

Section 5

Call of Social Movements

- 5.1 Porto Alegre II – Call of Social Movements – Resistance to neoliberalism and militarism : for peace and social justice -**
Anon, nd, c.January 2002
- 5.2 World Call of the Social Movements, Porto Alegre, Brazil - January 27th 2003 :** ALAI - Agencia Latinoamericana de Informacion (Ecuador), Amigos de la Tierra (El Salvador), Arab NGO Network for Development (Lebanon), and others, January 2003
- 5.3 Seminar of the Social Movements, Brussels, September 28 - October 1 2006, Summary Report :** Christophe Aguiton (European March Against Unemployment), Ruli Agus (Federation Indonesian Peasant Union (FSPI), member Via Campesina), Akimoto Yoko (ATTAC Japan), and ors, October 2006

8.1

Resistance to neoliberalism and militarism: for peace and social justice

Call of social movements, Porto Alegre II, January 2002

- 1) In the face of continuing deterioration in the living conditions of people, we, social movements from all around the world, have come together in the tens of thousands at the second World Social Forum in the Porto Alegre. We are here in spite of the attempts to break our solidarity. We come together again to continue our struggles against neoliberalism and war, to confirm the agreements of the last Forum and to reaffirm that another world is possible.
- 2) We are diverse – women and men, adults and youth, indigenous peoples, rural and urban, workers and unemployed, homeless, the elderly, students, professionals, peoples of every creed, colour and sexual orientation. The expression of this diversity is our strength and the basis of our unity. We are a global solidarity movement, united in our determination to fight against the concentration of wealth, the proliferation of poverty and inequalities, and the destruction of our earth. We are constructing alternative systems, and using creative ways to promote them. We are building a large alliance from our struggles and resistance against a system based on patriarchy, racism and violence, which privileges the interests of capital over the need and aspirations of people.
- 3) This system produces a daily drama of women, children and the elderly dying because of hunger, lack of health care and preventable diseases. Families are forced to leave their homes because of wars, the impact of “big development,” landlessness and environmental disasters, unemployment, attack on public services and the destruction of social solidarity. Both in the South and in the North, vibrant struggles and resistance to uphold the dignity of life are flourishing.
- 4) September 11 marked a dramatic change. After the terrorist attacks, which we absolutely condemn, as we condemn all other attacks on civilians in other parts of the world, the government of the United States and its allies has launched a massive military operation. In the name of the “war against terrorism”, civil and political rights are being attacked all over the world. The terrorist war against Afghanistan is now being extended to other fronts. Thus there is the beginning of a permanent global war to cement the domination of US government and its allies. This war reveals another face of neoliberalism, a face which is brutal and unacceptable. Islam is being demonized, while racism and xenophobia are deliberately propagated. The mass media is actively taking part in this belligerent campaign which divides the world into “good” and “evil”. The opposition to this war is at the heart of our movement.
- 5) The situation of war has further destabilized the Middle East region, providing a pretext for further repression of Palestinian people and their struggle for self-determination as they face brutal suppression by the Israeli State. This is vital to collective security of all peoples in the region.
- 6) Further events also confirm the urgency of our struggles. In Argentina the financial crisis caused by the failure of IMF structural adjustment, and mounting debt precipitated a social and political crisis. This crisis generated spontaneous protests of the middle and working classes, repression, which caused deaths, changes in the government, and new alliances between different social groups. With the force of “cacerolazos”, the people have ensured the satisfaction of their demands.

- 7) The collapse of the multinational Enron exemplifies the bankruptcy of the casino economy and the corruption of businessmen and politicians. Workers have been left without jobs and pensions. In developing countries this multinational engaged in fraudulent activities and its projects pushed people off their land and led to sharp increases in the price of water and electricity.
- 8) The United States government, in its efforts to protect the interests of big corporations, arrogantly walked away from negotiations on global warming, the antiballistic missile treaty, the Convention on Biodiversity, the UN conference on racism and intolerance, and the talks to reduce the supply of small arms, proving once again that US unilateralism undermines attempts to find multilateral solutions to global problems.
- 9) In Genoa the G8 failed completely in its self-assumed task of global government. In the face of massive mobilization and resistance, they responded with violence and repression, denouncing as criminals those who dared to protest. But they failed to intimidate our movement.
- 10) All this is happening in the context of a global recession. The neoliberal economic model is destroying the rights, living conditions and livelihoods of people. Using every means to protect their “share value”, multinational companies lay off workers, slash wages and close factories, squeezing the last dollar from the workers. Government faced with this economic crisis responds by privatizing, cutting social sector expenditures and permanently reducing worker’s rights. This recession exposes the fact that the neoliberal promise of growth and prosperity is a lie.
- 11) The global movement for social justice and solidarity faces enormous challenges: its fight for peace and collective security implies confronting poverty, discriminations, domination and the creation of an alternative sustainable society.
Social movements energetically condemn violence and militarism as a means of conflict resolution; the promotion of low intensity conflicts and military operations in the Colombia Plan as part of Andes regional initiative, the Puebla Panama plan, the arms trade and higher military budgets, economic blockades against people and nations especially against Cuba and Iraq, and the growing repression against trade unionists and activists.

We support the trade unions and informal sector worker struggles as an essential instrument to maintain work and life conditions, the genuine right to get organized, to go on strike, to negotiate collective agreements at different levels, and to achieve equality in wages and working conditions between women and men. We reject slavery and the exploitation of children. We support workers struggles and the trade union fights against casualisation, subcontracting of labour and lay off, and demand new international rights for the employees of multinational companies, and their affiliates, in particular the right to unionise and space for collective bargaining.

- 12) Neoliberal policies create further misery and insecurity. They have dramatically increased the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children that we condemn strongly. Poverty and insecurity also lead to migration and millions of human beings are denied their dignity, freedom and rights. We therefore demand the right of free movement; the right to physical integrity and legal status and legal status of all migrant workers. We support the rights of indigenous people and the fulfillment of ILO article 169 in national legal frameworks.
- 13) The external debt of the countries of the South has been repaid several times over. Illegitimate, unjust and fraudulent, debt functions as an instrument of domination, depriving people of their fundamental human rights with the sole aim of increasing international usury. We demand unconditional cancellation of debt and the reparation of historical, social and ecological debts. The countries

demanding repayment of debt have engaged in exploitation of the natural resources and knowledge of South.

- 14) Water, land, food, forests, seeds, culture and people's identities are common assets of humanity for present and future generations. It is essential to preserve biodiversity. People have the right to safe and permanent food free from genetically modified organisms. Food sovereignty at the national, regional and local level is a basic human right; in this regard, democratic land reforms and peasant's access to land are fundamental requirements.
- 15) The meeting in Doha confirmed the illegitimacy of the WTO. The supposed adopted "development agenda" only defends corporate interests. By launching a new round, the WTO is moving closer to its goal of converting everything into a commodity. For us, food, public services, agriculture, health, education and genes are not for sale. In addition we reject the patenting of all biological life forms. The WTO agenda is perpetuated at the continental level by regional free trade and investment agreements. By organizing protests such as the huge demonstrations and plebiscites against FTAA, people have rejected such agreements as representing a recolonisation and the destruction of fundamental, social, economical, cultural and environmental rights and values.
- 16) We will strengthen our movement through common actions and mobilization for social justice for the respect of rights and liberties; for quality of life, equality, dignity and peace. We are fighting:
 - For democracy: people have the right to know about and criticize the decisions of their own governments, especially with respect to dealings with international institutions. Governments are ultimately accountable to their people. While we support the establishment of electoral democracy across the world, we emphasize the need for democratization of states and societies and the struggle against dictatorship.
 - for abolition of external debt, and reparation.
 - Against speculative activities: we demand the creation of specific taxes such as the Tobin tax, and the abolition of tax heavens.
 - For the right to information
 - For women's rights, freedom from violence, poverty and exploitation.
 - Against war and militarism, against foreign military bases and interventions, and the systematic interventions, and the systematic escalation of violence. We choose to privilege negotiation and non-violent conflict resolution.
 - For a democratic, social European Union based on the needs of European workers and people, on the need of solidarity and cooperation of the eastern and southern people.
 - for the rights of youth, their access to free public education and social autonomy, and the abolition of compulsory military service.

In the years to come, we will organize collective mobilisation such as:

in 2002:

8th of March: International Women's Day

17th of April: International day of Peasant's Struggle.

1st of May: Labour Day

12th October: Cry of the Excluded

16th October: World Food Day

Other global mobilisations will take place:

15th to 16th of March: Barcelona(Spain), summit of the EU.

18th to 22nd of March: Monterrey (Mexico), United Nations conference on financing for development.

17th to 18th of May: Madrid (Spain), summit of Latin America, Caribbean and European.

31st May: “International Day of action against militarism and peace”

June: Rome (Italy), world food summit; 22nd – 23rd Sevilla EU summit

July: Toronto and Calgary (Canada), G8 summit.

July 22nd: USA campaign against Coca-Cola

September: Johannesburg (South Africa), Rio + 10

October: Quito (Ecuador), Social continental forum “a new integration is possible”

November: Cuba, 2nd Hemispheric meeting against FTAA

December: Copenhagen (Denmark), summit of EU

In 2003:

April: Buenos Aires (Argentina), summit of the FTAA.

June: Thessaloniki EU Summit

WTO, IMF and World bank will meet somewhere, sometimes. And we will be there!

And many more events that have not been listed.

5.2

CALL OF THE WORLD SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL, JANUARY 27, 2003

We are meeting in Porto Alegre in the shadow of a global crisis. The belligerent intentions of the US government, in its determination to launch a war on Iraq, pose a grave threat to us all and are a dramatic manifestation of the links between militarism and economic domination.

At the same time, neoliberal globalisation itself is in crisis : the threat of a global recession is ever present; corporate corruption scandals are daily news and expose the reality of capitalism.

Social and economic inequalities are growing, threatening the social structures of our societies and cultures, our rights and our lives.

Biodiversity, air, water, forest, soil and sea are used like commodities and are for sale. All this threatens our common future.

We oppose this !

For Our Common Future

We are social movements that are fighting all around the world against neoliberal globalisation, war, racism, casteism, religious fanaticism, poverty, patriarchy and all forms of economical, ethnic, social, political, cultural, sexual and gender discrimination and exclusions. We are all fighting for social justice, citizenship, participatory democracy, universal rights and for the right of peoples to decide their own future.

We stand for peace and international co-operation, for a sustainable society answering the needs of people for food, housing, health, education, information, water, energy, public transportation and human rights.

We are in solidarity with the women engaged against social and patriarchal violence. We support the struggle of the peasants, workers, popular urban movements and all those who are urgently threatened by being deprived of homes, jobs, land and their rights.

We have demonstrated in millions to say that another world is possible.

This has never been more true and more urgent.

No War !

The social movements are against militarisation, increase of military bases and state repression that create countless refugees and the criminalisation of social movements and poor people.

We are against the war on Iraq, the attacks on the Palestinian, Chechnya and Kurdish people, the wars on Afghanistan, Colombia, in Africa and the growing threat of war on Korea. We oppose the economic and political aggression against Venezuela and the political and economic embargo by the US government against Cuba and elsewhere. We are against all kinds of military and economic actions designed to impose the neoliberal model and undermine the sovereignty and peace of peoples around the world.

War has become a structural and permanent part of global domination using military force to control people and strategic resources such as oil. The United States government and its allies are imposing war as a more and more common solution for resolving conflicts. We also denounce the deliberate attempts made by imperialists to increase religious, ethnic, racist, tribal and other tensions and strife all over the world in order to pursue their selfish interests.

Majority of public opinion around the world is opposed to the coming war on Iraq. We call on all social movements and progressive forces to support, participate in and organise worldwide protests on February 15, 2003. These protests are already planned and co-ordinated by all those who oppose the war in over 30 major cities around the world.

Derail WTO

The World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and a proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements, such as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the proposed Central America free trade agreements, are used by multinational corporations to promote their interests, to dominate and control our economies and to impose a development model which impoverishes our societies. In the name of trade liberalisation, every aspect of life and nature is for sale and people are denied their basic rights. Agro-multinationals are trying to impose GMOs worldwide; people suffering from HIV / AIDS and other pandemics in Africa and elsewhere are denied access to cheap generic drugs. In addition, countries of the South are trapped in a never-ending cycle of debt that forces them to open up their markets and export their wealth. In the coming year, our campaigns, against the WTO, the FTAA and trade liberalisation will grow in size and scope. We will campaign to stop and reverse liberalisation of agriculture, water, energy, public services and investment, and to reassert peoples sovereignty over their societies, their resources, their cultures and knowledge and their economies.

We are in solidarity with the Mexican agriculturists who say "*el campo no aguanta mas*" (the fields are fed up) and in the spirit of their struggles we will mobilise locally, nationally and internationally to derail the WTO and the FTAA. We support the worldwide movement to fight for food sovereignty and against neoliberal models of agriculture, food production and distribution. In particular, we will organise mass protests around the world during the fifth ministerial meeting of the WTO in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003 and during the ministerial meeting of the FTAA in Miami, USA, in October.

Cancel the Debt

The full and unconditional cancellation of Third World Debt constitutes a prerequisite condition in order to fulfil even the most basic human rights. We shall support any indebted country that would stop its external debt payment and would break its agreements with the IMF, especially the Structural Adjustment Programmes. Centuries of exploitation of Third World people, their resources and environment have given them the right to reparations. We ask, "who owes whom"? These issues will be raised in the major campaigns being held in 2003, G8 (Evian / June), WTO (Cancun / September) and the IMF and World Bank annual meeting (Washington / September).

Opposing the G8

We call on all the social movements and progressive forces to be part of the mobilisation to denounce the illegitimacy and to also reject the policies of the G8 that will be meeting in Evian, France, from June 1–3, 2003. This mobilisation will also be organised all around the world with an international gathering at Evian that will include an alternative summit, alternative camp and a huge international demonstration.

Women : Promoting Equality

We are part of the actions promoted by women's movements on March 8, which is the International Women's Day, to fight against all forms of violence and patriarchy and for social and political equality.

In Solidarity

We call for solidarity from all progressive social forces, movements and organisations across the world for those peoples such as the Palestinian, Venezuelan, Bolivian, and Cuban (who fight against the US embargo) and others who are facing extreme crisis and are fighting against imperialist hegemony at this very moment in time.

Enhance Our International Network

Last year during the WSF in Porto Alegre, we had adopted a declaration that defines our aims, our struggles and the ways we build our alliances. The spirit of this text is still living and will inspire our coming mobilisations.

Since then, the world has been changing very quickly and we feel the need to take a new step in our decision-making processes, in our co-ordination and alliances; the need to promote a broad, radical, democratic, plural, internationalist, feminist, non-discriminatory and anti-imperialist agenda.

We now want to build a framework articulating our analyses and commitments to our mobilisations. This requires the active participation of all the movements, keeping in mind that the Social Forums are independent from governments and political parties (as given in the WSF Charter of Principles) and keeping a respect for their autonomy. Further, this would be in accordance with the different forms of political expression and organisation of the social movements and with regard to the diversity of ideologies and cultures. We feel the need to constitute a network of movements that is responsive, flexible and sustainable; yet is also broad and transparent. Its responsibilities should be to enrich and feed the process, to promote its diversity and to assume the necessary degree of coordination. The aims of the network will be to enhance the engagement of movements around the world in a deeper political debate, to facilitate common action and to strengthen the initiative of concrete actors fighting for social interests. Its work should be both horizontal and effective.

To this end we propose to build a contact group as a resource and tool for our international mobilisations, including preparing meetings, promoting debate and democracy by promoting a website and mailing lists. This contact group would be established for a period of six to twelve months and it will be drawn on the past experience of the supporters of the network of social and popular movements that are based in Brazil.

This arrangement is transitional mainly to ensure continuity. The main task of this provisory group is to facilitate debate so that the social movements around the world define concrete procedures to work together. It is an ongoing process. A first review of the new contact group will take place at meetings of the network of social movements during the mass mobilisation against the WTO in Cancun in Sept. 2003. A second review, again in assemblies of the network of social movements, will follow during the WSF meeting that is expected to be held in India in 2004.

Among other things, the reviews will consider the effectiveness of the co-ordination and seek new ways to enhance it. It will also consider how to proceed from one year to the next, and how to include national, regional movements and thematic campaigns. In the meantime, we need a large debate among organisations, campaigns and networks to articulate the proposals for a more permanent and representative structure.

In the months to come we will have many occasions to experiment, improve and build this process through our campaigns and mobilisations.

Organisations and Social Movements that signed the Social Movements Call, Porto Alegre 2003 until May 2, 2003 :

1. *Agencia Latinoamericana de Informacion* (ALAI) [Latin American Information Agency], Ecuador
2. *Amigos de la Tierra* [Friends of the Earth], El Salvador
3. Arab NGO Network for Development, Lebanon
4. Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET), Philippines
5. Askapena, *País Basco* [Basque Country]
6. *Asociación de Amistad con Cuba 'Bartolomé De Las Casas' de Sevilla* ['Bartolomé De Las Casas' Association of Friendship with Cuba, Seville], Spain
7. *Asociación Mujeres Divergentes de Barcelona* [All Women's Association of Women of Barcelona], Spain
8. *Asociación Nacional de Usuarios del Sistema Financiero y de los Servicios Públicos*, [National Association of Users of the Financial System and Public Services], Colombia
9. *Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos* [Association for Human Rights], Andalucía
10. *Association Climat Social* [Association for a Social Climate], Niger
11. *Association Marocaine d'Appui aux bibliothèques Scolaire* (AMABS) [Moroccan Association of Support to the Library School], Maroc
12. *Associazione Culturale Punto Rosso — Forum Mondiale delle Alternative* [Cultural Association Punto Rosso (Red Dot) – World Forum for Alternatives], Italy

13. ATTAC — European Institutions, Europe
14. ATTAC 68, France
15. ATTAC France
16. ATTAC Japan
17. ATTAC Ecuador
18. ATTAC Switzerland
19. Berne Declaration, Switzerland
20. CADTM, France
21. CADTM, Réseau International
22. *Capítulo Cubano de la ASC y la Red Encuentros Hemisféricos Contra el ALCA* [Cuban Chapter of the ASC and the Network of Hemispherical Conferences Against the North American Free Trade Association], Cuba
23. *Centro de Desarrollo Integral para la Familia y la Mujer* (CEDEIFAM) [Centre for the Integral Development of the Family and the Woman], Argentina
24. *Central Única dos Trabalhadores* — CUT [Workers' Central Union], Brazil
25. *Centro de Estudios Ciudad* [Centre for Urban Studies], Ecuador.
26. *Centro de Estudios Rurales y de Agricultura Internacional* (CERAI) [Centre for Rural Studies and of International Agriculture], Spain
27. *Centro Félix Varela* [Félix Varela Centre], Germany
28. *Centro Memorial Dr Martin Luther King Jr* [Dr Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Centre], Cuba
29. CEOSL, Ecuador
30. CESTA, El Salvador
31. Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE), Zambia
32. CIVIMED Initiatives, France
33. Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Americas Programme
34. *Colectivo de Ecoportal.net y Revista Ambiente y Sociedad* [Ecoportal.net Collective and Journal of Environment and Society], Argentina
35. *Comissió d'Agermanament Salt-Quilalí* [Commission of [? sp ?], Salt-Quilalí], Spain
36. *Comité de Trabajadores Contra la Globalización* [Committee of Workers Against Globalisation], Barcelona, Spain
37. *Comunidad para el Desarrollo Humano* [Community for Human Development], Argentina
38. *Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador* (CONAIE) [Confederation of Indigenous Nations of Ecuador]
39. *Confederación Ecuatoriana de Organizaciones Sindicales Libres* [Equatorial Confederation of Free Workers' Unions]
40. *Confederación Nacional Afiliados Seguro Social Campesino*
CONFUNASSC [National Confederation of Affiliated Socially Insured Peasants], Ecuador [Note : This acronym belongs with no. 40, so should immediately follow the translation, as normal.]
41. *Conseil Communal — Province de Hainaut, Commune D'Anderlues* [Community Council, Anderlues Commune, Hainaut Province], Belgium
42. *Consejo de Salud del Area Norte* [Health Council of the Northern Area], Chile
43. *Consejo Nacional Campesino de Colombia* [National Peasants' Council of Colombia]
44. *Convergencia de los Movimientos de los Pueblos de las Américas* (COMPACT) [Convergence of Peoples' Movements of the Americas], Cuba
45. *Coordinadora Popular de Caracas* [Popular Coordinator of Caracas], Venezuela
46. *Coordinadora de Trabajo Carcelario de Rosário* [Coordinator of Prison Work of Rosário], Argentina
47. *Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educacion, en el estado de Zacatecas* [National Coordinator of Education Workers in the State of Zacatecas], Mexico
48. Cordillera People's Alliance, Philippines

49. *Corporación Siempreviva* [Siempreviva Corporation], Colombia
50. CUP-FCOC, Dominican Republic
51. CUSO Asia and the Pacific
52. CUSO, Canada
54. *Cybersolidaires* [Cybersolidarity], Montréal (Québec), Canada
55. Chiara Piscopo, Italy
55. Dalit Land Rights Federation of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, India
56. *Diálogo Sur-Sur GLBT* [South-South Dialogue GLBT], Ecuador
57. EcoEquity, USA
58. El-amel Association for Social Development, Algeria
59. Emmaüs International, France
60. Equipo Pueblo, Mexico
61. EQUIVITA, Scientific Committee, Italy
62. ESPERANTO/SAT-Amikaro, France
63. FEDAEPS, Ecuador
64. Focus on the Global South, Thailand
65. Food First, USA
66. *Foro Social de Chamberí* [Chamberí Social Forum], Spain
67. *Foro Social Madrid*, Spain
68. *Foro Social Mundial Ecuador* [World Social Forum Ecuador]
69. Forum for Child Rights (FCR), India
70. Free Burma Coalition, Philippines
71. Free Trade Union Development Centre, Sri Lanka
72. Friends of the MST, Sweden
73. *Fundació per la Pau*, Barcelona, Spain
74. *Fundación Dialogo y Convivencia* [Foundation for Dialogue and Co-existence], Colombia
75. *Fundación Pueblo Indio del Ecuador* [Indigenous Peoples' Foundation of Ecuador]
76. Fundación Sólon [Sólon Foundation], Bolivia
77. Ghetto Collective of Moscow, Russia
78. Global Women's Project, Center of Concern, USA
78. Globalisation Monitor, Hong Kong, China
79. Grassroots International, USA
80. *Grito de los Excluidos* [Voice of the Excluded], Colombia
81. *Grito de los/as Excluidos/as* [Voice of Excluded Men and Women], Ecuador
82. *Groupe Soleil d'Afrique* [Sun Group of Africa], Niamey, Nigeria
83. *Grupo de Tecnología Alternativa SC* [Group for Alternative Technology], Mexico
84. *Grupo de Sida por la Vida de San Carlos de Bariloche* [AIDS Group for the Life of San Carlos de Bariloche], Argentina
85. *Hemen eta Munduan, País Basco* [Here and in the World, Basque Country]
86. Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), Philippines
87. *Institut de recherches de la FSU (IRHESC)* [Institute for Research into FSU], France
88. Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands
89. International Development Economics Associates (IDEAS), India
90. International Group for Grassroots Initiatives, India
91. International Rivers Network, USA
92. *Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya* [Alternative Inter-union of Catalunya], Spain
93. Ithaca College, New York, USA
95. Jubilee Kansai Network, Japan
94. *Juristas sin Fronteras* [Jurists without Frontiers], Spain
95. Kairos Europe, Belgium
96. Kairos, Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Canada

97. KoPA (Korean People's Action against BIT& WTO), Korea
98. Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), South Korea
99. *Le Passant Ordinaire* [The Ordinary Pass], France
100. *Mouvement International pour les Réparations (MIR)* [International Movement for Reparations]
103. *Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples (MRAP)* [Movement Against Racism and For Friendship between Peoples], France
104. *Marcha Mundial das Mulheres* [World March of Women], Brasil
101. *Marcha Mundial Mujeres* [World March of Women], Argentina
102. Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC), Philippines
103. Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation, USA
108. *Mouvement Levons-nous* [Movement for Self-realisation], Québec, Canada
104. *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST)* [Movement of Rural Landless Workers], Brasil
105. *Mujeres Trabajando* [Working Women], Argentina
106. NADI, Indonesia
112. National Institution for Social Care & Vocational Training
107. Network Institute for Global Democratisation, Finland
108. Network Women in Development Europe, Belgium
109. North American Women for Diversity, USA
110. Norwegian People's Aid, Norway
111. Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific Movement, Philippines
112. *ÖBV - Sindicato de Campesinos y Campesinas de La Montana* [Union of Peasant Men and Women of La Montana], Austria
113. *Oltre l'Occidente* [Beyond the West], Italy
114. One Ummah Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan
115. ONG Kuña Roga , Paraguay
116. Pacific Asia Resource Center, Japan
117. Pacific Concerns Resource Center, Philippines
118. Palestinian NGOs in Lebanon
119. Peace Education, Environment and Development (PEED) Foundation, Pakistan
120. People's Rights Movement, Pakistan
121. *Periodismo Sin Máscara* [Journalism Without A Mask], Argentina
122. Programmes on Seeds of Hope and Tribal Self-Rule, India
129. Public Services International
123. *Red Attac Madre Tierra* [ATTAC Network of Mother Earth], Colombia
124. *Red de Economía Solidaria 'El Tenate'* [Solidarity Economy Network 'El Tenate'], Mexico
125. *Red Libertaria Práxis* [Network for a Libertarian Practice], Mexico
126. *Red Mujeres Transformando la Economía (REMTE)* [Women's Network for Transforming the Economy], Ecuador
127. RED@ctuar, Mexico
128. Regional Peoples Working Group on BIMP-EAGA - (RPWG-BIMP/EAGA), (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines — East Asian Growth Area)
129. *Réseau Droit Paysan* [Network for Peasants' Rights], France
130. Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), Nepal
131. Satyodaya Centre for Social Research & Encounter, Sri Lanka
132. *Servicios Públicos, regional Antioquia* [Public Services, Antioquia local], Colombia
133. *Servizio Civile Internazionale (SCI)* [Civil Service International], Italy
134. SinCobas, Italy

135. *Sindicato de Empleados del Instituto de Medicina Legal* [Employees' Union of the Recognised Institute of Medicine], Colombia
136. Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia
137. Solidarity & Development NGO, Lebanon
138. Southern African Regional Network on Equity in Health (EQUINET), Harare, Zimbabwe
139. Tamilnadu Women's Collective, India
140. Texas Fair Trade Coalition, USA
141. The Committee for Justice in Palestine, USA
142. The Committees For The Defence of Human Rights — CDF, Syria
143. The Northeastern Women's Network, Thailand
144. Transnational Institute, Netherlands
145. *União dos Trabalhadores da Guiana Francesa* [French Guinea Workers' Union]
146. *Union des Familles Laïques de l'Orne 61* [Union of Public Families of Orne 61 (??)], France
147. Union for Radical Political Economics, USA
148. Urban Technology Consulting, Spain
149. Via Campesina
150. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, USA
151. Worcester Global Action Network (WOGAN), Canada
152. World March of Women / *Marche Mondiale des Femmes* / *Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres*, Quebec
153. *Zone Ouverte de Mobilisation pour Briser les Injustices et Exclusions* [Open Zone for Mobilisation to Break Injustices and Exclusions], France

Political and Intellectual Organisations that Supported the Social Movements Call, Porto Alegre, 2003 :

1. *Partido Comunista de La Rioja* [Communist Party of La Rioja], Argentina
2. *Partido Comunista de Aragon* [Communist Party of Aragon], Spain
3. *Mandato do Vereador Hugo Manso* (PT-RN) [Mandate of Councilman Hugo Manso], Brazil
4. *Conseil Communal de Anderlues, Province de Hainaut* [Community Council of Anderlues, Hainaut Province], France

5.3

SEMINAR OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Brussels 28 September - 1 October 2006

* SUMMARY REPORT *

This summary is not meant to be a list of the opinions expressed nor a benchmark draft text. We have simply tried to give some order to the ideas put forward in order to facilitate a debate at this stage in our work, based on what has already been said.

A full list of participants is at the end of the report.

Copied off posting 17-Oct-06, at 6:38 AM, by n.bullard@focusweb.org on Social-forums listserve, 'Report of social movements seminar, 28/9 - 1/10, Brussels'

Today social movements are confronted by a new phase in the capitalist neoliberal system's offensive. This period is characterised above all by a state of permanent global war. For most of the human race this war means recolonisation. Using the 'war on terror' as a cover, this war aims at controlling natural resources by pillaging peoples the world over. American projects in the 'Greater Middle East' and South America are the most visible signs of this. Nevertheless, they cannot cover up the 'forgotten wars' in Africa and Asia. Zionist expansion is also part of this desire to subjugate the whole planet.

Mobilising social movements against this state of permanent war means defining new cross-border ways of ensuring solidarity with those peoples that are mounting resistance. The nature of some of these movements poses questions, especially with regard to the values that we share. We should embrace such a debate.

However, the violence the system uses does not just manifest itself in open warfare against 'peoples who resist neoliberal thinking'. Other weapons used to break down resistance are the repression of social movements and the restriction of basic rights. Military occupation and the establishment of foreign bases are an open attack on peoples' sovereignty and their desire to cast off the shackles of imperial domination.

Other forms of violence, such as the forced displacement of people and expropriation of land, are the result of a desire to commodify land, water and other natural resources. This state of war affects society as a whole and violence becomes the natural means of oppression. Women are amongst the first victims.

The planet itself is suffering the consequences of the system's headlong rush. The concept of maximum profit at maximum speed leads to climate change and pollution and endangers the natural equilibrium.

Such violence affects all aspects of social life. People who reject the privatisation of natural resources, which only benefits multinationals, are likened to terrorists. By questioning the sovereignty of the people, the use and division of their natural resources and products, the very foundations of democracy are being undermined. Dictatorships and corruption thrive in this environment. Basic rights are denied to the victims, the producing classes, small holders, etc. The poorest people are in an even more precarious position both in the global North and the global South. Billions of people are deprived of basic public

goods such as education, health and the right to housing. Farmer and fishermen organisations, as well as the population as a whole, demand food sovereignty in order to satisfy their needs independently of the world market.

People who fall victim to these policies and the conflicts linked to them are often forced to flee their country. In the era of free movement of capital a fundamental task of the social movements we belong to is defending migrants' rights, the rights of those fleeing neoliberalism and oppression, and the rights of women fleeing from forced marriages or sexual mutilation.

The patriarchal system is reinforced by the dominant economic set-up. Trafficking minors and prostitution are further proof of the commodification of all aspects of life. The situation of women at work is exacerbated further, especially in free trade areas where they account for a large part of the labour force and enjoy few rights.

Our direct enemies are clearly identified. First of all the G8, but also the World Bank and the IMF, who impose their policies and are the motors behind this recolonisation. The debt imposed by these institutions not only allows the privatisation of the world's wealth but also the transfer of wealth produced in the South to the dominant classes, based for the most part in the North.

The WTO and bilateral agreements further aggravate the situation through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA). In areas such as agriculture, labour, environment, intellectual property, migration or the liberalisation of services, restrictions are imposed on people throughout the world. States themselves encourage these policies or even apply them.

The challenge for social movements is to ensure joint global mobilisation against these enemies both in developing countries and in developed countries, where people also suffer the effects of these policies. Producers in both the formal and informal economies have their rights restricted in the name of competitiveness and competition. One of financial capitalism's main aims is reducing labour costs. Workers themselves are submitted to competition through reforms to social policies, the expansion of free trade areas and relocation.

We should also note the difficulties the system faces in its attempts to reach its objectives. It has faced significant setbacks at the hands of popular resistance. The war in the Lebanon, the impasse in WTO negotiations and the resistance shown by young French workers in the face of job insecurity all show that it is possible to counterattack,

Our greatest victory, however, is burying the false idea that there is no possible alternative. The idea that there is only one train of thought has been called into question and the legitimacy of the dominant system is being challenged on a massive scale.

The Assembly of Social Movements and its objectives:

1. The Assembly has developed in step with the World Social Forum but has shown it is different by the fact that it is an open space for building joint agendas. It is a group of diverse movements with specific regional and national aims, but who together want to fight on a global scale against neoliberal, imperialist and military capitalism (permanent global war), against racism and against the patriarchal system. It aims at being a space open to all who want to fight, in all their different guises.

2. At the same time it wants to put forward concrete proposals for the idea 'A different world is possible' by proposing alternatives that reflect development and living models that are different and based on the needs and aspirations of the people and on the respect for natural resources. What sort of trade do we

want? What sort of individual and collective relationship between men and women do we want? Between peoples even? We have to develop concrete ideas to answer these questions starting from the primacy of rights for all, public goods for all and the experience gained from the social struggles themselves... The Assembly is not the only initiative and the movements concerned do not represent the entirety of their geographic regions nor all areas of struggle, not even all of the interested parties, but the fact that it exists is an achievement in our desire to rally people and expand.

3. Bringing together actors is a process designed to end the isolation many struggles face, to build forces and to better coordinate. This allows us to identify a common enemy and enumerate the different mechanisms it uses to exploit and subject. In real terms the Assembly is also a space for debate and exchanging views on the international situation, on relations with political parties and left-wing governments, on the nature of and dialogue with the various resistance movements. By doing so we can define joint working approaches, agreements, agendas, calendars and joint campaigns, while at the same time respecting movements' independence. This type of process has to respect the rhythm of the various collective actors, for fear of paralysis and the alienation of grassroots militants. It is also necessary to draw up our own agenda separate from the agenda of capitalist institutions.

4. The working method must therefore be in keeping with these trends, i.e., with clear objectives in mind and it must be democratic. It must aim at creating the Assembly's public space. With this in mind the following proposals have been put forward, without wanting to stifle the process:

- The setting-up a follow-up and facilitating group, composed of the networks and organisations that initiated this seminar, without delay, according to the working speed of the different regions or continents.

The group's mandate would be:

- to ensure the report on this meeting is disseminated in various languages
- to prepare the WSF in Nairobi. In particular with regard to the agenda for the fourth day dedicated to campaigns. The assembly of social movements should allow the consolidation of the campaigns and movements and should plan the fundamental political points to be debated.
- to send out the actions calendar
- to create tools for better communication (website)

Other proposals have been made and they are still to be looked at in greater depth. These are:

- a. A world day of action to give our joint project greater visibility.
- b. Eventually considering a reference document based on progress as a whole.

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