newsletter for a global anti-g8 process

No. 3
January 2007

STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the first Fields and Beyond newsletter in the last year of the old world order. So don’t miss it – steal it, copy it, distribute it. Otherwise, it might become a rarity in the future...

Mobilisations in several countries have definitely kicked off now, and soon another international meeting will take place in Warsaw. So, the question is burning in our heads: will we funk them this time? Strategic debates about how to proceed will be at the centre of the discussions in Warsaw. At the same time, we want to think beyond the fields, beyond Warsaw, beyond the G8: how can we sustain the process of global networking, how do we organise ourselves and strengthen our cooperation? Fields and Beyond is a tool of global exchange! It is more than a short-lived project, but part of a life-long revolt.

Therefore a serious appeal now: make Fields and Beyond a tool of global exchange! The flow of information and communication has to go in all directions. We want to know what is happening in the rest of the world of vibrant resistance. Drop some lines, write an article, connect our histories...

The collectors collective

FASHISTS AND G8

Is there a serious mobilisation?

There are no signs of a large-scale mobilisation in the fashist scene up to now. They are discussing about Heiligendamm, G8 and Neoliberalism/Capitalism in their internet-forums, but that’s about it. However, it remains to be seen what the fashist party NPD gets going, as they feel “at home” in the region. Whether a lot of militant Nazis will take part in their demo is unclear - in the past their participation in mass rallies had been marginal. Smaller actions against leftists can be expected though, as the militant Nazi-scene is well organized in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. So keep your eyes, noses and ears open and take determined measures against those shitheads.

Para un mundo donde quepan muchos mundos...

+++ NEWSTICKER +++

200 DISSENTERS IN BREMEN

A lot of people have really started doing things – this was one of the first impressions of the dissent+x meeting that took place the 19th-21st January in Bremen. Lots of spirited corridor talks right from the beginning, many different posters & stickers distributed, up to 20 workshops announced. On Saturday the general debate about strategies – based on the papers published so far, also in the extra-fields – contained little surprise, as all activists declared their determination to block and confront the G8 in one way or the other.

The plenary supported the initiatives of Block G8 & Paula, as well as the efforts to keep the delegates of G8 from getting off their planes in Rostock-Laage. People expressed their wish for the other emancipatory alliances to act in solidarity, to coordinate and respect the actions of one another.

On the question of whether or not we want to mobilise against the fascist march that is announced for the 2nd of June in Schwerin – parallel to the opening demonstration in Rostock – no decision was made. Some groups will call to confront the fascists, while others think it’s more important to make a strong statement in Rostock. Both had good arguments and supposedly there will be enough of us in the region to do both.

In the workshops activists continued to work on visa questions, funds, camps, actions in the run-up, bike caravans, blockades etc. The press group met, a group to raise awareness on sexist offences was introduced. Even though a lot has been done, there are still some big gaps, like the whole question of transport or a group (or at least more volunteers) organising translations during the protests. And, as always, money...

In the course of mobilising locally as well as internationally the plenary supports the idea of having 4 international actiondays in the months before the summit.

PROTEST AGAINST THE G8 MIGRATION POLITICS

From the 6th to 8th of Januar an alliance of antiracist and self-organised groups of refugees and migrants met in Berlin to organise the migration-related protests before and during the G8.

Before the G8, information events will take place in many towns to mobilise and inform about the racist G8 migration-policies. Also actions will take place to protest against the legalisation of the German government decided upon in December 2006. Unlike many other countries the German government still refuses to legalise migrants and refugees who are long term residents of Germany.

Another project is an action tour which will arrive in Rostock on the 2nd of June. Besides actions and a demonstration on the 4th of June in Rostock, the alliance decided to organise a transnational migration related network meeting. Here antiracist activists from all over the world will discuss, learn from each other and strengthen their ties. This event will take place on the 3rd of June. More information will be available, the racist G8-politics will be made radly apparent.

+++11.11. nuclear transport route: the group „hook in for withdrawal“ puts several so called hook-claws in the overhead contact line in front of the castor train. they call to shut down nuclear power plants and tear down G8 and claim that energy politics is negotiated in action [interim 648] +++ 10.12. ghent: dissent belgium takes action in the shopping district against blind and sexist consumerism. [ovl.indymedia.org/news/2006/12/14302.php] +++ december, berlin: for profiting from deportation camp system anti-g8-ers colour walls, glue locks, smash windows and leave anti-racist slogans at the federal bureau of the „charity“ organization awo [interim 647] +++ before christmas in berlin, essen, dresden & bremen: anti-copyright-samtös distribute illegally burned music-cds to protest against the monopolisation of knowledge, called intellectual property rights, and patents also in agriculture and medicine. they call to participate in the protests against the promoters of this policies, the g8, next summer [dissentnetwork.org] +++ 25.12. hamburg: the „ag colonialism and war within the militant anti-g8-campaign“ sets fire to the car of
SOME NEWS FROM NEO-COLONIAL-BRITISH-ISLAND ACTIVISTS

After recovering from the G8 in Scotland and having plenty of time to reflect on what worked and what didn’t, a first nationwide meeting took place in Nottingham/Sherwood Forest to discuss how we can usefully contribute to the mobilisation against the G8 in Germany. People from all over the country attended the meeting and we got the feeling people were keen to mobilise. In the spirit of Robin Hood, it was decided to rob everything from the rich and give it to the poor. In order to do this, a network of infopoints will be created (starting in nine cities): to provide contact for people throughout the UK, to distribute publicity materials and to continue to mobilise locally. These infopoints will also be used to coordinate transport to Germany. The dissent-email list will be used for organising against the G8 in Germany and the UK dissent! (dissent.org.uk) website will be reanimated. There was a discussion about how to organise ourselves once in Germany and the plan is to have a UK infopoint at the camp so that people can orientate themselves. Blockades were discussed: booklets will be produced for new people to explain ‘activist code’ (e.g. lock-on), work will be done on communication possibilities during actions and we’ll find and distribute more information regarding the terrain of the area e.g. maps and photos. We also plan to organise practical training days. People felt the main aim at this stage in the mobilisation is to distribute information so that people feel able to plan their actions. There will be another nationwide meeting at the end of March. Death to King John! Death to the Sheriff of Heiligendamm!

ANARCHISTS IN ISRAEL

MOBILISE AGAINST G8 & OCCUPATION

In Tel Aviv, the first organising meeting towards the G8 took place at the Anarchist center „Salon Mazal“ with about 20 people, most of them planning to travel to Germany this summer. It was decided that our main focus will be connecting the struggle against the occupation of Palestine (with the 5th of June marking 40 years for the 67 War) with the one against global capitalism. Israeli policies toward refugees and migrant workers was another topic that we decided to deal with as a group. Two main working groups came out of the meeting, one organising the events against G8 in Israel/Palestine, and the other is for organising the actions of the groups that is travelling to Germany.

EYES IN SMALL BOXES

In some places photographers of demonstrators run severe risks of being beaten up, while in other countries demonstrations seem to consist mainly of reporters. Besides debates of up-datedness and mass-media abusing the pics for telling lies about the protests, the question of whom we allow to take pictures of our actions against the G8 2007 is also one of avoiding imprisonment, as in Germany camera and video material can be used as evidence in court. There are many frustrating examples where people took pictures, that ended up in the hands of the police, either due to simple stop-and-searches or people’s places being raided afterwards. Despite these experiences the discussion is not as advanced as in other places, like in Greece for example. Maybe there is a chance to overcome some of these shortcomings through international support. We heard for example that the activists of Ungdomshuset only allowed some trustable comrades to take pictures. How did you discuss that, and how did you do it?

POLICE RAIDS IN MUNICH, ERLANGEN AND BERLIN

Shortly before the protests against the so-called “Security Conference” - a militarist meeting of government officials, Nato-generals and heads of weapons industries – the police raided a youth centre in Erlangen and 8 places in Munich, among them a print-shop, a community centre, a bookshop and the homes of 3 people the police thought were running the domaines of mobilising websites. The Police forced 6 persons to follow them to the police station, where they were finger printed and photographed. Police also confiscated half a dozen computers, as well as brochures, papers etc. The reason cited was “calling for criminal offences” (Aufruf zu Straftaten) by mobilising for blockades at the airport Rostock-Laage & actions against the SiKo. In reaction to the raids activists widely adopted the slogan created by the police in their search papers: “storm the airport” was written on numerous banners in the city, on bridges across the highway and on a spontaneous demonstration of 200 activists declaring “You will not intimidate us – block the logistics of war”. [www.no-g8.tk, www.no-nato.de]

In Berlin the police used the opportunity of a charge by the trade supervisory board against a cultural venue of the Köpi squat to collect flyers and literally scratch stickers against G8 off the wall. After a while a lot of people came to the Köpi and started to put some pressure on the police, who then left without closing the place or achieving anything else. After blocking some roads a spontaneous demonstration went through Kreuzberg.

OUT OF ACTION

OUT OF ACTION is a group concerned with psychological issues of activism. We want to provide information and support before, during and after the summit.

Big mobilisations are not only exciting, a chance to meet people from all over the world and to get some action. They can also turn out rather stressful. Not only is there no end to the work that needs doing, also there is a good chance of facing repression in various forms. Paramedics, firemen, even police are aware of the psychological impacts of the stress and danger they put themselves into. They get information and support, deaf and be counselled.

A strong movement needs to face repression not only physically and organisationally, but also psychologically. Emotional problems are not a sign of weakness, but a normal reaction of the mind to cope with experiences that go beyond the boundaries of „normal“. People are burned out for weeks, drop out totally and suffer from all sorts of effects resulting from the experienced violence. There’s more to a demonstration being attacked or a convergence centre raided than a couple of bruises. Anxiety, depression, insomnia, lack of concentration are just some of the emotional symptoms people suffer from.

Showing off bandages makes you some sort of hero, gives you streetfighter credibility. Not being able to sleep, freezing at the sight of cops or panicking at the sound of helicopters doesn’t make you cool. Besides feeling bad, the fact that you are affected stigmatises you. As weak. As crazy.

To be effective and strong as a movement we need to be aware of the danger we put ourselves in and face all the consequences. People suffer from emotional distress, and it’s time we deal with it. Not alone, not in privacy. As a movement in solidarity. We will set up spaces where you can come and talk to us, do workshops or just chill out with a cup of tea [trauma-support@riseup.net, em- list: trauma-support-subscribe@lists.riseup.net]. http://outofaction.net

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state-secretary of finance thomas mirow in front of his house, which also got damaged by heat and blue paintbombs. he was chosen as target for preparing the g8 spectacle of imperialist reign and being in control of several strings of power. the group demands reparations for the crimes of colonialism and unconditional cancellation of all depts [interm 648] +++ 27.12. heiligendamm: „we marked next year’s target“ say some enemies of the g8 throwing red and black paintbombs on the kempinski hotel in heiligendamm - announcing that there won’t be peace and quiet in the time before the summit [dissentnetzwerk.org/node/359] +++ 30.12.-2.1. oventik/chiapas: international meeting to prepare the next intergalactico against neoliberalism and for humanity [zeztainter nazional.org] +++ 31.12. mannheim: some hundred anticapitalists celebrate new year on a revolutionary silverstar-demo. rumours tell of a smashed bank and police station [akantifa-mannheim.de] +++ 1.1. rostock: colour-egg-throwers target the local jobcenter to scandalize the new modern slavery system. they call for action against the g8 work ministers meeting in may , and to smash capitalism in general +++ 3.1. berlin: to criticise miserable working conditions in global factories producing for companies like adidas
DAYS OF RESISTANCE TO THE WAR: MARCH 19TH AND 20TH, 2007

This call to action comes from a number of different organisations and individuals involved in the anti-war movement. Our organising experiences have left us feeling disappointed in ourselves and in the movement as a whole. Organising against the war in Iraq has led us to believe that marching and chanting has not made enough of an impact nor done enough to end the brutal realities of the occupation. This has got to change.

On March 19th and 20th, 2007, we call for worldwide days of resistance to the imperialist, racist and senseless war in Iraq. We propose occupations, acts of civil disobedience, and direct action. We propose that the weapons of resistance be directed towards governments, military recruitment centers, corporations, and other institutions that perpetuate the American empire and war.

We call for the support of any and all actions people take against the war and for people to respect a diversity of tactics. This means standing in solidarity with all forms of resistance to the war. Although people may not always agree upon every course of action, we should not actively oppose other people’s forms of resistance.

We call for people to organise and take action at the local level and to make decisions democratically. We need to be organising from the bottom up, not putting time and resources into another top-down permitted march in Washington. Anyone involved in this day of action deserves the right to make their own decisions as they are in the best position to know what can and can’t work in their own cities and states. By coordinating our efforts through communication, regional consultas and statewide meetings we will maintain local autonomy while building important connections and relationships.

We call for this day of action to be used as a catalyst for community outreach and organising around the war. We need to start talking with people in our neighborhoods, not just the same old crowd. In using this day as something to build towards, we won’t just be taking action for the sake of action; We will be using that action to build a stronger resistance to the war.

It is time to confront the failures of the anti-war movement by planning ahead, taking risks, making demands, and creating consequences. March 20th, 2007 will be a day to show the world that we recognise how deep the blood of imperialism runs in Iraq and to demonstrate that our rising resistance will run deeper! In struggle, resistance is fertile.

RESISTANCE IS FERTILE! Action network Global Agriculture mobilises against the G8 summit

Global Agriculture in disastrous conditions

Each year 30 million people die worldwide as result of hunger and malnutrition. Different processes like the enforced opening of markets, prices being dictated by supermarket-chains and the subsidisation of food production for export, systematically destroy the basis of existence of countless small farmers especially in the poorer countries. Monocultures and large-scale animal husbandry have disastrous effects on natural resources like soil, water or biological diversity.

The quality of food is also strongly affected by this. Globally acting companies of the north like Monsanto or Bayer appropriate the genetical resources of the south by means of “intellectual property rights”, trying to gain control of food production. In other words: They decide what is grown where, how and for whom. Also in the industrialised countries there are massive concentration processes taking place and the pressure on prices is ruinous.

Confronted with these developments small farmers don’t have a chance. The consequences are that a lot of farms get deserted.

Resistance is rising

Worldwide small farmers, farm workers and landless are organising themselves to assert their interests against big landowners, big corporations, governments and institutions. They squat lands, fight against the privatisation of water, burn down fields of genetically manipulated plants, found cooperatives and projects to preserve their traditional seeds. They struggle against the destructive neoliberal strain on policies of agriculture and fishery, and for food sovereignty, which means that they fight for the right to decide themselves about their agriculture and their nutrition. On summit meetings of international organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as on G8-meetings of the rich industrialised countries, the contradictions between ruling politics and the demands for a different, meaning non-industrialised, non-capitalist agriculture become clear. Politicians, bureaucrats and representatives of Agribusiness talk about fighting hunger and poverty, while they pursue policies leading to more exploitation, hunger and rapidly increasing inequality. Those who profit most are the transnational companies and big agrarians worldwide. In solidarity with worldwide resistance, and because of food and agriculture are the basis of life for everyone, we will carry the protest to the G8 summit in Heiligendamm...

Involved in the „Action network Global Agriculture“ are individuals as well as representatives of different groups, associations and networks, amongst others from the BUKO-Campaign against Biopiracy, the Barnim Action Alliance against Gene Technology and the Attac-AgriNet. Our common footing is that we want to get active in view of the outrageous circumstances in global agriculture. We eat every day - we are all responsible! We still need a lot of support in planning things and putting them into action. Join in, all of you! (www.g8-landwirtschaft.net, contact: g8_landwirtschaft@yahoo.de)

In the run-up to the summit the network plans many activities and especially calls to take action at the 17th of April 07, the Global Action Day of Via Campesina.

4 CALLS TO ACTION

The dissent-xx plenary in Bremen calls for international action days in the run-up to the summit to mobilise and focus on certain positions. The first of them will be a feminist action day on the 8th of March, followed by Days of Resistance to the War on the 19th and 20th of March, supporting an initiative of US-American groups. On April 17th the focus will be on Global Agriculture participating in an action day called for by the international farmer’s organisation Via Campesina. Finally the 1st of May will be used to relate to the social dimension of G8 policies, which has been understated in the German mobilisation up to now. The Fields and Beyond will document the calls for these actiondays as soon as we get them.
INFOTOUR TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

In December 2006 two activists from Berlin held several infotour workshops in Israeli cities and visited the occupied palestinian territories (Westbank). Their report of the tour provoked a critical response by Jamal Jumaa, coordinator of the Palestinian grass-roots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign [You find both texts at dissentnetwork.org].

Besides discussing personal failures, the critique touches some more general problems of organizing ourselves internationally, that resist simple solutions: How to communicate and connect our struggles beyond borders and conditions are that different? When some have to fight outright war while others don’t, when some are forced to fight while others have much more choices. Moreover: How to take the experience of racist oppression based on colonial perspectives as a starting point for practical solidarity AND overcome these colonial perspectives the same time?

INFOTOUR COMING TO EASTERN EUROPE

We will be giving updates about the mobilisation against the G8-meeting 2007 in Heiligendamm/Germany. During the information activities we can focus on different topics such as history of the G8-protests, critique of geopolitics, international mobilization to Heiligendamm and general information about visa and border issues. An important part of the presentations will be the mobilisation and preparation of the „shake-g8-bikeride“ which is a bicycle caravan that goes from Budapest/Hungary through Eastern Europe to the summit in Heilgeldamm/Germany [dissentnetzwerk.org/wiki/Bicycle-Caravan,_%22East%22]

If you have any contact to cities we pass on our way, please let us know: wasala@zoremail.org

“poland” - 12.2. lublin „belarus“ - 13.2. brest - 14.2.2007 hrodno - 16.2.2 minsk - 18.2. homel „ukraine“ - 19.2.2002 kiev - 21.2.2 odessa - 23/24.2 lviv „slovakia“ - 25.2. kosice „hungary“ - 26.2.27.2. miskolc/debrecen? - 28.2.03. budapest - 02.03. győr „slovakia“ - 03.3. bratislava - 04.3. tmaváv?, bratislava „czech republic“ - 05.03. brno - 06.03. havlickuv brod/casia? - 07.03.08.03. praha - 09.03. pardubice/ hradek kralove? „poland“ - 10.3.11.03. wrocław - 12.03. poznan - 13.03. gorzów wlkpolski? - 14.03. szczecin „germany“ - 15.03. rostock - 17.03. rimtsz damgarten.

COLLECTOR’S COLLECTIVE
News from the Fields and Beyond is an autonomous part of the mobilisation process against the G8. We do not strive to represent, but to re.

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WEBSITES & MAILING LISTS

- international mailing list: g8-int@lists.riseup.net [en]
- general info mail: g8-int-contact@lists.riseup.net [en]
- dissent website & wiki: www.dissentnetwork.org [en, ge, en, it, ru, ro, sp, fr, pl, nl, pl]
- interventionists list: http://g8-2007.de [en, en]
- revolutionary alliance: http://antig8.tk [en, es, sp]
- ngo coalition: www.g8-germany.info [en]
- convergence center hamburg: https://hamburg.dissentnetzwerk.org/ MainEnglish/HomePage [en]
- on all g8 summits: www.ggfseislo.org [ge, en]
- romania: http://nog@bnoagia.wordpress.com [ge, en, ro]
- http://www.freewebs.com/autonomisation
- sweden: http://se.dissentnetwork.org
- spain: http://www.nodo50.org acción global heiligendamm.htm
- http://info.g82007.tk
- russica: http://russia88.net/en
- mexico: http://congratg8.revolt.org
- netherlands: www.dissent.nl
- and more translations are always welcome and will be entered: http://info-g82007.tk
- political alliance: http://antig8.earthfirst.org
- http://www.campus.attac.org/
- http://dissent.org.uk
- http://info-g82007.tk
- anti-G8 poster & sticker: http://ggfseislo.org
- http://ggfseislo.org/Heiligendamm2007/ PosterUnd_Bilder/9515.html

AGENDA

24. February
Activities against the elite-festivity „Opennball“ in Frankfurt/Main will be centered around G8.

23.-25. February

8. March
Feminist Actionday: watch out for info at dissentnetwork.org

15. March
G8 ministers of environment in Potsdam

19.-20. March
Days of Resistance to the War

26. March
G8 ministers of development in Berlin

17. April
International Day of Peasant’s Struggle, called out by Via Campesina

1. May
International Day of Classwar

18. May
G8 ministers of finance in Schiweilowssee

23. May
G8 ministers of justice and interior in Munich

26. May
Convergence Centers open in Hamburg, probably Rostock and Berlin

30. May
G8 foreign ministers in Potsdam

31. May
Thursday - Activists settlement on the bombing range Bomboerdor

2. June - Saturday
Anti-G8 opening Demos in Rostock and antifasist Demo in the Capital of the Province Schwerin

3. June - Sunday
Actionday on Global Agriculture

4. June - Monday
Actionday on Migration

5. June - Tuesday
Actionday against War & Militarization - Blockades at the Airport Rostock Laage - Beginning of the Alternative Summit

6. June - Wednesday
Blockades around Heiligendamm - Beginning of G8 Summit

7. June - Thursday
Demonstrations to Heiligendamm - bad conscience-concert „Music and Message“ miles away from the fence

** VIDEOACTIVISTS´ NETWORK FOCUSES ON G8**

This network has existed since 2005, meeting 3-4 times a year, but has decided to temporarily focus their activities on the protests against the G8 summit 2007. They will publish their material on indymedia or similar structures only (as long as the group filmed doesn’t deserve to have it published elsewhere). And they will anonymize the persons in the picture – except nazis. The plan is to produce films about globalisation and to show them in sympathetic cinemas before the summit, and to have them translated and subtitled into other languages. During the summit the video activists will cover the protests in the streets. The group will offer a contact to other media, a mobile place to cut films and a website to download the material. Further exchange and networking is strongly desired. videoactivism@nadir.org