activists to come to Heiligendamm prepared to move the battlefield, which requires us to be our own nomadic base. Organisationally, we commit to preparing a structure for sharing information and managing logistics which is able to move along with us.

The flows we propose to block are global and without borders. Many are affected by them but only few have the resources to be present at Heiligendamm. We encourage all those who can't come to the G8 to take part in the battle, blockading the flows wherever in the world they are. Come prepared!



CALL OUT FOR GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION AND INFORMATION AGAINST CAPITALISM IN THE TIME AROUND THE G8 SUMMIT 2007

Capitalism attacks us on many fronts in our daily lives. We are forced to endure the current system of capitalism and its oppressive power destroys, exploits, isolates and dehumanizes us. It's definitely time to get rid of it.

To move forward in the international struggle against capitalism, the following call goes out from the international meeting against the G8, held in Warsaw (Poland) from the 9th to 11th of February with people from more than 15 different countries. Please spread it as widely as you can.

Representatives of the G8 members and other major economic powers will meet in the north of Germany on the 6th-8th of June 2007, closeted behind a barrier of fences and police soldiers. Simultaneously thousands of people - opposed to its neo-liberal policies - will congregate to act in numerous and diverse ways and places. A lot of different groups and

persons are in a daily struggle against different effects of the policy for profit over people, creating autonomous spaces, live alternatives and fight the G8 and other global economic institutions. It is amazing

to observe how many groups have the protests in June on their agenda or are joining it in different ways. The protests against the G8 will not just be a real desire and attempt to disrupt this summit meeting, but should be seen as an important step in the worldwide struggle against capitalism. Not only during the days of the summit, but a struggle on every day basis.

There have already been global days of actions and solidarity, which seemed not all very successful. Our resistance is often played out on their field, by their rules. How could we re-envision these international acts of resistance in a way where we could actually make a change? One of the ways that seems to work in the current situation is blocking the capitalist economy through attacking infrastructure and the flows of capital across the world.

A large number of the people fighting capitalism and its many forms of oppression all around the world, can not come to the summit protests in Germany. This invitation to the global days against capitalism is an invitation to all of you to link the daily local and

global struggles to each other and act together in a strong and coherent way.

The global day of action against capitalism can be an opportunity to show the world and ourselves the range of our resistance, of which the protests against the G8 are only one small part. Effective resistance must be everywhere and continuous. We should believe in the success of our actions and with this knowledge and inspiration, we don't go back to our old life, but let resistance bloom all over the world in 2007 and long afterwards.

We call for actions to take place on the 10 days around the summit (1st-10th June), which include the days of action on agriculture (June 3rd), on migration (June 4th), anti-militarism (June 5th) and climate change (June 8th). Everybody is invited to take part in this process with his/her ideas and capacity, ranging from sharing information to direct actions across the world with the aim of attacking the global economy, by all means necessary. Capitalism never takes a break. Neither should our resistance!

International Warsaw Meeting on Preparation of the G8 protests-2007

Postscriptum:

Also we call out to connect the struggle against capitalism and G8 with different other global action days, as such:

8th of March

Feminist Action Day

19th-20th of March

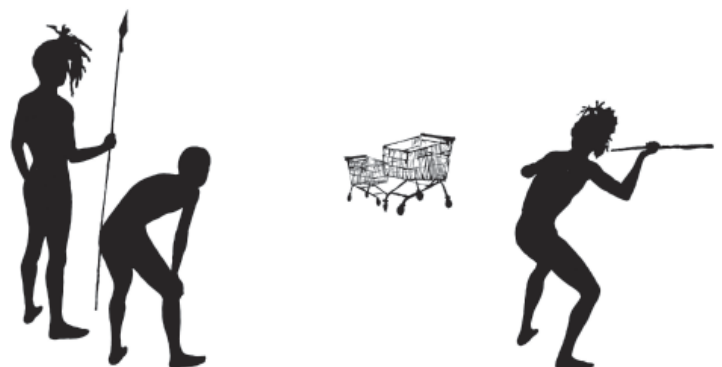
Days of Resistance against War

17th of April

International Day of Peasant Struggle, called out by Via Campesina

1st of May

International Day of Class War



WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IN NAIROBI

From the 21th of Januar until the 25th of Januar the 7th World Social Forum (WSF) took place in Nairobi (Kenya). This was the first time a WSF was held in an African country. The WSF is a meetingplace for people from different countries and political backgrounds (a few grassroot-activists, more trade-unionists, members of NGO'S and churches and a few members of political parties). There were some organisational conflicts about entree-fees for locals, food, and water-prices. A poshy hotel which was owned by the minister of interior was having the food-monopol and selling the food far above normal prices. The entree-fees prevented local grassroots-activists from being part and hawkers from selling their stuff. After two days of protests, street-blockades, a blockade of the hotel and visting, one of the responsible persons, the gates opened for everybody, including hawkers. It was a shame that first a few arrests needed to occur in order to enable to open the gates. On the last day the poshy hotel was sturmed and food was given out free to the kids. The Europeans mostly did not really take part in the protests and solidarity was few.

There were many workshops taking place on issues like: migration, wars, poverty, housing, privatisation, water, economic contracts, (neo)-colonialism, the relationship between NGO'S and social-movements, G8, work and so on. Because it was so diverse it was possible to find the space to discuss with comrades from different African, Latin-american and Asian countries.

Being a guest in a poor country it was difficult to ignore the social problems and difficult not to listen to the positions of African citizens. In many meetings it was cleared out how neo-colonialism is causing the social problems. Migration was a big issue on the WSF. There was a lot of talk about its causes: poverty, wars, no jobs, exploiting of ressources and so on. At one meeting it was said by an African NGO that more investmensts and a not corrupt government was needed to solve the social problems which would also prevent people from being forced to migrate. In other workshops which were the majority, the dominance of the western world was critized for causing all these social problems and taken into account so many deaths at the borders. The demand for open borders was spoken out very loudly by most african participants. In some workshops the role of



NGO'S was analysed. In South-Africa and Kenya quite active and strong social movements existed, but they have been eaten up by NGO'S or changed in a reformist political party. NGO'S were seen as the ideological arm of capitalism, but difficult to fight because there are selling themselves very convin-



cingly as doing something good. Social movements who want to fight neo-colonialism and capitalism are quite weak and the NGO'S who are talking about improving the social conditions are much stronger. Also some african comrades explained the impact of colonialism. It is not only about exploitation, but about taking over almost all facet in life: lthe language you speak, what you like and not like, which food you like to eat, which music you like, the mentality changes, and so on. The impact is so big, that sometimes you are not even aware of it anymore. Concerning G8: we got out in informal conversations that the g8 is a matter of concern, because they are the powers making a destructive policy. At the same time it was said, that the g8 aare the western countries and it is our job to protest, at the same time expectations of left-wing-movements in Europe are very very low.

The WSF made it again very very clear that global capitalism should be abolished, but that the movements who can do that are not so strong. So let,s start kicking off. Getting stronger, use mass-mobilization to gain in power and energy. There is an urgent need to do so and we can do a lot when we stand together and overcome differences!!

SELFORGANISATION INSTEAD OF CAPITALISM

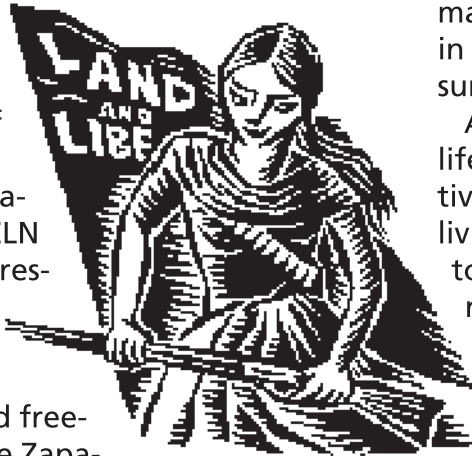
Zapatistas met with activists from 48 countries in Chiapas

The indigenous movement of the Zapatist Army for National Liberation (EZLN) celebrated the 5th anniversary of their uprising in the impoverished southern state of Chiapas with a conference on the global struggle against neoliberalism in the village of Oventic.

At the 1st January of 1994 the EZLN stood up against oppression and racism for twelve days of armed struggle under the slogan „land and freedom“. Since then the Zapatistas engage asd civilians, but still have Guerilla units for their security. Four days and nights the 2000 participants from 48 countries together with about 3000 Zapatistas shared experiences about resistance to capitalism and marginalisation. The atmosphere was either concentrated or cheerful and lively, as the nights were spent feasting and dancing.

The focus of the conference were the reports of the five governing boards of the movement. They explained in detail how they manage to build up autonomous structures in the fields of self-government, education, health, women, communication, art & culture, alternative trade and lands despite sabotage and being under siege of the military. Central aspects of autonomy is the grassroots claim and that persons with certain positions can be substituted at any time (to prevent corruption as well as decisions being taken apart from the population). Besides „modest successes“ (O-Tone EZLN) problems and shortcomings in project work were mentioned several times.

After the speeches of the 232 board members and further commandantes questions were posed. At the end of each workshop participants from different countries presented their projects of resistance, most of them alternative education, culture and womens projects. Activists repeatedly said, that they - inspired by the Zapatistas - strive for new forms of being politically active and to overcome capitalism. Locally as well as worldwide extra-parliamentary grassroots movements are to



be expanded and interconnected. A big global meeting against neoliberalism and for humanity is planned, the 3rd „Intergalactico“. Parallel there were anarchist network meetings, information about political prisoners, the situation in Oaxaca and the mobilisation against the G8 summit in Germany.

A problematic sphere of zapatist everyday life still is the marketing of the crops they cultivate. As all farmers in Mexico, the movement living predominantely of subsistence are put to enormous constrains by the free trade agreement NAFTA of the U.S., Mexico and Canada. By NAFTA small subsistence farmers are forced to compete with highly subsidized US Agriculture Companies. Often transport costs to the next market eat up all profits made by selling the products. So in the economical sector the Zapatistas hope to increase alternative trade relations, to cut off the middlemen and sell more coffee or handy-crafts to sildary cooperatives in Mexico and abroad.

Especially highly frenqented was the workshop on „women“. In front of 1000 people 20 Zapatistas told about their everyday struggles in a society marked by machismo. They did not hesitate to harshly criticize the behaviour of the men in their own community. On the other hand they pointed out that today they hold leading positions and that they gained a lot in the 13 years of the uprising. They stressed that the Guerilla was an eye-opener to the women and that the work of Commandante Ramona, who died in early 2006, had been of great importance. After years of mobilisation she and other were successfully establishing the Revolutionary Womens´ Laws in 1993.

Also there are positive developments in the areas of health and education. But the same time there exist a thousand challenges and difficulties. Today the movement consists mainly of young women and men, who were kids in 1994 and who received their education in schools with very limited ressources under extremely difficult conditions. Commandane David pointed out the importance of international networking for Zapatistas as for Anti-Globalistas. „Only if they kill all of us they will stop the idea of building up a new anticapitalist left movement.“