

# World Social Assembly of struggles and resistance



## WORLD SOCIAL ASSEMBLY NEWS SPRING 2026

Thème: FSM et convergence avance -  
 Theme: WSF and convergence is moving ahead -  
 Tema: Adelante convergencia y FSM -  
 Tema: FSM e convergência estão avançando



**World Social Assembly in solidarity with Palestine**

- Friends of the Hague group
- Global Solidarity for Peace in Palestine.



**World Social Assembly supports Helsinki+50**  
 Going to OSCE promoting Common security, Economic and Environmental Co-operation and human rights without double standards.

**World Social Forum 2026: Register Now!**  
 All you need to know is here: <https://fsm2026benin.org>



**Stop NATO - Welfare not Warfare**

Online gathering with many young vice from all continents.



**Climate Justice from Belem and Santa Marta to WSF**

WSF hosts visited Climate Summits in Latin America



**Global meeting against fascism**

Meeting in Porto Alegre against the rise of global fascism. Report by CADTM

**Release political prisoners everywhere**

Read and take action



# WORLD SOCIAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

## Spring 2026

### WSF and convergence is moving ahead

World Social Assembly of Struggles and Resistances of WSF  
- a permanent movement cooperation in the global WSF family

World Social Forum (WSF) started in Porto Alegre in Brazil in 2001. It has since then been placed in many different places, the last time Februari 2024 in Kathmandu in Nepal. Next time it will be held in Benin in Western Africa in 2026.

World Assembly of Struggles and Resistances is a result of a decision of the WSF international council meeting in Tunis in December 2022. The decision allowed for a permanent world assembly to be established as an independent body in the global WSF family. It formed its statutes in 2023 while also arranging a global webinar on current affairs with intellectuals from Asia, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. It held its first meeting during WSF in Kathmandu.

WSASR is a multiissue movement network to to organize resistance, search for constructive solutions and celebrate our togetherness. It has since 2024 four main issues:

Palestine solidarity, Peace and Climate Justice, Economic Justice, and Radical Democracy. To this has been added migration and human rights.

The working language of WASR is English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Meetings are held regularly via Zoom.

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World Social Assembly of Struggles and Resistances:  
**website: <https://worldsocialassembly.org/>**



This newsletter is edited by Tord Björk on behalf of the World Social Assembly. The content may or may not reflect the opinion of the Assembly. Most texts are from organizations if it is not underigned by a person. Editorial text presenting the initiatives are made by the editor, contact: [tord.bjork@gmail.com](mailto:tord.bjork@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/WSAofStrugglesandResistanceWSF>

# ”Le Grand Debat”

There is a growing concern for facilitating political convergence between movements across issues. The organizers has proposed four “Major Debates” on Global Issues at the 2026 World Social Forum:

1. Decolonization and Sovereignty • Geopolitics: What Impact on Global Stability?
2. Peace, Disarmament, and Self-Determination of Peoples • From Local Violence to Global Challenges: When Conflicts and Terrorism in the Sahel Destabilize the World.
3. Governance of natural resources, an instrument of recolonization: what alternatives exist for inclusive and sustainable development for impoverished countries, particularly those in the Global South?
4. The Future of the World Social Forum • WSF: Perspectives and Strategy

These issues and methodology will be discussed with the WSF International Committee in June.



## Dress code for WSF 2026:

If you cannot find it at home you better buy what you need in Cotonou to blend in!



# World Social Forum 2026 - mobilization gaining momentum

The first of 14 principles in the WSF charter

The World Social Forum is an open meeting space for deepening reflection, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences, and interlinking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neoliberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationships among Humankind and between it and the Earth.

<https://fsm2026benin.org/charte-principes/>

Website with all you need! <https://fsm2026benin.org>

How to participate:



## Steps to participate



## Who can participate?



Time to register for participation! <https://fsm2026benin.org/inscription/>

*To the right:  
Participants  
at the WSF  
in Nepal  
2024*



# What is WSF?

This is how the website present the WSF:

The World Social Forum (WSF) was born in January 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, amid growing challenges to neoliberal globalization. It was conceived from the outset as a counter-space to the policies of the World Economic Forum in Davos. The WSF is a global platform for citizen engagement, critical reflection and collective proposals specific to social movements and CSOs of the world.

In contrast to the logic of elitism, competition and commodification, the WSF proposes a horizontal, self-managed, open and inclusive process, based on the voluntary participation of individuals and organizations committed to a more just world. It is not a decision-making summit, but a space for convergence, debate, formulation of proposals, sharing of experiences and networking of initiatives that oppose the dominant forms of exploitation, exclusion and supremacy.

After more than a decade, Africa is very happy about the great return of the World Social Forum to Benin. This 17th edition of the WSF on the continent is neither a coincidence, nor a simple geographical rotation. It reflects a strategic reading of the dynamics of struggles, resistances and alternative proposals carried by West African communities. It is a region where populations, often confronted with structural challenges such as land grabbing, the effects of climate change, extractivism, armed and non-armed conflicts, imposed reforms, have found answers rooted in endogenous knowledge, community solidarity, and the defense of collective rights over natural resources.

Benin was chosen to host the WSF 2026 on behalf of all Africa. This country stands out for its glorious history as the territory of the former Kingdom of Dahomey, birthplace of the Amazons and a place of painful memory linked to the slave trade, as well as its contemporary vitality. It is also at the crossroads of vodou spirituality and Pan-African culture, and is today a place of return and

reconnection for Afro-descendants seeking historical justice and identity reclamation.

This choice was made possible thanks to the Global Convergence of Struggles for Land and Water – West Africa (CGLTE-OA), which played a catalyst role in this process by presenting the continent's candidacy to the FSM International Council. Added to this is the strong mobilization of Beninese civil society in close connection with African platforms, international networks and social movements from the five continents. This was also welcomed by the commitment of the Beninese government, which expressed its willingness to support the organization of this event of planetary scale.

## WSF 2001 - 2026

A German website informs about all the previous world social forums with some links still working:

- 2026: Cotonou
- 2024: Kathmandu
- 2022: Mexiko City
- 2021: Global - (Online due to Covid)
- 2018: Salvador
- 2016: Montreal
- 2015: Tunis
- 2013: Tunis
- 2011: Dakar
- 2009: Belém
- 2008: Global - (Action Day world wide)
- 2007: Nairobi
- 2006: Bamako + Caracas + Karachi
- 2005: Porto Alegre
- 2004: Mumbai
- 2003: Porto Alegre
- 2002: Porto Alegre
- 2001: Porto Alegre

<https://weltsozialforum.org/wsf/index.html>



*To the left:  
Front banners in the  
inuagural  
march at  
the WSF in  
Nepal 2024*

## Objectives and themes

From August 4 to 8, 2026, Cotonou will become the global hub for alternatives. All activities, debates, and collaborations will revolve around 15 major thematic areas.

Climate justice, human rights, the solidarity economy, gender... your struggles have a place here!



The organizers write about objectives in a document - "The conceptual note presents the vision, objectives and organizational framework of the World Social Forum 2026 in Cotonou, Benin.

<https://fsm2026benin.org/note-conceptuelle>

### II. Objectives for participation in the 2026 WSF

The overall objective is to strengthen and consolidate the struggles against neoliberal, imperialist, and patriarchal capitalism by reclaiming equitable and supportive local governance in the interests of social cohesion and peace.

The specific objectives can be grouped into five main themes:

#### 1. Understanding the current crises and their origins:

– Analyzing the various multifaceted and interconnected crises, including the governance of natural resources that have dominated the planet for centuries, but also assessing their impacts from the perspective of our sociocultural values;

– Decipher political changes in countries that have experienced revolutions and democratic movements, examining the strategies of the actors involved and the innovative solutions implemented by the populations.

– Understand the geopolitical issues, roles, and strategies of regional and international actors in order to better understand the new global balances and the evolution of conflicts in order to establish social cohesion and lasting peace.

#### 2. Highlight and support the struggles of crisis victims:

– Highlight the struggles of those most affected (women, young people, migrants, farmers, workers, the unemployed, the landless, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups) by the consequences of current conflicts and various multifaceted and interconnected crises.

– Provide a space for dialogue and solidarity between traditional social movements and new social movements emerging in response to austerity policies.

#### 3. Promote social and environmental justice, solidarity, and cooperation:

– Reconcile relations between human beings and nature on the basis of justice, solidarity, and diversity in peace and social cohesion;

– Revisit our food systems to achieve sovereignty based on the development of local areas through small-scale agroecology;

– Enable the expression and promotion of alternatives proposed by those fighting for their economic and socio-cultural rights and gender equality;

– Strengthen relations with governments and institutions in defining public policies for good living together and the stability of nations.

#### 4. Resist increasing digitization and its implications:

– Examine the consequences and resistance to an increasingly technological and digitized society, which leads to mass surveillance, restrictions on freedoms, the patenting of life forms, and a fascist, police-state world order.

– Analyze the positive/negative impact and

power of the media and social networks, which influence our daily lives, our struggles, and our socio-cultural values.

5. Strengthen collective action and intelligence, including the future of the WSF

– Facilitate exchanges between organizations and social movements to share experiences, improve organizational methods, and support collective action;

– Harmonize decision-making and joint actions between participating organizations;

– Reflect on the future of the WSF as a global democratic space that integrates the struggles of social movements and identify new convergences and forms of mobilization.

Explore the themes and prepare your activity proposals: <https://fsm2026benin.org/thematiques/>

### **1. Decolonization and sovereignty**

Rethinking postcolonial and neocolonial political models, fighting against illegitimate debt, denouncing unjust free trade agreements and structural adjustment policies. Supporting citizen movements and struggles for the sovereignty of peoples.

### **2. Social Justice, Human Rights & Gender equality**

Human Rights, Gender equality, fight against discrimination and women empowerment.

### **3. Ecological crises, climate justice and just transition**

Defending the commons (land, water, forests, biodiversity), fighting land grabbing and extractivism, climate justice, peasant alternatives, peasant agroecology and food sovereignty.

### **4. Solidarity Economy & Economic Alternatives**

Alternative economic models, fair trade, tax havens and fair taxation.

### **5 Education and access to knowledge and knowledge**

The importance of education for all, access to information and technology, as well as the

promotion of quality inclusive education that meets real needs.

### **6. Health, Well-being and Social Protection**

Public health issues, equitable access to quality health care, the fight against pandemics and endemic diseases, as well as mental health and the promotion of pharmacopoeia.

### **7. Peace, disarmament and self-determination of peoples**

The promotion of peace, the prevention and resolution of conflicts, the fight against violence and terrorism, the promotion of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, an alternative to militarism, human security, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue.

### **8. Democracy and Governance**

The promotion of participatory democracy based on ancestral values, transparency, the fight against corruption and the strengthening of democratic institutions, decentralization, territorial justice, reappropriation of public policies.

### **9. Culture, spirituality and diversity**

The enhancement of cultures, the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural diversity as a wealth. Dialogue between African traditions, endogenous philosophies and social movements, cultural counter-hegemony and decolonized narratives.

### **10. Technology, Innovation and Communication**

The impact of new technologies on development, access to the internet and information technologies, ethical issues related to innovation, artificial intelligence, free media, cyber security, digital sovereignty.

### **11. Citizen mobilization and social movements**

Support for social movements, solidarity between struggles, promotion of civic engagement and pan-Africanism. Strengthening the visibility of citizen actions, contributing to the mobilization of financial resources.

## 12. Migration, Cross-Border Governance and Universal Citizenship

Freedom of establishment, climate, war and conflict refugees, expulsion, border violence, defending the rights of African diasporas, freedom of movement of people and goods.

## 13. Workers & Citizens vs capitalist globalisation

Union struggles, decent work, fighting transnational corporations and tax havens.

## 14. Future of the Forum

Engage in collective reflection on social movements, the meaning of new struggles, as well as the process of the World Social Forum itself. Explore future perspectives and strategies for an alternative, just and urgent world.

## 15. Cross axes

Young people and future generations in all areas. Gender and intersectionality: cross-analysis in each axis. Diasporas. Rural and indigenous territories: recognition of their centrality.

## Mobilization material

There are a lot of useful mobilization material in the WSF Facebook page FSM2025 Cotonou, Bénin: <https://www.facebook.com/fsm2026cotonou>. Scroll backwards and you find a lot of useful material for different groups including videos and social media banners.

## Whatsapp

Much of the preparation use Whatsapp



Message 3:

WSF Cotonou 2026 : Convergence of struggle against neoliberal, imperial, and patriarchal capitalism, in favor of equitable gover-



*Young and confident Africa welcomes the rest of the world back from where we came!*



*Solidarity is a key word in the mobilization.*

*Below: The organizers*





*Youth forum organizers  
Here the dress code is more varied while everyone is focused on the task*



*Be prepared for a meeting with the future surrounded by many young Africans*

*Below:  
The communication team*



**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND ACADEMICS FROM ALL**





*A photo recap of the intense mobilization in Santa Marta, Colombia from April 24 to 29 2026. Delegates from African and European civil society issued a passionate call for support for the Cotonou WSF.*



# WSF Mobilization activities:

## Americas

### Belem

From the report in French at the FSMCotonou Facebookpage translated with the help of Google:

The organizers of WSF 2026 went to the Peoples's summit in Belem during COP30. Here they began by visiting the booths and spaces at COP30 before meeting with GTA, a Brazilian organization working for environmental justice. This meeting provided an opportunity to present the Convergence and discuss future collaborations.

A highlight in the visit to Belem was the March for Climate Justice and Human Rights



The march was organized by the People's Embassy, an initiative committed to defending the rights of Indigenous peoples and preserving the Amazon. This powerful awareness-raising event highlighted the environmental and cultural challenges facing the region, while reaffirming the importance of protecting this invaluable natural heritage, vital for the future of humanity.

The boat trip was a symbolic and inspiring step. This activity provided another opportunity to amplify the Convergence's message, raise awareness among participants, mobilize support for the causes being championed, and enhance the visibility of the 2026 World

Social Forum through the distribution of promotional materials (leaflets and flyers).



The WSF delegation also participated in the second Latin American and Caribbean ecosocialist meeting at the University of the Amazon, where spokesperson Massa Koné called for mobilization for the 2026 World Social Forum in Cotonou, inviting participants to continue the discussions from COP30 in Cotonou.



Strategic meetings were also held with Attac France and other stakeholders at the Federal University of Pará to strengthen cooperation and promote mobilization around the Forum.



### Santa Marta

We won't give up from Santa Marta to Cotonou....

From the summit podium to the streets of Colombia, the voice of civil society rang out, calling for global solidarity.



Our thanks to all the activists, especially our comrades Hilda Nakabuye from Stop EA-COP, Daouda Gueye from Water Keepers of Senegal, and Guillaume Durin from Break-Free Switzerland.



And you, what are you doing for the 2026 Cotonou WSF in your area?

### Nazaré

Launch March 16 of the Baia committee on the road to WSF in Benin 2026.



### Canada

The OFQJ Quebec and France are launching a call for applications to participate in the 2026 World Social Forum in Cotonou:

<https://alter.quebec/lofqj-du-quebec-et-de-france-lancent-un-appel-a-candidatures-pour-participer-au-fsm-2026-a-cotonou>



### Global



Workers are the driving force behind this alternative

On this May 1st, we celebrate the strength and dignity of all workers around the world. Beyond the celebration, we invite you to reflect: How can we transform our working conditions in the face of global crises?

From August 4 to 8, 2026, Cotonou will be the global hub for proposing alternatives for decent, fair, and sustainable work. Join us! Registration is open: <https://fsm2026benin.org/inscription/> Another world is possible.

# Asia Pacific



*Above: From a APSF meeting in Bangkok*

Preparations in Asia started already in 2024 during the Asia-Pacific Social Forum:

<https://hic-net.org/reflections-from-the-asia-pacific-social-forum-apsf-meeting/>



The Asia Pacific Social Forum (APSF 2025) began on November 1, 2025, at Thammasat University in Bangkok in an atmosphere of commitment and unity. Hundreds of activists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America converged on the historic Thammasat University campus to reflect together on the future of a world in flux.



During the opening plenary session, dedicated to “Global Geopolitical Change and the Challenge to Our Common Future,” Africa’s voice was powerfully expressed through Ardo Sow, representative of the Global Convergence of Struggles for Land and Water – West Africa (CGLTE-AO) and member of

the Secretariat of the World Social Forum 2026 (Cotonou, Benin).

In a powerful speech, he denounced the “financial colonization” that keeps the Global South under its control through debt, austerity policies, and the dominance of rating agencies. “No nation has ever been liberated by a credit rating,” he asserted, calling for economic sovereignty and human dignity to be placed at the heart of priorities.

He also welcomed the resurgence of movements in the Global South, led by young people, women, farmers, and Indigenous peoples, and emphasized the symbolic role of the 2026 World Social Forum in Cotonou: “not as an event, but as a global process of renewal and convergence.”

“Africa is no longer the periphery of the world; it is its moral and ecological heart,” he declared to applause.

In the afternoon, the “People Speak Out Loud” plenary session gave a voice to grassroots movements from Southeast Asia, while the day concluded with a Peace March to the Democracy Monument, a symbol of struggle and collective memory in Bangkok. A powerful image: banners from Asia and Africa side by side, carrying the message of a world free from war, racism, and inequality.



The second day of the Asia-Pacific Social Forum unfolded in an atmosphere of intense reflection and activist solidarity. Thammasat University, a landmark of Thai democratic history, hosted fruitful discussions on the major challenges of economic justice, human rights, and South-South cooperation. The

spirit of convergence among the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America was evident throughout the day, blending intellectual rigor, civic engagement, and perspectives for global transformation.

Invited by Oxfam International and its partners, Ardo Sow, representative of the CGLTE-AO and the WSF2026, participated in the session dedicated to taxation, trade, and inequality in the Asia-Pacific region. Following presentations from Malaysia, the Philippines, Nepal, and India on the pressures faced by communities due to taxes and other levies, he highlighted, in his address, the close links between global taxation, debt (citing the example of Senegal, which is currently experiencing a debt exceeding 132%), and the structural dependence of developing countries. He also denounced the persistent influence of the Bretton Woods institutions, including the IMF and the World Bank, whose standards exacerbate inequalities and limit economic sovereignty. He noted that economic indicators such as GDP, credit ratings, and "good governance" frameworks often serve as mechanisms for geoeconomic

control rather than genuine tools for development.

He advocated for a thorough overhaul of taxation mechanisms to restore equity between capital and labor, proposing that the 2026 World Social Forum in Cotonou serve as a springboard for the development of a "South-South Fiscal Compact." This pact, he emphasized, could unite citizen movements, unions, and progressive governments around a sovereign and redistributive tax system.

At the end of the day, the International Land Coalition (ILC-Asia) held a session on the role of technology in defending land and environmental rights. Ardo Sow shared the West African experience of the CGLTE AO's alert system, a mechanism that could allow communities to document cases of dispossession and forced displacement, coordinate responses at the regional level, and mobilize international solidarity through secure digital platforms should land rights defenders be arrested, etc. The recognition of customary land rights and digitalization are another way to secure land using technology.



This approach, praised by participants, was presented as a model of digital resilience and shared governance in the face of the increasing criminalization of land and environmental defenders, as well as for securing land tenure. The day concluded with a series of strategic meetings dedicated to the diplomacy of social movements:

A meeting with Ekta Parishad, in the presence of members of La Via Campesina, laid the groundwork for a future event on peace and non-violence at the Cotonou Forum.

In-depth discussions with Oxfam International confirmed the commitment to strengthening the alliance around the themes of economic justice, debt, and global inequality. Furthermore, an informal working meeting with the organizers of the Asia-Pacific Social Forum (APSF) paved the way for mobilizing this part of the world for the 2026 World Social Forum, with enhanced communication through youth participation and thematic coordination.

Finally, this second day illustrated the vitality of intercontinental dialogue and the relevance of the African message delivered in Bangkok. She highlighted the need to rethink South-South cooperation by freeing it from the logic of dependency and placing it in a framework based on justice, sharing and popular sovereignty.



The major panel entitled “Revisiting Bandung and South-South Cooperation Among Peoples,” held on November 2, 2025, in the main auditorium of Thammasat University, was one of the Forum’s highlights. This plenary session brought together intellectuals, activists, and representatives of social movements from Asia, Africa, and Latin America to revisit the legacy of the Bandung Conference and reflect on a new dynamic of solidarity among the peoples of the Global South. Ardo Sow, representative of the CGLTE AO

and the World Social Forum 2026 Cotonou, Benin, delivered a speech praised for its clarity and political depth. He recalled that the 1955 Bandung Conference was much more than a simple diplomatic summit: a moral and civilizational act that laid the foundations for a new world order based on justice, sovereignty, and solidarity among peoples. Underlining that the majority of African countries were not yet independent at that time, Ardo Sow lamented their absence or weak representation at this historic meeting. This reality, he added, gave Bandung an even more visionary significance, since the leaders present had the courage to affirm—even before African independence—that peace cannot exist without justice, sovereignty without equality, or freedom without solidarity.

Seventy years later, he observed, this spirit of Bandung has been betrayed by neoliberal globalization and the new forms of economic dependence imposed on countries of the Global South. “The Global South is being colonized again—no longer by armies, but by contracts,” he declared, denouncing the subtle domination exerted by markets, debt, and international financial institutions.

Faced with this situation, Ardo Sow called for a “new Bandung from the ground up,” driven by social movements, women, youth, farmers, and Indigenous peoples, capable of building concrete solidarities based on dignity and cooperation. He described this approach as a “diplomacy of dignity,” grounded in human connections and social justice rather than the logic of profit and power.

In conclusion, the 2026 World Social Forum in Cotonou was presented as the next major gathering of the Global South, a space for reinventing the spirit of Bandung for the 21st century. “If Bandung 1955 was the voice of nations, then Cotonou 2026 will be the voice of peoples,” he declared, to the applause of the audience. From this dialogue between continents, the centrality of the African message delivered in Bangkok was noted: that of a Global South reinventing itself, resisting domination, and building, step by step, cooperation based on justice, solidarity, and popular sovereignty.



## Soildarité des mouvements anti-forum économique de Davos avec le forum social mondial à Cotonou 2026

### Europe

#### Davos

On Sunday, January 18, 2026, in Davos Laret, protesters show their solidarity with

the World Social Forum (WSF) ahead of the World Economic Forum during a hike to Davos.

As a sign of solidarity, protesters from the Swiss alliance StrikeWEF gathered and



chanted for a solidarity photo in Klosters, on the way to Davos, with Massa Koné, spokesperson for the CGLTE OA, one of the main organizers of the WSF who came from Mali to participate and show solidarity with the protests against the World Economic Forum during the hike organized by StrikeWEF from January 17 to 18, 2026.

According to Massa Koné, the spokesperson for CGLTE OA states: "The World Economic Forum only serves a few rich entrepreneurs, not the majority of humanity or our planet. We need fair spaces for exchange where those who do most of the work in the global economy and are affected by displacement and exploitation can organize and forge international solidarity."

Leonie Broecheler, activist and member of the German human rights organization World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED), emphasizes: "The exclusivity and top-down approach of the global economy underscore the need for open and fundamentally democratic global institutions such as the WSF"

Finally, the protesters are calling for a massive mobilization for the 2026 World Social Forum, to be held August 4-8 in Cotonou, Benin.

### **The WSF organizing committee mobilizing at a European meeting of movements in Paris**



From March 5 to 6, 2026, the European meeting of movements, collectives, and networks fighting for social and ecological change was held at the International Center for Popular Culture (CICP) in Paris.

This meeting, organized by Attac France and CRID, brought together activists from 73 organizations from some 15 countries (France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, Uganda, etc.).



This initiative was born out of the organizations' desire to work together to build democratic and solidarity-based alternatives, and to organize themselves to strengthen their ties and prepare for the major international meetings of the year, including the World Social Forum in Cotonou (August 2026).

A delegation from the organizing committee of the WSF Cotonou 2026 was present at this meeting to help plan collective participation in this major event.



### **Synergy of actions takes place for the WSF Cotonou 2026**

During the international meeting organized in Paris by CRID and Attac France, the process leading up to the 2026 Cotonou WSF captured the attention of many committed activists.



Following the panel discussion on the state of progress of the organization, a strategic workshop laid the groundwork for self-managed activities. It was a pivotal moment of convergence where organizations:

- Shared their priority themes;
- Began discussions on key actions for the forum;
- Identified areas for transcontinental collaboration.

To ensure effective participation in the 2026 Cotonou WSF, the organizations placed particular emphasis on communication and mobilization for Cotonou.

Europe and the entire world are mobilizing. Don't stay on the sidelines of this event. Another world is possible.

### Diaspora in Brussels



WSF Cotonou 2026: Focusing on mobilizing the diaspora

On the sidelines of the European meeting of #CRID and #Attac France, a delegation from WSF Cotonou 2026 met with the President of the High Council of Beninese Abroad.

On the agenda for this strategic meeting:

- a presentation of the World Social Forum and its organizational process in Benin,
- the role of the diaspora in the Forum's success,
- synergies to make #Cotonou the global capital of the anti-globalization movement. Another world is possible, and everyone's energy and expertise is needed.

### Caravan mobilize for WSF in Berlin

CGLTE-OA is mobilizing in Berlin for WSF

To ensure a strong and united presence at the World Social Forum in Cotonou, Benin, from August 4 to 8, 2026, a representative of the West African Global Convergence of Struggles for Land and Water (CGLTE-OA), Burry Tunkara is in Berlin to meet with social movements, activists, trade unionists, civil society organizations, and partners.



On April 21, 2026, alongside an incredible team from WEED (Economy, Ecology, and Global Development), she spent an intense day of strategic discussions and story-sharing in Germany. They explored in depth how to align efforts to address global environmental and economic crises. Several meetings are being organized by WEED, including interviews with an Afro magazine to give greater visibility to African stories.

Call to all change-makers in Berlin: let's unite efforts between Europe and Africa. Another world is possible, and it all starts with the movements we build

## Call from Climaximo in Portugal

Climate challenges that affect us all, we firmly believe in the power of connection and solidarity.

The World Social Forum is a wonderful opportunity to come together, exchange perspectives, and collectively develop compassionate solutions for our shared future. Every voice counts; every experience enriches the discussion.

Come exchange ideas, share your thoughts, and contribute to the thematic sessions alongside us.

<https://www.climaximo.pt/>



## Prague Spring 2 CEE convergence towards WSF

Prague Spring 2 against right wing extremism and populism (PS2) is a social forum network with its roots in European Social Forums. It was established in 2010 and has since then been working with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe, a region often less represented in global meetings than most other regions.

In close cooperation with WSASR has this network especially focus on convergence between movements both in CEE countries and with the rest of the world.

In 2015 this was achieved through strong support of CEE movements in the Helsinki+50 anniversary People's Initiative process. This with the aim of celebrating the need for both common security, economic and en-

vironmental cooperation and human rights as stated in the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 by countries from Alaska to Vladivostok. More about this can be found on [helinkiplus50.org](http://helinkiplus50.org).

On the 25 November 2025 a follow up webinar was organized with focus on CEE and OSCE Eurasian region. Among the speakers were Hans Hedrich, World Beyond War – Romania, Vera Zalka, Prague Spring 2 network against right wing extremism and populism and Global Women United Against NATO, Attac - Hungary, Gulnara Shahinian, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and founder of Democracy Today - Armenia, Natalia Zviaguina, Amnesty International – Russia, Ihor Romanchuk, Post Soviet Left, - Ukraine and Olga Karach, Our House – Belarus.



*Above Ihor Romanchuk and Hans Herich to the left and Vera Zalka to the right planning the webinar in a Whine Gasthaus in Vienna.*

This was followed by an Online gathering May 21 during the NATO foreign ministerial summit in Helsingborg with participants from all continents (except Pacific for time zone reasons) Speakers who mostly were young came from a wide range of movements, small farmers, trade unions, migrant, climate justice, peace, and networks bring environmental, welfare and peace issues together.

PS2 now aim at building on these contacts and organize a CEE webinar on June 26 towards WSF.

# Africa

## Benin

WSF Cotonou:

All eyes on the opening march



Preparations are picking up speed on the ground. On Tuesday, May 26, 2026, a delegation comprising the Technical Organizing Secretariat and several working committees mobilized to inspect and map out, step by step, the route of the inaugural march.

This technical field trip allowed us to validate a secure route befitting this global event. We extend our sincere thanks to all those dedicated individuals working behind the scenes to ensure the forum's success. Together, we will see this through to the end!

### Trade unions mobilize for WSF



On Monday, May 25, 2026, at the initiative of CSA-Benin, a member of the National Organizing Committee (CNO) for the 2026 Cotonou WSF, the Technical Organizing Secretariat (STO) hosted at its offices, alongside Her Majesty Dada ZEHE (Spokesperson for the CNO), the General Secretaries of Benin's trade union federations.

The main objective of this meeting was to further inform the unions about the stakes of this global event and to define synergies for action to boost the ongoing process. The discussions were rich in proposals and resulted in concrete recommendations that will significantly contribute to the success of the organization. The momentum is building!

Join us and do your part, too.  
Another world is possible.

### Farmers mobilize for WSF



Coming from several regions in Benin, they gathered on Monday at the headquarters of the Technical Secretariat of the World\_Social\_Forum Cotonou\_2026 to define their strategy for mobilization and participation in the event.

Alongside the social mobilization commission, they are committed to ensuring the effective and active participation of farmers.

Whether you are a traditional or modern farmer, you have a place at the WSF\_Cotonou\_2026. Join us!

Another world is possible.

## The Royal High Authority of Benin



The organization of the 2026 Cotonou WSF is a joint effort. The Royal High Authority of Benin (HARB), the main umbrella for Benin's traditional chiefdoms, has recognized this and decided to make an exemplary gesture, thereby paving the way for the mobilization of resources at the national level.

On Thursday, May 14, 2026, the High Royal Authority of Benin (HARB), represented by His Majesty Dada ZEHE, made a remarkable gesture by contributing 500,000 CFA francs toward the preparations for the 2026 Cotonou World Social Forum. This is proof that every sector of our society has a crucial role to play in the success of this event.

You too—businesses, social movements, civil society organizations, or engaged citizens—can do your part. Together, let's make the 2026 WSF in Benin a resounding success!

## Mobilizing at Voodoo festival



The organizers of WSF reach out to all of society, here at a Voodoo cultural festival Voodoo has its origins in Benin.

## Heads of diplomatic missions in Benin.

On Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the invitation of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Benin, the Technical Organizing Secretariat (STO) officially presented the Cotonou 2026 WSF to all heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Republic of Benin.

This presentation session, which took place at the headquarters of the African Development Bank (AfDB) office in Cotonou, generated strong support and keen interest from the diplomatic corps. The presentation served to strategically raise awareness among diplomatic partners regarding the major challenges and impacts of the Cotonou 2026 WSF. The shared vision and congratulations received attest to the strength of the process led by the STO.

Together, let's make the Cotonou 2026 WSF a hub for transformative alternatives for sustainable and inclusive development.

## Support from UN system in Benin



The organizing process for the 2026 World Social Forum has reached a decisive milestone. On April 3, 2026, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Benin held an important meeting with a joint delegation from the Technical Organizing Secretariat (STO) of the 2026 Cotonou World Social Forum and the Social Forum of Pride. Following this meeting, the Coordinator praised the momentum currently underway and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the process to make the 2026 World Social Forum in Cotonou a historic success for Africa and the world

## National Council of the Hotel Industry of Benin



On Monday, May 11, 2026, the Technical Organizing Secretariat and the Logistics Committee of the 2026 Cotonou World Forum of Sports (WFS) held a strategic working session with the National Council of the Hotel Industry of Benin (CONIHB). The purpose of this meeting was to define the logistical arrangements necessary to ensure that participants enjoy a smooth, well-organized, and safe stay.

Following the discussions, concrete strategies were approved to ensure the event's accessibility to all, while adhering to the most stringent health and safety standards.

### Nigeria

Nigeria stands proudly alongside the global community as we march toward the 17th World Social Forum in Cotonou, Benin. At a time when humanity faces deepening inequality, democratic erosion, climate emergencies, and rising social tensions, we declare loudly and clearly that another world is not only possible: it is urgently needed.

From Lagos to Kano, from Port Harcourt to Abuja, Nigerian civil society, youth movements, women's organizations, trade unions, community organizers, and social innovators are uniting around a shared vision: a world where justice triumphs over exploitation, where dignity replaces oppression, and where people—not profit—define our collective future.

As Africa once again welcomes the world, the Nigerian Platform is committed to:  
Amplifying grassroots struggles and ensuring

that the voices of women, youth, workers, displaced communities, and all marginalized groups are heard and respected.

Building bridges across borders to strengthen pan-African solidarity and global alliances for social, environmental, and economic justice.

Advocating for transformative solutions that challenge systems of domination and pave pathways to peace, equity, shared prosperity, and sustainable development.

Mobilizing tens of thousands of people across Nigeria to participate, engage, learn, unlearn, and co-create new possibilities in Cotonou.

Cotonou 2026 is more than a gathering; it is a call to courage, an invitation to unity, and a catalyst for change. Nigeria responds with conviction: we will be there, we will be heard, and we will help shape the future we deserve.

Together, we rise up. Together, we build. Together, we march towards Cotonou 2026 for a more just, free, and humane world.

The Nigerian Platform is mobilizing for the 2026 World Social Forum, from August 4 to 8, 2026.

### World Youth March (WYM)

On May 12, 2026, the Technical Organizing Secretariat of the WSF Cotonou 2026 welcomed a delegation from the World Youth March (WYM) movement from Togo to its offices.



The purpose of this meeting was to share the movement's vision, mission, and objectives with the STO and to explore opportunities for collaboration in terms of youth mobiliza-

tion.

It is worth noting that the discussions were very fruitful and allowed each party—particularly the WMY—to better understand the challenges of the WSF Cotonou 2026 and to redefine its perspectives.

The Technical Secretariat remains open to any constructive initiatives.

Join us!

## Togo



### Togolese CSOs Take Ownership of the World Social Forum Cotonou 2026!

Indeed, following the workshop for the adoption of the Charter of Traditional and Customary Leaders of Africa, the sub-regional coordination of the CGLTE OA held a strategic meeting bringing together the civil society organizations (CSOs) that are members of CGLTE Togo.

The main objective of this meeting was to inform stakeholders about the World Social Forum (WSF) Cotonou 2026, a major international event for which Togo is the second co-organizing country, alongside Benin and Nigeria. The discussions highlighted the importance of the role that Togolese CSOs must play in national mobilization to ensure strong and inclusive participation in this major gathering of social movements. Participants also discussed the organizational and coordination mechanisms needed to ensure effective dialogue and widespread dissemination of information to organizations, umbrella groups, and traditional and customary leaders, in order to foster collective ownership of the 2026 World Social Forum process.

In this context, the meeting led to the esta-

ishment of various working groups responsible for mobilization, communication, and participation, with the aim of guaranteeing Togo's significant and structured involvement in the World Social Forum.

Furthermore, the meeting provided a platform for women's groups in the informal sector, who presented their products, the result of hard work made possible by equipment provided by the CGLTE West Africa.

This initiative demonstrates once again the central role of women in the local economy and their essential contribution to the struggles for social, economic, and environmental justice.

## Mali



As part of the social mobilization for the 16th World Social Forum, scheduled for August 4-8, 2026, in Cotonou, Benin, the CGLTE OA Mali National Platform organized an information meeting on the WSF Cotonou 2026 process this Saturday, December 6, 2025. This meeting brought together nearly fifty representatives from organizations, social movements, the National Youth Council, the media, and local communicators at the headquarters of the National Civil Society Council.

Its aim was twofold: first, to inform social movements about the WSF 2026 organizational process, and second, to foster discussions on how to best organize Mali's participation in this important global event hosted by Africa in Benin.

The history of the World Social Forum (WSF), its charter of principles, the CGLTE OA's bid process leading up to the approval by the Forum's International Council in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 2024 for the event to

be held in Benin in 2026, and the organizational process for the Cotonou WSF were among the topics discussed.

Following intensive discussions, participants agreed to establish an organizing committee for Mali's participation in the WSF, comprising five (5) working subcommittees. Another meeting is planned to finalize the organizing committee. Together, let's work towards the Cotonou WSF 2026!

### WTO meeting in Yaoundé



Pan-African mobilization at the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé. The WSF Cotonou 2026 delegation was speaking out for social justice in the face of global trade challenges.



This strategic mission marks a historic turning point with the official launch of the CGLTE-Central Africa, strengthening the convergence of struggles across the continent.

### Mobilizing African movements at the CIRADR+20

On the occasion of the Second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural

Development (CIRADR+20) in Cartagena, Colombia, #CGLTE\_AO transformed this institutional space into a strategic platform to strengthen the mobilization of African social movements.



On the sidelines of the official proceedings, the organization initiated a decisive meeting with several peasant movements, civil society organizations, and actors involved in rural struggles on the continent.

The objective was clear: to make the next #World\_Social\_Forum a powerful moment of convergence, solidarity, and collective action.

In a context marked by land grabbing, growing pressure on natural resources, and the persistent marginalization of rural communities, the need for unified African mobilization is a political and social emergency. For the #CGLTE\_AO, it was not just a matter of participating in official debates, but of creating a parallel space for consultation between African actors sharing the same concerns: food sovereignty, land justice, community rights, and inclusive rural development.

The meeting was facilitated by #CGLTE\_AO spokesperson Massa KONE, whose ongoing commitment to land rights and rural communities is widely recognized. Under his leadership, discussions focused on the need to move from denunciation to coordinated action.

He reiterated that the #World\_Social\_Forum should not be merely a space for debate, but a springboard for strong, structured, and sustainable mobilization.



*Rural issues have played a central role for both African and Latin American movements, here a demonstration during COP30 against toxic pesticides. Photo CGLTE\_AO*

Building on the momentum of the #World\_Social\_Forum, the #CGLTE\_AO intends to contribute to a pan-African mobilization capable of influencing public policy and defending a human rights-centered model of development.

The World Social Forum thus reaffirms its role as a citizen watchdog for a more just future.



## West and Central African caravan on the way to WSF

### Global and regional context

Land, water, forests and peasant seeds are vital resources for humanity and a common heritage in Africa and beyond. Their preservation is essential not only for current

generations, but also for those to come, while playing a key role in climate stability. It is crucial to fight to ensure that these resources are free from commodification and political decisions that favour multinationals and private interests. Every community, including governments, has a responsibility to protect these resources to ensure the well-being of our societies, our environment, our economy and our food sovereignty, with a view to harmonious and sustainable development with a view to global balance.

In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 80% of the population relies on family farming, which includes smallholder farming, livestock, fisheries, forestry and other related activities. Access, control and securing rights to land, water and peasant seeds have always been the preserve of local communities. However, these rights, although recognized by national and international instruments such as the right to food and the Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Workers in Rural Areas, are increasingly under threat, hence the urgent need for their protection.

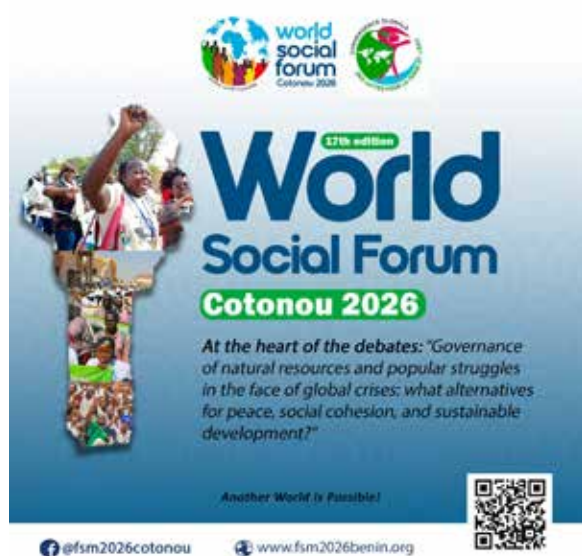
A fair and equitable distribution of these natural resources, as well as gender equality and climate stability, are sine qua non conditions for ensuring food sovereignty. This implies healthy consumption, based on peasant agroecology, local food systems, biodiversity and respect for water cycles. This common vision must integrate the interconnected relations between producers and consumers, based on the solidarity economy, mutual aid and cooperation.

In addition, we are facing an intensification of global crises: climate change, erosion of biodiversity, land grabbing, commodification of water, domination of industrial seeds and dismantling of peasant agricultural systems. These challenges are particularly acute in West Africa, where rural indigenous and peasant communities are subjected to extractivist policies, often imposed land reforms and an increasing marginalization of their traditional knowledge.

Thus, since 2016, the CGLTE OA has been organizing the West African caravan for the



Right to Land, Water and Peasant Seeds. This West African social mobilization asserts itself as a popular, mobile and transnational response to these injustices. It connects local struggles, amplifies rural voices, and forges regional solidarities around food sovereignty and the commons. In other words, it constitutes a lever for resistance, popular awareness and the co-construction of alternatives.



In the vein of the 17th edition of the World Social Forum Cotonou, the CGLTE OA initiates the 5th edition of the West African Caravan, "On the way to the WSF Cotonou 2026". It will be part of the social mobilization for the WSF planned in Africa in Benin

from August 04 to 08, 2026. This edition of the Caravan is taking shape in Africa, particularly West and Central Africa:

In West Africa, it will be done in two parallel routes and one Beninese route:

- Sahelian caravan which will bring together Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger;
- A Coastal Caravan, it will bring together Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte Ivoire, Ghana, Togo;
- A caravan of water peoples, it will bring together the communities of Ganvié in Benin around the issues of access, governance and sustainability of water resources. In addition, the PN of the CGLTE OA Benin will organize a national caravan on its way to the WSF 2026.

In Central Africa, the caravan will bring together participants from this area (Gabon, Central African Republic, DRC, Congo and Chad) and may involve some of Southern Africa. This caravan will pass through Nigeria to Benin, the host country of the WSF 2026.

The two routes of the West African Caravan will meet in Lomé before converging in Cotonou (Benin) for the World Social Forum (WSF 2026), thus offering a unique platform for citizen mobilization, political questioning and the convergence of struggles.

This 5th edition will also welcome delegations from North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, etc.), thus strengthening the pan-African anchoring of the initiative.

## II. Rationale

This edition, which coincides with the 10th anniversary of the West African caravan, has a double dynamic: anchoring local resistance in a continental process of transformation and amplifying its reach through an active presence at the World Social Forum Cotonou 2026 as the bearer of this edition of the Forum. It is justified in particular by:

- The persistence of violations of land,

# 5<sup>e</sup>

## West African Caravan for the Right to Land, Water and Peasant Seeds: A Common Struggle!

### On the way to the WSF Cotonou 2026!



From 19 July to 09 August 2026

- water and seed rights;
  - The need for strong community advocacy for the recognition of peasant agro-ecological practices and local knowledge;
  - The need for a collective response to systemic pressures on the commons;
  - Strengthening the capacity of communities to influence public policies;
  - The urgency of promoting innovative community initiatives;
  - The opportunity to influence international debates through bottom-up mobilization, rooted in lived realities;
  - The necessary strengthening of synergies between peasant, women's, youth and indigenous movements;
  - The need to structure a strategic participation in the WSF, with concrete proposals from the communities themselves;
  - The importance of linking local struggles to a pan-African and global dynamic of social transformation.
- Thus, this 5th edition of the West African journey intends to continue the strengthening of local struggles and citizen innovations in terms of alternatives against climate change by promoting the articulation between coastal, Sahelian, river and continental areas on the onehand; on the other hand, to strengthen the creation of bridges of dialogue between local authorities, communities, researchers and decision-makers in order to develop appropriate

# SOLIDARITY actions

## Palestine

We stand in support of the Global Sumud Flotilla.

While the United States and Iran fight over their rights to access the Strait of Hormuz, GAZA remains under siege. Palestinians are dying from lack of food, water and medicine. The contradictions are obvious. The fundamental freedom of navigation and uninterrupted flow of goods cannot be upheld for the Strait of Hormuz but denied for the Occupied Palestine Territory, including Gaza. Israel's siege is also illegal and immoral. Under international humanitarian law, civilians must have access to food, medicine, and essential aid, regardless of political or military disputes.

Yet on April 29, Israeli forces attacked 22 out of 55 Global Sumud Flotilla vessels in international waters—over 600 nautical miles from Gaza. Israeli commandos smashed and disabled boats (at least one has reportedly sunk), and abducted 175 civilians who were on board. While some detainees, a number of them bloodied and with broken bones, were left in Crete, two of the flotilla organizers—Saif Abu Kishek and Thiago Avila—remain in Israeli captivity. They are being arbitrarily detained, beaten, and subjected to baseless accusations of “terrorism”—the same smear used to criminalize Palestinian existence and global solidarity.

We strongly condemn these arrests, attacks and beatings of flotilla participants and demand release of all remaining detainees. Such actions against unarmed civilians engaged in humanitarian efforts constitute serious violations of international law and perpetrators must be held accountable.

We, the undersigned, express our full support for the Freedom Flotillas now heading toward Gaza with the aim of breaking the blockade and delivering urgently needed humanitarian assistance. These civilian-led missions represent a legitimate and nonviolent effort to uphold international humanitarian principles and respond to a catastrophic human crisis.

The continued obstruction of humanitarian assistance violates core principles enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and international human rights law.

We therefore call for:

- The immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza and the full restoration of humanitarian access by land, sea, and air.
- The safe and unhindered passage of all humanitarian flotillas and civilian aid missions.
- The immediate release of all flotilla participants who have been detained.
- An independent investigation into allegations of abuse, with full accountability for those responsible for acts of violence or torture.
- Renewed international action to uphold



international law and protect civilian populations.



The Freedom Flotillas embody a global call for justice, solidarity, and the protection of human life. We stand with those who take action—peacefully and courageously—to uphold these principles.

Global Solidarity for Peace in Palestine

## People's Congress and the Hague Group

For nearly two and a half years, Israel's assault on Gaza has demolished hospitals, universities, and entire neighbourhoods. Thermobaric weapons — devices that suck oxygen from the air before igniting a fireball — have turned crowded streets into infernos hot enough to “evaporate” human bodies, as Palestinian scholar Yara Hawari told the People's Congress in Amsterdam last week. The devastation, she noted, now exceeds several times the explosive force of the Hiroshima bomb, compressed into a narrow strip of

land.

And still the machinery grinds on.

Aid convoys are halted. Border crossings sealed. Reconstruction plans drafted in Washington imagine Gaza transformed into a network of biometric camps and corporate concessions — a dystopian “Board of Peace” imposed upon the ruins.

The lesson is unmistakable: impunity breeds escalation.

For Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, Gaza has become the proving ground for a new global order. Israel's “total impunity,” he warned in Amsterdam, is ushering in a world where “might makes right” — where doctrines first tested on Palestinians are exported across the globe.

Iran now sits squarely within that expanding theatre of war.

Last week in The Hague, forty states convened under the banner of The Hague Group — the largest gathering since the initiative's creation — to coordinate collective action in defence of international law. Their discussions moved beyond declarations and condemnations toward mechanisms of enforcement.

At the centre of those deliberations was a simple proposition: There can be no safe haven for war criminals.

States examined a coordinated immigration directive that would restrict entry to individuals implicated in war crimes and crimes against humanity in Palestine — a measure designed to ensure that those responsible for atrocity cannot travel freely through the capitals of the world.

“Deny port access and routes shift,” said Varsha Gandikota-Nellutla, Executive Secretary of The Hague Group. “Coordinate enforcement of international law and impunity becomes harder to sustain.”



Recent events have already demonstrated the point. When Namibia barred vessels suspected of carrying military supplies to Israel from docking in its ports, shipping routes were forced to change overnight — proof that coordinated state action can impose real logistical and political costs on the machinery of war.

But law alone is not enough. Outside the meeting halls in The Hague, trade unionists, parliamentarians, activists and organisers gathered in Amsterdam for the People's Congress for The Hague Group — an attempt to build the social force capable of sustaining such action — at courts, ports, and factories.

The novelist Sally Rooney recalled the Irish workers who once refused to handle South African fruit during apartheid — a small act of solidarity that eventually helped drive a national boycott. Liberation struggles, she argued, succeed when ordinary people identify the weak points in the machinery of oppression and apply pressure until it breaks.

The same logic now confronts the world.

If Gaza marks the collapse of the old “rules-based order,” then The Hague and Amsterdam represent an attempt to build so-

meting in its place: states and movements willing to build and wield counter-power.

Whether that experiment succeeds may determine far more than the fate of Palestine. As Barghouti warned the Congress: Palestine today has become the test of whether humanity can begin dismantling centuries of colonial domination — or descend further into a world ruled openly by force.

In solidarity,  
The Progressive International Secretariat

Video of the People's Congress:  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/AR8ApSBj-Bgg>

“Gaza is not an isolated tragedy. It is the epicentre of global politics.”

At the People's Congress for The Hague Group, PI Council Member Yara Hawari reflects on how the ongoing genocide in Gaza serves as a testing ground for weapons, surveillance, and repression that will be exported to the world.

<https://progressive.international/wire/2026-03-12-gaza-is-not-an-isolated-tragedy-it-is-the-epicentre-of-global-politics/en/>

## Urgent Call For Action Regarding the “Death Penalty for Prisoners” Law

Dear members of the World Social Assembly  
The Latin Palestinian Forum respectfully addresses the World Social Assembly to express deep concern regarding the recently approved Israeli legislation known as the “Death Penalty for Prisoners” law. This law constitutes a grave and alarming development, raising serious legal, moral, and humanitarian implications. It effectively legitimizes the use of capital punishment within a highly politicized judicial framework, where fundamental guarantees of due process are widely questioned. Its enforcement risks amounting to extrajudicial punishment, in direct contradiction with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.

Moreover, this legislation represents a dangerous escalation that threatens to further destabilize the region, fuel cycles of violence, and undermine any remaining prospects for peace and justice. Such measures do not contribute to security; rather, they deepen grievances and perpetuate conflict. In light of these concerns, we respectfully urge the World Social Assembly as well it’s organizations to take a clear and principled position by:

Publicly condemning the adoption of this law;

Mobilizing efforts within international frameworks, to advocate for its suspension and review;

Supporting initiatives aimed at ensuring full compliance with International Law and the protection of detainees’ fundamental rights. The voice of this World Social Assembly is both influential and necessary at this critical moment. The international community’s silence regarding such development risks being interpreted as acquiescence, while timely and decisive action can contribute meaningfully to upholding justice, human dignity, and the rule of law.

We trust in your commitment to the struggle for building Another Possible World. and look forward to your leadership on this urgent matter. Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration. Sincerely,

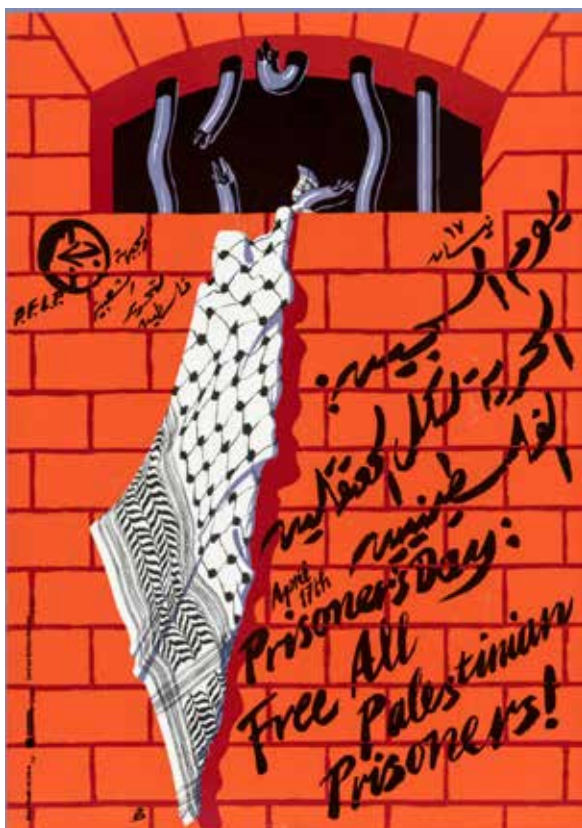
Mohamed El Kadri Latin Palestinian Forum

## Palestinians and Israelis mourn losses in joint ceremony

In a secret location due to right-wing attacks in previous years, bereaved families recognized each other’s grief and called for a shared future.

By +972 Magazine (Tel Aviv) April 21, 2026

The 21st Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Ceremony, held annually on the eve of Israel’s Memorial Day and organized by Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle–Families Forum, was held on Monday evening at an undisclosed location in Tel Aviv for the safety of participants. The ceremony offered bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families a rare space to jointly mourn loved ones lost to the conflict, and to raise their voices in calling for an end to war and Israeli occupation. Since its inception in 2006, the ceremony has grown from a small gathering with a few dozen attendees into one of the largest joint Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives. This year, it was broadcast live to more than 60 satellite screenings across Israel, the West Bank,



Europe, North America, South Africa, and Australia.

In recent years, the event has faced sustained opposition from Israeli authorities and right-wing groups, the former of which have rescinded permits of West Bank activists, blocking them from attending the Tel Aviv ceremony and prompting organizers to establish parallel events in Beit Jala and Jericho. Last year, far-right activists stormed a screening of the alternative ceremony at a Reform synagogue in the central Israeli city of Ra'anana, shouting slurs and hurling objects.

<https://www.972mag.com/joint-israeli-palestinian-memorial-day-2026/>

## Lebanon

**“Lebanon is not alone.”**

Statement from the Cabinet of the Progressive International

On 8 April — just hours after the announcement of a ceasefire between the United States and Iran — Israel resumed and expanded its carpet-bombing campaign in Lebanon. Mourners were massacred at a graveside in Shmestar. Three girls were murdered in the coastal town of Adloun. Beirut’s residential districts were struck without warning at rush hour.

For over a year and half the “international community” has remained silent on the continued bombing of southern Lebanon. This is a terrifying symptom of the ongoing normalization of Israel’s genocidal actions across the region at large.

This cowardly act of premeditated aggression is merely the next chapter in decades of Israel’s invasions, massacres, and bombing campaigns across Lebanon.

In recent months alone, Israel has displaced 1.2 million Lebanese, nearly one in five of the entire population.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials announce without

shame their intention to establish a permanent occupation in the south of the country. Israel’s lethal aggression in Lebanon cannot be understood in isolation. It is part of a broader scorched earth campaign to establish Greater Israel and suffocate the forces of resistance that stand in its way — be they in Gaza, Beirut or Tehran.



These are wars waged with US weapons, protected by US vetoes, and conducted under the cover of a rules-based international order whose rules, it turns out, apply to everyone but Israel and its patron.

From the Cabinet of the Progressive International, we not only condemn the senseless slaughter in Lebanon, as in Palestine or Iran. We also defend Lebanon’s enduring right to resist and defend itself against Israel’s foreign aggression. A people subjected to repeated invasion does not owe its occupier forbearance.

<https://progressive.international/wire/2026-04-09-lebanon-is-not-alone-/en/>

## Venezuela

**Defending Peace, Building Socialism**

Report from the Progressive International

Peace Brigade to Venezuela.

On 28 February - 13 March 2026, the Progressive International deployed a Peace Brigade to Venezuela to stand in solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution and witness its communal process firsthand.

The Brigade observed the country's sixth National Popular Consultation on 8 March — a direct-democracy exercise in which over 36,000 development projects proposed by communal councils were put to a popular vote across 10,000 precincts.

<https://progressive.international/wire/2026-04-16-defending-peace-building-socialism/en/>

**Sean Conner: “Venezuela represents a change in the tactics of war with immeasurable consequences”**



02.02.26- Santiago, Chile – Pablo Ruiz Espinoza in Presenza International

The attack on Venezuela by the United States and a series of threats, the application of sanctions and punishments, through blockades or the raising of tariffs, against Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Iran, Canada, Greenland, among others, represent a clear threat to International Law, returning to the law of the strongest.

On the other hand, militarization continues in Europe, and four years will have passed since the start of the war in Ukraine, where efforts continue to perpetuate this conflict by sending more weapons and militarizing Europe itself.

On these topics, the following is an interview with Sean Conner, Executive Director of the International Peace Bureau (IPB). Conner

holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Intercultural and Critical Communication Studies from the State University of New York at Geneseo and a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Conflict Management.

Read more here:

<https://ipb.org/sean-conner-venezuela-represents-a-change-in-the-tactics-of-war-with-immeasurable-consequences/#more-80680>

**I Joined the Nuestra América Aid Convoy to Show Cuba It's Not Alone**

Jeremy Corbyn describes how the intensified US blockade is causing blackouts, hospital shortages, and everyday suffering in Cuba, and why he joined an international aid convoy to break the siege.



After the detention of Venezuela's president, the US banned Venezuelan oil from reaching Cuba, seized shipments, and imposed tariffs on any country that supplies Cuba with fuel. Corbyn traveled to Cuba as part of an international Progressive International convoy delivering humanitarian aid, including medical supplies to a cancer hospital where staff struggle under shortages. In this article, he calls on European governments to defy the US by sending their own oil tankers, and that the blockade is meant to starve Cubans into submission.

Driving into Havana, most of the city was in darkness. For the second time in a week, more than 10 million people across Cuba were left without power during a national blackout. We were told that in some places, people were going 14 hours without electricity.

This is the human reality of a criminal and

inhumane blockade, imposed on Cuba by the United States. Cuba has been under a US embargo for over 60 years – an embargo that doesn't just prevent bilateral trade between these two countries, but tries to isolate Cuba from the rest of the world.

<https://progressive.international/wire/2026-04-08-i-joined-the-nuestra-amrica-aid-convoy-to-show-cuba-its-not-alone/en/>



## Cuba Is Not Alone

From an aid convoy to an oil tanker, solidarity became a material force — and breached Trump's criminal blockade of Cuba.

<https://progressive.international/wire/2026-04-03-pi-briefing-no-8-cuba-is-not-alone/en/>

**Esther Villalobos Bernal:**

**OPEN LETTER TO  
GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY**

**TO THE DEFENDERS OF PEACE AND  
THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD**

From Cuba: A Call to Life Amidst the Drums of War

Your Excellencies, leaders of social organizations, human rights defenders, and citizens of the world:

We address you at a time of extreme gravity. The rise in aggressive rhetoric and threats of military intervention by extremist sectors of

the United States against Cuba have ceased to be mere political slogans and have become a real danger that threatens the peace of the region and the lives of millions of human beings.

We turn to International Civil Society not to ask for favors, but to appeal for justice and memory.

Cuba is a small nation that has made solidarity its highest banner. While others export weapons, Cuba has exported life.

For decades, our country has sent medical brigades to the most forgotten corners of the planet, fighting Ebola in Africa, cholera in Haiti, blindness in Latin America, and COVID-19 in more than 40 countries.

We are a people who share what we have, not what we have in excess, based on the conviction that health is a universal human right.

Is this the nation that deserves to be attacked? Is this the people whose integrity should be threatened with aircraft carriers and missiles?

A military attack against Cuba would not be a "surgical procedure" or a "liberation." It would be a massacre of civilians.

The human cost would be incalculable. Our children, who today attend safe schools, and our elderly, protected by a universal health-care system, would be the first victims of this barbarity.

A war in the heart of the Caribbean would unleash a humanitarian tragedy that would affect not only our island, but the stability of the entire hemisphere.

History has taught us that bombs have never sown democracy; they have only left behind rubble, orphanhood, and resentment.

Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is respect for international law, the sovereignty of peoples, and the Charter of the United Nations.

We make an urgent call for global mobilization:

1. We demand respect for life: We call on civil society leaders to raise their voices in every possible forum to denounce this war-mongering adventurism.

2. We advocate for diplomacy: We urge the international community to press for solutions based on dialogue, mutual respect, and civilized coexistence among states.

3. Protection of children: We call for the protection of our children's right to live in peace, free from the trauma of the roar of war in their homes.

Cuba does not represent a threat to the security of any power. Our only "weapon" has been resistance and international solidarity. Do not let the hatred of a few decide the fate of an entire generous people.



World leaders, activists, intellectuals, artists, and people of goodwill: Stop the aggressor's hand before it's too late.

Humanity doesn't need more wars; it needs more doctors, more books, and more bread.

In the name of decency, justice, and life, we ask you to join our cry:

No to war against Cuba!

Yes to Peace and Life!

Sincerely,

Henry Omar Pérez

Journalist and Social Communicator  
Member of Cuban Civil Society

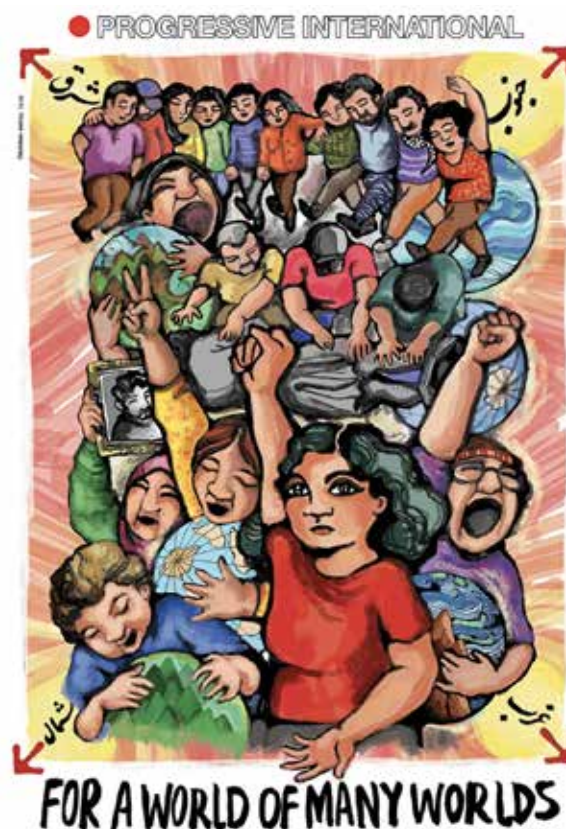
Share this letter so it can travel the world  
Let's share, comrades

### Stop Using Drone Warfare to Perpetrate Genocides in Palestine and Sudan



Recording:  
<https://ipb.org/stop-using-drone-warfare-to-perpetrate-genocides-in-palestine-and-sudan/>

Sponsored by  
Global Solidarity for Peace in Palestine  
International Fellowship of Reconciliation  
International Peace Bureau  
Pax Christi International  
Veterans For Peace  
Weaponized Drone Ban Treaty Campaign  
World BEYOND War



# PEACE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE



## Peoples' Summit Declaration November 20, 2025

We, the Peoples' Summit, gathered in Belém do Pará, in the Brazilian Amazon, from 12 to 16 November 2025, declare to the peoples of the world what we have accumulated in struggles, debates, studies, exchanges of experiences, cultural activities and testimonies, over several months of preparation and during these days gathered here.

Our process brought together more than 70,000 people who make up local, national, and international movements of indigenous and traditional peoples, peasants, indigenous peoples, quilombolas, fishermen, extractivists (traditional peoples who live from sustainable forest extraction), shellfish gatherers, urban workers, trade unionists, homeless people, babassu coconut breakers, terreiro peoples, women, the LGBTQIAPN+ community, young people, Afro-descendants, the elderly, and peoples from the forest, the countryside, the peripheries, the seas, rivers, lakes, and mangroves. We have taken on the task of building a just and democratic world, with buen vivir/ bem viver/ good living for all. We are unity in diversity.

The advance of the extreme right, fascism and wars around the world exacerbates the climate crisis and the exploitation of nature and of peoples. The countries of the global North, transnational corporations, and the

ruling classes bear the main responsibility for these crises. We salute the resistance and stand in solidarity with all peoples who are being cruelly attacked and threatened by the forces of the US empire, Israel and their allies in Europe. For more than 80 years, the Palestinian people have been victims of genocide perpetrated by the Zionist state of Israel, which has bombed the Gaza Strip, forcibly displaced millions of people and killed tens of thousands of innocent people, mostly children, women and the elderly. We totally repudiate the genocide perpetrated against Palestine. We offer our support and solidarity to the people who bravely resist, and to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

At the same time, in the Caribbean Sea, the United States is intensifying its imperial presence. It is doing so by expanding joint operations, agreements and military bases, in collusion with the extreme right, under the pretext of combating drug trafficking and terrorism, as with the recently announced "Southern Spear" operation. Imperialism continues to threaten the sovereignty of peoples, criminalising social movements and legitimising interventions that have historically served private interests in the region. We stand in solidarity with the resistance of peoples under imperialist or resource-grabbing attacks in Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, Ecuador, Panama, El Salvador, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan, and with the emancipatory popular projects of the peoples of the Sahel, Nepal and around the world.

There is no life without nature. There is no life without the ethics and the work of care. That is why feminism is central to our political project. We place the work of reproducing life at the centre, which is what radically differentiates us from those who want to preserve the logic and dynamics of an economic system that prioritises profit and the private accumulation of wealth.

Our worldview is guided by popular internationalism, with exchanges of knowledge and wisdom that build bonds of solidarity, struggle and cooperation among our pe-

oples. True solutions are strengthened by this exchange of experiences, developed in our territories and by many hands. We are committed to stimulating, convening and strengthening these processes. Therefore, we welcome the announcement of the construction of the International Movement of People Affected by Dams, Socio-Environmental Crimes and the Climate Crisis.

We began our People's Summit by navigating the rivers of the Amazon, which, with their waters, nourish the entire body. Like blood, they sustain life and feed a sea of encounters and hopes. We also recognise the presence of enchanted beings and other fundamental beings in the worldview of indigenous and traditional peoples, whose spiritual strength guides paths, protects territories and inspires struggles for life, memory and a world of good living.



After more than two years of collective construction and holding the People's Summit, we affirm:

1. The capitalist mode of production is the main cause of the growing climate crisis. The main environmental problems of our time are a consequence of the relations of production, circulation, and disposal of goods, under the logic and domination of financial

capital and large capitalist corporations.

2. Peripheral communities are the most affected by extreme weather events and environmental racism. On the one hand, they face a lack of infrastructure and adaptation policies. On the other hand, they face a lack of justice and reparations, especially for women, young people, impoverished people, and people of colour.

3. Transnational corporations, in collusion with governments in the global North, are at the centre of power in the capitalist, racist and patriarchal system, being the actors that most cause and benefit from the multiple crises we face. The mining, energy, arms, agribusiness and Big Tech industries are primarily responsible for the climate catastrophe we are experiencing.

4. We oppose any false solutions to the climate crisis, including in climate finance, that perpetuate harmful practices, create unpredictable risks, and divert attention from transformative solutions based on climate justice and the justice of peoples in all biomes and ecosystems. We warn that the TFFE, being a financialised programme, is not an adequate response. All financial projects must be subject to criteria of transparency,

democratic access, participation and real benefit for affected populations.

5. The failure of the current model of multilateralism is evident. Environmental crimes and extreme weather events that cause death and destruction are becoming increasingly common. This demonstrates the failure of countless global conferences and meetings that promised to solve these problems but never addressed their structural causes.

6. The energy transition is being implemented under capitalist logic. Despite the expansion of renewable sources, there has been no reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The expansion of energy production sources has also become a new space for capital accumulation.

7. Finally, we affirm that the privatisation, commodification and financialisation of common goods and public services are directly contrary to the interests of the people. In this context, laws, state institutions and the vast majority of governments have been captured, shaped and subordinated to the pursuit of maximum profit by financial capital and transnational corporations. Public policies are needed to advance the recovery of states and tackle privatisation.

In the face of these challenges, we propose:

1. Confronting false market solutions.
2. We demand the participation and leadership of peoples in the construction of climate solutions, recognising ancestral knowledge.
3. We demand the demarcation and protection of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples and other local peoples and communities, as they are the ones who guarantee the survival of the forest.
4. We demand the implementation of popular agrarian reform and the promotion of agroecology to guarantee food sovereignty and combat land concentration.
5. We demand the fight against environmental racism and the construction of fair cities and living peripheries through the implementation of environmental policies and solutions.
6. We advocate direct consultation, participation, and popular management of climate policies in cities to confront real estate cor-

porations that have advanced the commodification of urban life.

7. We demand an end to wars, we demand demilitarisation.

8. We demand fair and full compensation for the losses and damages imposed on peoples by destructive investment projects, dams, mining, fossil fuel extraction, and climate disasters.

9. The work of reproducing life must be made visible, valued, understood for what it is – work – and shared by society as a whole and with the state.

10. We demand a just, sovereign and popular transition that guarantees the rights of all workers, as well as the right to decent working conditions, freedom of association, collective bargaining and social protection.

11. We demand an end to the exploitation of fossil fuels and call on governments to develop mechanisms to ensure the non-proliferation of fossil fuels, aiming for a just, popular and inclusive energy transition with sovereignty, protection and reparation for territories, particularly in the Amazon and other sensitive regions that are essential for life on the planet.

12. We fight for public financing and taxation of corporations and the wealthiest individuals.

13. We demand that international climate financing not go through institutions that deepen inequality between North and South, such as the IMF and the World Bank.

14. We denounce the ongoing criminalisation of movements, the persecution, murder and disappearance of our leaders who fight in defence of their territories, as well as political prisoners and Palestinian prisoners who fight for national liberation.

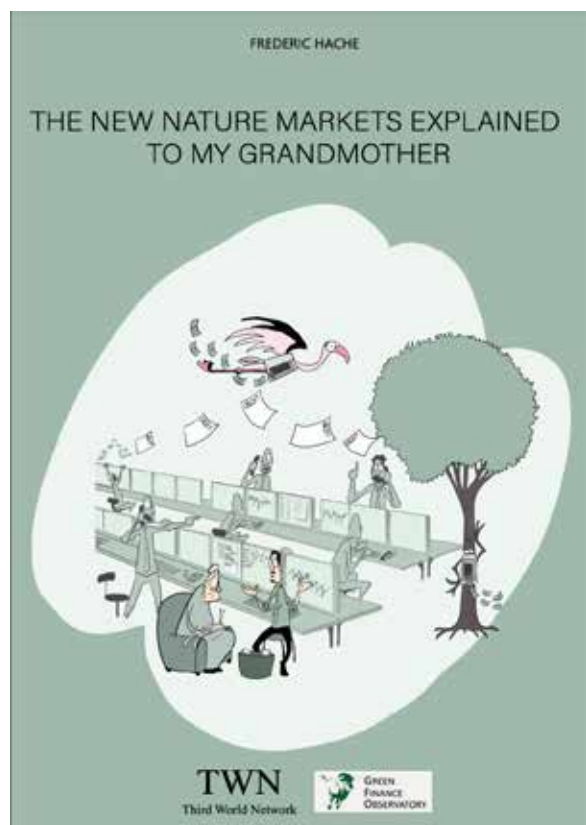
15. We call for the strengthening of international instruments that defend the rights of peoples, their customary rights and the integrity of ecosystems.

Finally, we believe that it is time to unite our forces and face our common enemy. If the organisation is strong, the struggle is strong. For this reason, our main political task is to organise the peoples of all countries and continents. Let us root our internationalism in each territory and make each territory a trench in the international struggle. It is

time to move forward in a more organised, independent and unified way, to increase our awareness, strength and combativeness. This is the way to resist and win.

“Peoples Of The World: Unite!”

### **New comicbook: The New Nature Markets Explained to My Grandmother**



#### **The New Nature Markets Explained to My Grandmother**

Written and illustrated by Frederic Hache  
Co-published by Third World Network and Green Finance Observatory

As the chainsaws and bulldozers continue to move in on nature, a new market has emerged to facilitate trade in biodiversity credits – financial instruments that represent conservation or restoration schemes intended to offset loss of biological diversity elsewhere. However, the science behind offsetting is dubious, and existing offset projects have mostly not yielded positive outcomes for biodiversity and have even harmed the lives and livelihoods of indigenous and local communities. Even as it rakes in lucrative profits for the financial sector, focus on offsetting diverts attention from the changes in regulation, production and consumption required

to protect biodiversity.

Written for a popular readership – including lovable grannies everywhere – this comicbook primer explains why the biodiversity credit market is a false solution and points to the real measures that need to be put in place if nature is to be saved.

[https://twn.my/title2/books/pdf/New\\_Nature\\_Markets.pdf](https://twn.my/title2/books/pdf/New_Nature_Markets.pdf)

### **Calendar of past and coming Peace and Climate justice activities**

9 February

#### **Anti-Militarization Moment for Europe**

A webinar with the title An Anti-Militarization Moment for Europe – a strategy proposal is organized. <https://all-in.now/event/webinar-an-anti-militarization-moment-for-europe-a-strategy-proposal/> In the strategy proposal one can read: “The time is ripe and we have a brief window of opportunity. It is the moment for a strategic, movement-level intervention in Europe directed against militarization.” ...

Five Reasons of Relevance -

1. Aggression towards Venezuela
2. Aggression towards the Alliance of Sahel States
3. NATO spendings as austerity
4. NATO spendings as Trump’s bullying
5. War in Ukraine
6. The Genocide by the Israelis in Palestine is a showcase.

The strategy discussion paper goes further developing strengths and weaknesses including: “Our main weakness is that we don’t have a platform for movement-level collaboration that has legitimacy across movements and across countries.” <https://all-in.now/article/an-anti-militarization-moment-for-europe-a-strategy-proposal/> This initiative is focusing on social movements in Europe but is well connected also to other continents as evident in this webinar with Latin American social movements.

<https://all-in.now/event/seminario-en-linea-todo-o-nada-3-mapear-los-movimientos-sociales/>

21-23 February  
**Global action Days against US bases**  
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/closebases/>



28 February  
**“Europe at War”**

organized within the Transnational Social Strike Platform. "Our transnational meeting in Cologne (Germany) is intended to be the first in a series of regular gatherings. With these meetings on "Europe at War", we want to create a space that brings together the scattered instances of refusal, to give them more power and organisational capacity. A space that allows us to share different perspectives, discuss, make connections, and develop an analysis that will enable us to draw conclusions for our practice. We think long-term, transnationally, and do not want to take any shortcuts. We are writing this to align expectations, generate enthusiasm, and prevent disappointment." <https://www.transnational-strike.info/2026/01/29/meeting-europe-at-war-programme-and-registration-form/>

2- 4 April  
**Regional seminar on ecofeminism, debt and extractivism, Ouagadougou**



Final declaration of the regional seminar on ecofeminism, debt and extractivism in the

face of the climate crisis, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from April 2nd to 4th, 2026

**Our Minds, Our Bodies, Our Heads, Our Lands - No Debt!**

The Coordination of Feminist Struggles of the CADTM-Africa network (Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt), in coordination with the Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions for Citizens' Aid (Attac Burkina) and the African Movement for Endogenous Development and Education (MADE), organized an international seminar on ecofeminism, debt, microcredit, and climate crises, as well as their roles in reinforcing inequalities, from April 2nd to 4th, 2026, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, at the Pan-African Institute for Development West Africa and the Sahel (IPD-AOS) located on Avenue Dassasgo.

We, participants in the Regional Seminar on Ecofeminism, Indebtedness, and Extractivism in the Face of the Climate Crisis, held in Ouagadougou from April 2nd to 4th, 2026;

Bringing together some sixty activists from feminist movements, social organizations, and civic groups from several African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and Tunisia).

<https://www.cadtm.org/Declaration-finale-du-seminaire-regional-sur-l-ecofeminisme-l-endettement-et-l>

10 April - 9 May  
**the Global Days of Action on Military Spending(GDAMS)**

WAR COSTS US  
THE EARTH



From Gaza, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to Ukraine, Venezuela and Iran, levels of violence, civilian suffering, and violations of international law have reached heinous heights, including the perpetration of genocide.

This surge in conflict is not accidental or inescapable, it reflects a broader resurgence of imperialism and militarization, spearheaded by the US, in which brute force, military might and coercion have become dominant tools of international relations. Powerful states and regional actors continue to wage and fuel wars – not only through direct intervention but also through extensive arms transfers, strategic alliances and geopolitical competition – prioritizing narrow interests over human security and peace.



In a correlated manner, global military expenditures are reaching record levels year after year, with no regard for issues which actually threaten people all across the globe, such as accelerating climate breakdown, deepening inequality, or chronically underfunded essential public services.

Together, these trends reveal a stark misalignment of priorities: ever more money for weapons, and ever less for human security, climate action, foreign aid, healthcare, decent jobs, housing, education... Our campaign is now more urgent than ever.

<https://ipb.org/global-campaign-on-military-spending/>

16 April

## Climate march in Stockholm



*Above: Peace on&with Earth banner in the demonstration*

25-26 April 2026,

## Second Global Summit on Indigenous Peacebuilding

Indigenous leaders from across the world will convene to advance recognition and inclusion of Indigenous approaches to peacebuilding and to ensure these approaches shape global responses to conflict and ecological crisis. <https://www.indigenouspeacebuildersnetwork.org/>

April 29

## Japanese protesters rally against government's militarization push

CGTN - Tens of thousands of Japanese citizens held large-scale protests on Sunday around Japan's parliament building, opposing the push made by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government to lift restrictions on arms exports, amend the pacifist constitution, and other dangerous moves toward remilitarization, according to China Media Group (CMG).

Japan's parliament earlier this month passed the budget for fiscal 2026, under which defense spending exceeded 9 trillion yen (\$56.74 billion) for the first time.

The government is also planning to revise the "three principles on transfer of defense equipment and technology" and related implementation guidelines in the near future, in a move seen as loosening constraints on overseas weapons exports. ...

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2026-04-19/Japanese-protesters-rally-against-government-s-militarization-push-1MtcEbQryYE/p.html>

May 1st

## **Welfare not warfare**



Together on 1 May 2026 for Peace, Social Justice and Human Rights

On 1 May, International Workers' Day, let us stand together to reaffirm that Peace, Social Justice, respect for international law and human rights Are inseparable.

In an exceptionally grave international context, marked by a proliferation of armed conflicts, violations of international law and increasing militarisation, workers around the world are all too often facing a deterioration in their rights, living conditions, security and freedoms.

Wars, occupations, inter-state aggression, crimes against humanity and violations of the sovereignty of certain states — in Palestine, Ukraine, Venezuela, Iran, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latin America, Lebanon and elsewhere — primarily affect civilian populations, exacerbate inequalities and divert essential resources needed to meet fundamental social needs: employment, wages, health, education, housing, public services and the ecological transition.

We affirm that international law must take precedence over force and that negotiated political solutions must prevail over war and violence, whilst respecting the sovereignty of peoples and human rights.

Faced with the impasse of the logic of domi-

nation, confrontation and militarisation, the united action of

Everywhere! Together for Peace – Justice – Social Rights – Human Rights!

Law must take precedence over force!

For its future, humanity has no choice but Peace, Justice and human rights.

Reminder of our latest statement <https://www.collectifpaix.org/2026/03/faisons-entendre-notre-aspiration-a-la-paix/>

May 3

## **Tens of thousands rally against Japan's constitutional revision, arms exports amid military build-up**

Tens of thousands of people took to streets of Tokyo for a peace rally on Sunday, protesting against Takaichi government's policies on constitutional revision and military expansion. The rally coincided with Japan's Constitution Memorial Day. Sunday also marked the 80th anniversary of the opening of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, also known as the Tokyo Trials, on May 3, 1946. Japan has significantly accelerated its shift away from postwar pacifism, marking a major turning point in its military and constitutional policy. Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, the government has dismantled decades-old restrictions on arms exports and is moving toward formal constitutional reform.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA-anGDCAPHg>

May 6

## **Peoples' Climate Summit (PCS)**

Panel: Trade Unions, Energy and Climate

The preparations for the Peoples' Climate Summit (PCS) are speeding up;

beyond COP31.

PCS, along with trade unions, professional organizations, and workers, is enhancing the voice and alternatives of the people, rather than the corporations, in combating the climate crisis.

In this context, İstanbul is hosting an important international meeting with the participation of the Trade Unions Platform for Energy Democracy (TUED).

Speakers :

- Sean Sweeney (TUED)
- Brian Kamanzi (TUED)
- Ayfer Koçak (Co-President of KESK)

The panel will address climate justice and energy democracy from the perspective of strengthening public services; we will discuss together the role and responsibilities of trade unions in the climate struggle.

May 9-10

### **From Palestine to the Black Sea – A Counter-Conference for Peace and Human Security, Bucharest, Romania**

”Under the guise of security and technological development, Eastern Europe and the Balkans are quietly arming Israel - and being armed by it - becoming the new frontier of Israel’s military footprint.

Today, Europe is Elbit’s second largest market, with Eastern Europe emerging as its central pillar. With five factories already operating in Romania, Elbit plans to use its European subsidiaries to tap into EU rearmament funding, including the Security Action for Europe instrument. These developments risk further entrenching Israel’s impunity.”

In May 2026, Romania once again hosted the Black Sea Defense, Aerospace & Security (BSDA) - the largest military equipment exhibition in Eastern Europe, with over 400 companies including Elbit Systems, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Leonardo, and Lockheed Martin.

From Palestine to the Black Sea — A Coun-

ter-Conference for Peace and Human Security aims to confront the machinery of complicity. Over two days, civil society and political voices, journalists, and academics from across Europe and beyond will examine the expanding global arms trade, the militarisation of European societies, and the role of the military industry in perpetuating war, while exploring alternatives grounded in peace, human security, and justice.

The counter-conference connects the dots: between BSDA’s showroom floors and Gaza’s rubble, between rising NATO budgets and shrinking welfare states.

The event will create a space for critical dialogue, political organising, and alliance, aiming to build an infrastructure of international solidarity and a common framework for collective action.

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS

Clare Daly  
Maren Mantovani  
Mick Wallace  
Andrew Feinstein  
Laëtitia Sédou  
Shir Hever  
Annachiara Canetta  
Ruth Rohde  
Ruth Rohde  
Ana Vračar  
Enikő Vincze  
Enikő Vincze



#### Elbit Out! campaign

The campaign will continue with a range of public talks, a petition, open letters to officials, a possible lawsuit against the Romanian state for failing to prevent crimes against humanity. It will also include a large international conference in mid-May 2026 in Bucharest, as a counterpoint to the Black Sea Defense, Aerospace and Security exhibition,

a military industry trade fair. The conference will bring together international figures of the struggle for a free Palestine, including workers, trade unionists, legal scholars, journalists and militants.

The “Elbit Out!” campaign represents a first in Romania and is a very important development in the regional struggle for peace and against genocide. It brings together a previously disorganized movement, converging it around a central cause – the liberation of Palestine. It also aims to deepen relations with trade unions in the military manufacturing and transport sectors, helping to politicize a new anti-war generation.

Nationwide campaign against Elbit Systems launches in Romania  
<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2025/10/08/nationwide-campaign-against-elbit-systems-launches-in-romania/>

Elbit Out! emerged from a perceived gap between widespread public outrage and the absence of clear political demands. In public statements, organizers describe the campaign as an attempt to channel collective anger over Gaza into a specific, achievable objective: ending Romania’s military cooperation with Elbit Systems and, by extension, with Israel’s war industry [2].



At the heart of the campaign is a belief that resistance must be built patiently and collectively. By consolidating ANCEX data, corporate disclosures, legal rulings, and investigative reporting, Elbit Out! has assembled a detailed public record of Romania’s role in Israel’s war economy [1][3]. Organizers have focused on breaking through silence by sharing research through street outreach, teach-ins, and conversations at protests. They

have also engaged directly with workers at Elbit subsidiaries in Romania, emphasizing dialogue, shared responsibility, and the right not to be implicated in genocide. Alongside this grassroots outreach, the campaign launched a national petition demanding an end to arms trade with Israel and Elbit Systems, which has gathered just under 7,000 signatures



## May 12: **NATO Still Going Global?**

As NATO in Europe faces a crisis, how is this impacting NATO actions and expansion elsewhere in the world? What is the current status of NATO’s bases and military footprint? How are NATO’s bilateral alliances impacting globally?

Professor Anuradha Chenoy – Board member of International Peace Bureau, Adjunct Professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs, Jindal Global University (Haryana, India), associate of Transnational Institute (TNI) and Asia Europe People’s Forum (AEPF): a global overview

Pablo Ruiz – Coordinator of Observatorio por el Cierre de la Escuela de las Américas: NATO encroaching on Latin America  
Rachel Clark – Veterans for Peace and Peace Boat: the NATO presence in East Asia  
Reiner Braun – No to War – No to NATO network: How NATO’s European bases are used in global domination

<https://ipb.org/events/nato-still-going-global/>

15–17 May 2026

## The International Eco-Socialist Meetings in Brussels



At a time when humanity's very survival is at risk, we need a movement that once again offers a hopeful alternative to the rise of the far right and the failures of neoliberalism.

That is why we call on all those who defend human dignity and strive for an alternative to destructive capitalism to join us in Brussels from 15 to 17 May 2026 for the 7th International Ecosocialist Encounters.

Substantive program with plenaries and parallel workshops, in total 99 speakers.

Friday, 15 May

Plenary: Ecosocialist trade unionism in a time of catastrophe

Parallel workshops

1. Ecosocialist strategies for trade union renewal
2. Struggles for ecological reconversion in industry
3. Trade unions and the fight to stop militarisation

Parallel workshops

1. Care work and the migrant proletariat
2. Building alliances against green colonialism and extractivism

Opening plenary of the 7th International Ecosocialist Gathering:

Ecosocialism as a brake on capitalist catastrophe

—

Saturday, 16 May

Plenary: Geopolitics and imperialism: What is the context in which this Ecosocialist Gathering is taking place?

Parallel workshops

1. Artificial intelligence: algorithms of catastrophe and rumours of revolution

2. The role of education in ecosocial change
3. Where is political ecology heading in Belgium?
4. Land defenders facing persecution in Latin America

Parallel workshops

1. Imperialism and green colonialism
2. Ecosocialism, spirituality in resistance and liberation theology
3. Debt: a brake on ecosocial transition
4. Fossil fascism: how the far right appropriates the ecological question and how to fight it
5. The return of economic planning

Plenary: In dialogue with the ideas of Michael Löwy

Sunday, 17 May

Plenary: Ecosocialism and degrowth

Parallel workshops

1. Agroecology and food sovereignty
2. Disruption and revolutionary strategy today
3. Ecofeminist convergence between Global South and North
4. Presentation of the Global Ecosocialist Network

Plenary: Ecosocial struggles and the prospects for an ecosocialist future

<https://www.alterecosoc.org/>

16 May

### Stop NATO now

Demonstration protesting against the NATO foreign ministerial meeting in Helsingborg supported by 38 organizations.



*Above: Stig Broqvist, from Friends of the Earth Helsingborg speaks at the rally.*

Some thousand demonstrators marched un-

der the slogans:

- Stop NATO, we refuse your militarization
- Welfare not weapons
- NATO out of Sweden, Sweden out of NATO

<https://stoppanato.nu/>

May 21

## From Helsingborg to Ankara: Global Voices on NATO, Militarization, and Welfare

Online Interactive Gathering during the NATO foreign ministerial meeting in Helsingborg. The NATO meeting emphasized increased defence spending. Such commitments risk undermining efforts toward peace, social justice, and effective responses to the climate and environmental crisis.

There is an urgent need to critically examine NATO's expanding role, as it increasingly extends its influence beyond the military into areas such as natural resources, technology, finance, and media. This raises concerns about global power imbalances, growing militarization, and the diversion of resources from urgent social and environmental needs. The gathering will bring together diverse

perspectives, creating space for critical discussion and constructive alternatives, while fostering intergenerational dialogue and amplifying younger voices.

Together, we call for: no NATO expansion, no nuclear weapons, no increased defence spending, no to military bases, welfare not warfare, climate justice instead of military spending, and an end to global militarization.

The event connected voices globally strengthening alliances and built momentum toward the NATO Summit in Ankara in July, promoting a shared vision of peace, justice, and sustainability.

Speakers:



Jackson Kisangani, Peace and Climate Justice Democratic Republic of Congo

World Social Assembly of  
struggles and resistance  
of the WSF



**FROM HELSINGBORG TO ANKARA: GLOBAL VOICES ON NATO, MILITARIZATION, AND WELFARE**

21 May 2026 at 18-19:30 CEST



“ NATO is structurally shifting to a denser networked structure. NATO in this phase will be neither North Atlantic or Asian but with overlapping networks and distributed power, financial and production centres, where nodes like Japan, Australia, RO Korea, and others provide interoperability. Yet China, Russia and others have counter-dispersed strategies also in the making.



**Professor Anuradha Chenoy**  
IPB/TN/AEPF/DINDAL  
GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

**REGISTER NOW** [bit.ly/Helsingborg-NATO](https://bit.ly/Helsingborg-NATO)

ORGANIZED BY: 

Anuradha Chenoy, IPB, India  
Pia Jacobsen spokesperson for the stoppana-to.nu demonstration 16.5  
Firuze, NATO Ya Hayir - NO to NATO  
Ismael Ortiz Garcia, migrant activist, El Salvador  
Jaan Cortobius, Peace and Climate Justice, Sweden



Mariam Furre, WILPF, Canada  
Sergio Bassoli, CGIL, Italy  
Maximiliam Isendahl, Via Campesina, Sweden  
Sezgin Sarı - PCS '26, Militarism, War, and Climate Hub  
Moderator: Tord Björk, Friends of the Earth Sweden



Above: Maximiliam Isendahl,  
Via Campesina Sweden

**Organizers:**

No to NATO - No to War  
International Peace Bureau (IPB)  
World Beyond War Europe (WBW-Europe)  
Global Women for Peace United Against NATO (GWUAN)  
World Social Assembly of Struggles and Resistances of the WSF  
Friends of the Earth Sweden  
stoppanato.nu

**Stop Fascism ! Stop imperialism! NO G7!**

As the G7 meets in Evian, France, to plan the destruction of peoples, the exploitation of life, and the domination of bodies, let us organize our resistance against fascism and imperialism! Join us from the 13th to the 17th of June 2026 in Geneva to build an internationalist response!



What is the G7? Why oppose it?

Every year, the G7 brings together the go-

governments of the world's seven richest countries to shape global economics and geopolitics. Since 1975, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan have met to coordinate the capitalist leadership of the world – joined in 1997 by Russia, excluded since the 2014 annexation of Crimea. Donald Trump, Emmanuel Macron, Keir Starmer, Friedrich Merz, Giorgia Meloni, Mark Carney and Sanae Takaichi are scheduled to meet in Evian from the 15th to the 17th of June 2026. A broad coalition of collectives and organisations is calling for a large-scale internationalist mobilisation against this meeting.

### Against fascism

Global capitalism is in crisis. To preserve the Global North's hegemony, the G7 members – its major players – are growing increasingly radical. This reshaping of the world order is feeding the rise of the far right. Its ideas and language are now pervasive in public debate, while the violence of its supremacist ideology is unleashed on a global scale. To secure their place in this new order, states are sliding towards even more authoritarian practices. As a result, this process of fascistisation extends beyond the countries where the far right has taken power.

This wave of hatred, rooted in the domination of oppressed groups, is spreading and escalating deadly and systemic violence:

institutionalized Islamophobia, racist police murders, violence at borders, sexist and sexual violence, femicide, anti-LGBT and anti-trans violence. Masculinists, legitimised by authoritarian leaders, are waging an unprecedented offensive. To maintain the unequal order, social movements – particularly environmental, feminist, LGBTIQ+, anti-racist, and those in solidarity with Palestine – are being harshly repressed.

For an effective anti-fascist struggle, let's target the root of the problem embodied by the G7 members. In this climate of masculinist dominance, the fight against fascism is and always will be a feminist and queer struggle!

<https://nog7ge.noblogs.org/english/>

June 14

### Stop ReArm Europe

Brussels demo and action week

We call on everyone who stands for peace and social justice to join the European demonstration in Brussels on June 14 to advocate for investments in people, not in war.

– For peace and security – invest in health, education, decent jobs, climate transition and social protection, not in weapons and the militarization of society.

– For respect for international law – uphold the UN Charter and safeguard the dignity of all people, protect human rights and labor



rights, promote social and climate justice.

– For social dialogue and diplomacy – bring people and countries together, instead of driving them apart.

– For investment in international solidarity and cooperation – sustainable development is the best guarantee for a safe and stable society, and therefore for conflict prevention.

– For disarmament – arms control and nuclear disarmament to ensure peace and security

Join us for a Europe of peace and solidarity.

<https://stoprearm.org/>

June 20

## International Conference Against War London

The International Anti-War Conference is becoming a key focus for opposition to rearmament driven austerity across Europe. The largest union federation in Italy, the CGIL, is sending a leadership delegation, as are the UGT from Spain. From Greece the General President of the Piraeus Dockworkers is coming, as is the General President of the Steelworkers of Thessaloniki. School students from Germany, where they have just held their 50,000 strong strike against conscription are coming. So is the Belgian MP and leader of the Workers Party, Peter Mertens. They will be joined by the leader of the Genoa dockworkers, and by Mustafa Barghouti who is travelling from Palestine to address the conference. French MPs, the leader of the French teachers union, and an MP from the Swedish anti-war party will be attending, as will Podemos and Catalan MPs.

In the UK 10 national unions and over 100 local union branches are supporting the conference as well as the Muslim Association of Britain, CND, the Stop the War Coalition and many others.

We now need your help to make this a really important step forward for international working class solidarity. This is a fight to defend working people's lives and livelihoods, and to stop the drive to war.

Call for the conference:

### The wolf is at the door.

We know the face of war after the genocide in Palestine, watched live by millions. That genocide continues because of the complicity of western governments who refuse to take the action that could halt it. Those same governments have actively worked against peace in the war in which 1.5 million Ukrainians and Russians lie dead or wounded. They now constantly increase NATO military spending and are beginning to enlist the youngest to throw them into the jaws of disaster. Talk of war has become active preparation for war the length and breadth of Europe.

Working people are seeing the money that should be spent on repairing their broken health care system, transport facilities, education and housing swept away into the bottomless pockets of the arms manufacturers, whose profits increase at a rate faster than ever before.

Families that have not known military conscription for generations now listen in fear



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# AGAINST WAR

SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2026, LONDON



CENTRAL HALL  
WESTMINSTER



Stop the War  
Coalition





as military leaders and politicians warn that their sons and daughters must be prepared to fight and die.

The false promise of industrial jobs in the arms industry is a trap for the working class. These weapons are the most inefficient job creators but they are the most effective life takers. They will tear apart the bodies of the young on battlefields whose horrors will be greater than the worst we have ever seen.

The wolf is at the door and we must raise the alarm. It is the duty of every citizen, but especially the duty of the labour movement, to defend peace, freedom of speech and protest, and jobs that are useful to the society and for the planet. It is our task to say to the new warlords, we will not pay for, nor accept, rearmament that imperils our world. As French writer Anatole France said at the time of the First World War: “You think you are dying for your country, you are dying for industrialists”.

At the Paris anti-war conference of October 2025, attended by thousands of ordinary citizens, trade unionists, political and peace activists, we began to raise the alarm and to organise for peace. Building on that success and the resistance of the peoples already repulsed the face of war, and the racist divisions it breeds, we are meeting again in an international rally in London on 20th June 2026. We invite every student and worker, every trade unionist and anti-war activist to attend.

- We will not accept the descent into chaos and war that is the only achievement of the Trump Presidency.
- We reject the warmongering of the European leaders who supported the military aggression against Venezuela.
- We affirm our solidarity with the people of Venezuela and the people of all the countries threatened by Trump and his allies.
- We demand the release of the President of Venezuela and his wife, who were abducted by the US government.

US President Donald Trump, the emperor

of the new war drive, has his international networks of far-right war mongers and chauvinists. He is appealed by the heads of government in Europe, and far beyond Europe. We must create our own international network which will organize for peace, oppose the revitalised US imperial project, and fight for the livelihood, indeed the very lives, of working people.

We want peace. We say no to rearmament, no to conscription, and yes to well funded health, education and public services, decent jobs, and higher wages. We say lower your guns and raise our wages, welfare not warfare, jobs not conscription.

Organisations supporting the conference include:

Alliance of Demand-Based Campaigns (Sudan); Bertrand Russel Peace Foundation (UK); Black Liberation Alliance (UK); Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK); Co-depink (USA); Cornwall Socialist Network (UK); Cuba Solidarity Campaign (UK); Day-Mer (UK); Defend Our Juries (UK); Demilitarise Education (UK); DSA International Committee (USA); Emergency Housing for Unaccompanied Minors, Marseille (France); Future Left FV (Sweden); Friends of Palestine, University of Westminster (UK); Global Campaign on Military Spending (UK); Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers (UK); Indian Workers Association (UK); Jewish Voice for Liberation, JVL (UK); Jewish Voice for Peace (US); Keep Our NHS Public (UK); Lambeth Pensioners Action Group (UK); Media Reform Coalition (UK); MENA solidarity (UK); Morning Star (UK); Movement For Black Lives (USA); Muslim Association of Britain (UK); Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign; Palestinian Forum in Britain PFB (UK); Palestinian Youth Movement (UK); Palestine Solidarity Campaign (UK); Palestine Solidarity Belfast (UK); Palestine Swiss Organization for Development and Peace Opsef (Switzerland); eace & Justice Project (UK); Peace & Justice Party FOR (Norway); Peace from below (Russia-Ukraine); Podemos (Spain); POI (France); Potere al popolo! (Italia); Progressive Lancashire Main Opposition Group on City Council (UK); Red

Left (Denmark); Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign (UK) ; Scottish Venezuela Campaign (UK) ; SIPTU (N. Ireland); Stand Up to Racism (UK); SPOT (UK); Spring (Canada); Stop the War Coalition (UK); Sundanese Women's Union (UK & Ireland); Sudanese Workers' Alliance for the Restoration of Trade Unions; Sudan Doctor's Union (UK branch); Strike Map (UK); Trade Union and Labour Environmentalism Network, TULE (Canada); Transition Security Project (UK); Union of the Post-Soviet Left (Russia-Ukraine-Kazakhstan); Venezuela Solidarity Campaign (UK); World Beyond War (UK); Your Party (UK)

#### National UK unions

ASLEF; BFAWU; EIS; FBU; GFTU; NEU; NIPSA; PCS; SIPTU; SWU; RMT; TSSA; UCU; UNISON.

For hundreds of UK trade union branches, see: <https://www.stopwar.org.uk/article/support-for-the-international-anti-war-conference-is-growing-at-pace-in-the-trade-union-movement/>

#### International organisations/union branches

CGT Amadeus Trade Union; CGT Departmental Union of Ardèche; CGT HAD Section of the Paris Public Hospitals; CGT Local Union of Antibes; CGT Local Union of Annecy; CGT Local Union of Aubenas; CGT Local Union of Toulon; CGT Public Finances Trade Union Section of Var; CGT Trade Union of Beaujon Hospital; CGT Trade Union of Guillaume Régnier Hospital in Rennes; CGT-FO Chamber of Employees and Executives of Social Security and Family Allowance Organisations of the Île-de-France Region; CGT-FO Departmental Unions of the departments of Haute-Loire, Hauts-de-Seine, Loire-Atlantique, Maine-et-Loire; CGT-FO Federal Section of OSDD; CGT-FO Metalworkers' Trade Union of Maine-et-Loire; CGT-FO Retirees' Union of Maine-et-Loire; CGT-FO Trade Union of Angers University Hospital Centre; CGT-FO Trade Union of Employees in the Insurance and Assistance Professions, Hauts-de-Seine; CGT-FO Trade Union of Nantes Hospital Centre; CGT-FO Trade Uni-

on of Secondary Schools and Colleges in the departments of Ain, Aisne, Alpes-Maritimes, Ardèche, Charente, Charente-Maritime, Loire-Atlantique, Haute-Loire, Hauts-de-Seine, Puy-de-Dôme, Bas-Rhin, Rhône, Haute-Savoie, Sarthe, Seine-Maritime, Oise, Tarn, Var, Vendée, Essonne, Hauts-de-Seine, Val-d'Oise, Doubs, Gard, Indre-et-Loire; CGT-FO Trade Union of Territorial Staff of Maine-et-Loire; CGT-FO Trade Union of Vinatier Hospital in Lyon; CGT-FO Unified Trade Union of Head Teachers, Primary School Teachers, School Teachers, PsyEN and AESH in the departments of Allier, Calvados, Charente, Côte-d'Or, Eure, Gard, Haute-Garonne, Gironde, Hérault, Indre-et-Loire, Haute-Loire, Maine-et-Loire, Puy-de-Dôme, Rhône, Haute-Savoie, Seine-Maritime, Tarn, Yonne, Réunion; CGT-FO VYV3 PDL Trade Union Section; CGT-FO Trade Union of Research and Higher Education Staff in the departments of Loire and Savoie; General Union of Palestinian Teachers; National CGT-FO Union of Private Health Sector Trade Unions; National Federation of Education, Culture and Vocational Training CGT-FO; National Trade Union of Hospital Doctors CGT-FO; PCET CGT-FO of Maine-et-Loire; Peasant Confederation of Charente; Pirate Union of Rennes; SDAS CGT-FO of Maine-et-Loire; SUD PTT Seine-Saint-Denis; Penen – Panhellenic Union of Merchant Marine Seamen (Greece); Southern African Democratic Teachers Union.



The remarkable Paris Peace Conference of October 2025 which saw 4,000 participants from Europe, the US, and countries around the globe, establish a network which aims to provide new channels of communication and co-ordination in the struggle for peace and prosperity for working people (watch here: [youtube.com/watch?v=IXG4g2iF-j5E&t=4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXG4g2iF-j5E&t=4s)).

July 4-8  
**NATO Summit protests Istanbul and Ankara**

Istanbul Anti-imperialist Peace Summit  
Istanbul / Kadikoy at 19:00

In anticipation of the NATO summit to be held in Ankara in July 2026, we are organizing an Anti-Imperialist Peace Summit with the participation of peace activists, leftists, and socialists from around the world. Contact us for detailed information about the summit and to apply to participate.

**NO TO NATO INITIATIVE**

Saying No to NATO is not only an objection to the existence of a military pact; it is the will to build a world without war and exploitation where peoples live in solidarity. The "No to NATO Initiative" was established at the invitation of the Workers Party of Turkey (TIP) to strengthen the unity of international peace forces against imperialist aggression.

On 4 April 2026, the NO TO NATO initiative held the Global Anti-Militarist Webinar to build a united international response to the 2026 NATO Summit. The webinar brought together progressive forces from Turkey and around the world who oppose war, militarisation, and NATO.

NATO, with 32 members, 30 of which are in Europe, will meet in Turkey in July 2026, and it will be the first summit where all members increase their "defense spending" by an average of two times the amount, bringing it to 5%. The NATO Summit in Turkey is a summit to implement the war budget, and we cannot remain silent about this.

The NO TO NATO initiative calls on progressive people around the world to oppose NATO's war budget: Let's meet in Turkey in July 2026 at the People's Summit against the NATO Summit to end military pacts, the use of military force, and the support of states like Israel that use military force in violation of international law.

<https://events.worldbeyondwar.org/event/international-anti-imperialist-peace-summit/>

July 31 - August 2  
**Nordic Peace Alliance's 4th Summer Conference 2026**



The peace symposium/conference opens on Friday, July 31 at 6:30 PM and runs until Sunday, August 2 at 2:00 PM

**HOW CAN THE NORDIC REGIONS CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND A STOP TO THE ARMS RACE?**

The main topics that will be addressed are:

The world today, The Arctic Council's new challenges Russia and the Nordic Region today  
HELSINKI + 50 for common security and human rights in Europe

The topics will be highlighted by Nordic peace researchers and collaborators and artists and will be processed through dialogues, panel discussions and workshops and concluded with a circle discussion in plenary.

Speakers: Vivian Motzfeldt, Ingeborg Breines, Frida Stranne, Ove Jakobsen, John Y. Jones, Tytti Erästö, Tony Jenkins, Reiner Braun, Sindre Mørk

There will be several parallel sessions with workshops, see program:  
[https://hardangerakademiet.ticketco.events/no/en/e/nordisk\\_fredskonferanse\\_og\\_freds-symposium\\_2026](https://hardangerakademiet.ticketco.events/no/en/e/nordisk_fredskonferanse_og_freds-symposium_2026)

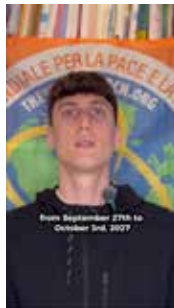
September 21 - 27  
**3rd Global Week of Action  
For Peace and Climate Justice**

Find out more at:  
[www.climatemilitarism.org/weekofaction/](http://www.climatemilitarism.org/weekofaction/)

27 September -2 October 2027

## Active Non-violence World gathering

We will gather in Berlin people and organizations from around the world who embrace nonviolence to send a strong and unequivocal signal that nonviolence is not merely an ethical ideal, but a concrete social practice, a political and cultural strategy... and a personal attitude. We want to demonstrate that we can live differently, that the construction of a truly human civilization is not only possible but is already happening and growing across the globe. We will get to know one another, bear witness, exchange ideas, and share nonviolent experiences in all fields. We will screen films, put on plays, hold art exhibitions, give lectures, conduct workshops... everything our practice and imagination allow!



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xshuy\\_TONCg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xshuy_TONCg)

14-18 November

## Peoples' Climate Summit '26 in Antalya protesting against COP31

Dear climate justice advocates,  
The Peoples' Climate Summit Assembly warmly invites you to join us in building the strongest possible call for real and transformative climate action during COP31 in Antalya (9-20 November 2026).



active participation of 100+ organizations from Turkey – including unions, associations, and institutions together with individual activists and initiatives working on ecology, climate action, human rights, and gender equality. Climate action is too serious to be left to governments alone. Those most affected by the crisis – workers, farmers, disabled people, women, LGBTQI+ community, youth, elders, indigenous groups, migrants, refugees, and local communities – must have the power to shape the decisions that determine our lives and the lives of future generations.

That is why we are building a Peoples' Summit grounded in climate justice, democratic participation, and international solidarity. Our goals include:

amplifying frontline voices and lived realities, connecting local struggles across borders, advancing realistic transformative solutions that challenge fossil fuel dependency, strengthening food sovereignty and supporting agroecology, building energy democracy in all its forms, ensuring that rights, livelihoods and dignity are at the heart of any transition towards a genuinely climate-just future.

Since this struggle is transnational, without you and your organization, we will be incomplete. In early March, we will convene a meeting with our networks to share where we are, discuss what is needed, and coordinate next steps.

More information: <https://medium.com/@nonplatform/a-call-for-peoples-climate-summit-against-ecological-destruction-3ad83d-22b73a>



Our Assembly has been shaped through the

”The Peoples’ Climate Summit Assembly, arguing that Climate Summit (COP) processes have turned into a bargaining ground for states and corporations instead of producing solutions to the climate crisis, has issued a call for the Peoples’ Climate Summit to be held in Antalya concurrently with COP31. The Assembly announced its aim to build a line of struggle in favor of life for those whose voices are not heard at official summits.”

From announcement of the initiative:

### Invitation to **Joint Struggle Against War and Militarism at the People’s Climate Summit**

As the climate crisis is deepening, the escalating wars around the globe, militarisation and security-driven policies threaten not only human lives but the entire web of life on the planet. Whilst the massive carbon footprint of the military is systematically covered up in international negotiations, the ecological destruction, displacements and food and water crises caused by ongoing wars aggravate the global climate injustice. In light of these realities, it is no longer possible to consider the climate crisis independently of the structural violence created by militarism. The ‘Militarism, War and Climate’ Hub, established as one of the hubs working towards the People’s Climate Summit, aims to discuss and highlight militarism—one of the root causes of the climate crisis—and to establish a transformative political strategy against it. COP processes remain confined within the diplomatic boundaries of states and corporations: military emissions are excluded from calculations; the impacts of wars on ecosystems are ignored; the possibility of nuclear war is pushed outside the scope of climate policies; and border militarisation and anti-refugee security regimes are legitimised under the guise of “climate adaptation”. This silence and invisibility are no coincidence; militarism is both the protector and the accelerator of fossil capitalism.

This initiative argues that climate justice can only have real meaning when considered together with struggles for peace, demilitarisation and social equality. Our aim is not me-

rely to analyse the current situation; through the work of this hub we want to establish a strong political line that exposes how militarism deepens the climate crisis, to develop strategies for collective action, to strengthen knowledge sharing, to expand regional and global solidarity networks, and to organise a strong counter-voice against the COP31 process.

Within this framework, we invite all civil society organisations, collectives, research groups and solidarity networks working towards making the ecological and social consequences of wars visible; exposing militarism’s role in the climate crisis; and investigating the links between nuclear threats, border regimes, displacement, the discourse on energy security and the fossil–military complex to join the “Militarism, War and Climate” hub.

Together, we can forge a strong, solidarity-based and transformative front against climate policies shaped under the shadow of war and militarism; together we can weave a climate struggle based on justice, peace and freedom. See you at the People’s Climate Summit.

Signal Group:

[https://signal.group/#CjQKINR0gaTA1Abg-00C5ILYbjhhtBnsjCXLQJ8qVSHI\\_RQ\\_tEh-Ca-xBvd2y2At0rQXhb77qP](https://signal.group/#CjQKINR0gaTA1Abg-00C5ILYbjhhtBnsjCXLQJ8qVSHI_RQ_tEh-Ca-xBvd2y2At0rQXhb77qP)

### **Hello Peacefriends in the world**

We would like to inform you about our Appeal for International Days of Action for Peace on Earth - peace with the earth, for which we are seeking support both here in Sweden and internationally. We are 34 organisations I am attaching the 4 translations of the Appeal that we are now spreading internationally and will distribute at meetings in Europe and the World Social Forum August 4-8 in Cotonou/Benin, Africa.

We would be very happy if you want to support/sign this Appeal and help us spread information about it and its message/suggestions.



# ECONOMIC JUSTICE

## Program of Action on the Construction of a New International Economic Order

50 years ago, the nations of the Third World united behind a vision of sovereign development and international cooperation across areas such as trade, finance, and technology. That vision became known as the New International Economic Order (NIEO) — and in 1974, they won a UN Declaration on its Establishment (3201 S-VI) and a Program of Action (3202 S-VI) for its implementation.

The prosperity of the international community as a whole depends upon the prosperity of its constituent parts. The political, economic and social well-being of present and future generations depends more than ever on co-operation between all the members of the international community on the basis of sovereign equality and the removal of the disequilibrium that exists between them. Five decades later, however, that disequilibrium endures. The world may have undergone profound transformations in the intervening years: social, political, and economic in nature. But the ‘Brandt Line’ that once defined the developmental divide between North and South persists today — along with the institutions that sustain this international disequilibrium.

On its 50th anniversary, the NIEO thus merits revival, but requires renovation. How might we adapt this vision to the conditions of the twenty-first century? How might we confront the crises of climate change, viral pandemic, and extreme poverty that threaten billions of lives and livelihoods across the planet? And how might we ensure the success of such a program of action where its predecessor failed?

Over the past two years, the Progressive International has convened scholars, diplomats, and policymakers from over 50 countries to answer these questions. From Brussels to Kampala and beyond, these deliberations have called on representatives from across the Group of 77 to reimagine the New Inter-

national Economic Order, and the tactics to win it.

At the 5th International Conference for World Equilibrium in Havana, these collective deliberations yielded a strategy to ‘assert Southern power’ to secure a new global contract on sovereign development, as set out in the Havana Declaration presented to the Conference presidium in January 2023.

The Congress recognizes that economic liberation will not be granted, but must be seized. Our vision can only be realized through the formation of new and alternative institutions to share critical technology, tackle sovereign debt, drive development finance, and face future pandemics together. Since then, the members of this ‘Havana Group’ have collaborated from their respective corners of the world to develop that vision into a comprehensive Program of Action on the Construction of a New International Economic Order: a handbook for an insurgent South in the 21st century, with measures that combine clarity and audacity to drive sovereign development in turbulent times.

<https://progressive.international/blueprint/9be64adc-4f0d-423d-bc5f-42cc3cef1921-program-of-action-on-the-construction-of-a-new-international-economic-order/en/>

## The New International Economic Order 1974-2024

A collection of reflections and policy proposals to mark the 50th anniversary of the New International Economic Order and update it for the 21st century.

<https://progressive.international/blueprint/collection/7e2256c4-1bb2-49a3-bf78-a3e-0bc6160d2-new-international-economic-order/en/>

## Towards a Bandung de los Pueblos

We are happy to share with you our contribution to our many conversations about the rebuilding of multilateralism. Developed through consultations across Africa, Asia, and Latin America with social movements,

trade unions, activist scholars, peace activists, and civil society organizations, Towards a Bandung de los Pueblos reflects our collective thinking about the challenges and possibilities of the moment we live in. We will very much appreciate your support in sharing it in your networks: These are the links to the article:

<https://www.tni.org/en/article/towards-a-bandung-de-los-pueblos>

This paper's central proposal is the construction of a Global South Front: not a bloc of states, but the organized transnational left, comprising social movements, trade unions, progressive governments, and thinkers capable of acting as an internationalist collective political subject. Crucially, it defines the Global South along two axes: the peoples and states sharing a political Southern geography, still carrying the weight of colonialism and extractivism; and the "Global South in the North", the migrants, refugees, marginalized communities, and impoverished workers whose lives embody the unfinished project of decolonization, from Paris to Texas.

Rather than offering a fixed plan or blueprint, it gathers reflections, questions, and lessons from our collective experience in multilateral spaces, including in the architecture of the trade regime - pointing to existing initiatives with which many of you are engaged, as building blocks laying the foundation and framing of a Global South Front.

Seventy years after Bandung, we look forward towards what the peoples of the South can build together. We hope this paper can contribute to our many struggles, and warmly invite your reflections, critiques, and suggestions as we explore together how to translate these ideas into movement.

### **A new trade framework based on food sovereignty is urgent and necessary!**



For nearly thirty years the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), peasants' organisations gathered in Cameroon have concluded that the WTO and free trade agreements hinder the development of countries in the Global South and lead to the ruin of small-scale producers worldwide, increased global hunger, increased indebtedness, environmental destruction and rising inequality. We call for the creation of an alternative to the WTO: a new trade framework based on food sovereignty and international solidarity.

<https://viacampesina.org/en/2026/03/yaounde-declaration-the-wto-and-free-trade-cause-hunger-poverty-and-inequality/>



# DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## Radical Democracy

Radical democracy as part of the solution to the present global crisis

In an article titled "The crisis of globalization and the search for alternatives - Moving towards genuine self-reliance in times of war and climate collapse" Ashish Khotari, active in Global Tapestry of Alternatives, Adelante and WSA brings up solutions to the global crisis:

"thousands of initiatives across the world are demonstrating one or more of the following: Economic self-reliance for crucial aspects like water, food, energy, housing, sanitation, and exchange.

Political self-determination, or radical democracy, with processes that assert the centrality of decision-making by local assemblies (rural or urban)

6. Sustaining or reasserting cultural and social identity, but not in ways that undermine the identities and uniqueness of other communities and collectives.

Communal innovation and management of aspects like education, health, mobility, and communications.

Sustaining or reviving practices of conservation of local ecosystems and species, embedded within ideologies or cosmologies that consider humans as part of nature, connected to all of life in material-cultural-spiritual ways."

Read the full article here: <https://www.meer.com/en/105883-the-crisis-of-globalization-and-the-search-for-alternatives>

## Global Tapestry of Alternatives Dictionary

Dear friends,  
On behalf of the GTA Dictionary Working

Group, I am very pleased to share with you the platform for the Dictionary of Radical Alternatives that we have been putting together. As you will see, the site now allows for the submission of concepts, definitions, illustrations, and translations. You can find everything here:  
<https://dictionaryofradicalalternatives.org/>

With many thanks and best wishes,  
Carlos on behalf of the GTA Dictionary Working Group

## 1st INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST CONFERENCE FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PEOPLES

Gathered in Porto Alegre — a city that symbolizes international struggles and holds important democratic traditions and aspirations — thousands of activists from more than forty countries across five continents celebrate our unity in diversity, seeking to advance organization for resistance and the struggle against the various forms of fascism, the far right, and imperialism in its most aggressive phase.



*Part of the CADTM delegation at the Porto Alegre Conference on March 29, 2026. Photo: Antoine Larrache, CC.*



*Opening march of the Porto Alegre Antifa Conference on March 26, 2026, with over 5,000 protesters. Photo: CADTM, cc.*



Porto Alegre Declaration : Unity Against Fascism And For The Sovereignty Of Peoples

<https://www.cadtm.org/Porto-Alegre-Declaration-Unity-Against-Fascism-And-For-The-Sovereignty-Of>

Preparations: Global Front Against Neo-fascism and Imperialism: 565 Figures and 900 Activists from 100 Countries Form a Common Front

<https://www.cadtm.org/Global-Front-Against-Neo-fascism-and-Imperialism-565-Figures-and-900-Activists>

Analysis: Porto Alegre 2026: an anti-fascist and anti-imperialist convergence, between unprecedented success and major obstacles 10 April by Eric Toussaint



*Éric Toussaint at the opening plenary session of the Porto Alegre Antifa Conference on March 27, 2026. Photo: CADTM, CC*

In early 2024, the PT and the PSOL in Porto Alegre agreed to set up a local joint committee to organise an international conference in the city that had been the birthplace of

the World Social Forum in January 2001. The local branches of these two parties obtained the green light from their national leaderships (though the latter were not particularly enthusiastic about the project or made it a genuine priority) and sought to broaden the support base.

”It should also be noted that, in 2024, CADTM made contact with political leaders from various European countries to propose organising a unified conference in Europe, but the initiative did not come to fruition. The political fragmentation of the left in Europe is very severe, and the focus on domestic politics clearly takes precedence over international affairs [4] . This is a clear step backwards compared to the 2000s and is deeply worrying given the extent to which the far right is growing in every country across Europe.”

Initially, when we circulated the invitation letter signed mainly by the presidents of the PT, PSOL and PCdoB in Porto Alegre, the reception was not very warm. The invitation letter mentioned the support given to the initiative by numerous local social organisations, but the leadership roles of these three parties were evident and constituted an obstacle outside Latin America.

In Europe, organisations typically do not sign declarations with parties or respond to their calls. Such behaviour posed real difficulties. In Latin America and Asia, such behaviour poses less of a problem, or no problem at all.

It was in December 2025 that we at CADTM International came up with the idea of drafting a broad appeal and launching it in our name, as an international network, to try to overcome as many obstacles as possible and broaden support. Between 19 December 2025 and 20 January 2026, we collected signatures for the international appeal to strengthen the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist struggle. The appeal is radical, short, combative, and unifying and avoids singling out the United States and its allies as the sole imperialist bloc. The appeal criticises all forms of imperialist and colonialist aggression, no matter where they come from, and

states that people must be supported in their resistance against such aggression, even if it means fighting back when needed. The genocide perpetrated by Netanyahu's neo-fascist government in Gaza is denounced.

Was the Porto Alegre conference a success?

Yes, it is a success. Managing to bring together more than 5,000 participants (actual figure) at the opening march is a success. Convincing participants to make the journey from over 40 countries without financial support from the authorities or major foundations is a success. The only foreign foundation to provide financial support was the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, which paid for the interpreting at the 11 main plenary sessions. We must not forget that PT, PCdoB and PSOL are in opposition in Porto Alegre and in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The extreme right currently holds power in the region. Lula's government did not provide any funding.

At the first social forums, the situation was different: the PT and its allies were in government in Rio Grande do Sul and Porto Alegre. The support of the French monthly *Le Monde diplomatique* and its numerous national editions had been crucial in ensuring widespread coverage from the very first initiative. Above all, the movement opposing neoliberal capitalist globalisation was in full swing: the 1990s had seen a proliferation of protests across the globe, while 1999 and 2000 were marked by massive international demonstrations in Seattle, Washington, Bangkok, Seoul, Europe, and elsewhere. Buoyed by these protests, several progressive governments came to power in Latin America: Chávez in Venezuela (1999), Lula in Brazil (2003), Evo Morales in Bolivia (2005), Manuel Zelaya in Honduras (2006), Rafael Correa in Ecuador (2007), and Lugo in Paraguay (2008).

This climate of growing protests and the movement known as the anti-globalisation movement, advocating for 'another possible world', lasted at least until 2006–2007 and saw a resurgence in 2009–2012 with the protests that followed the 2008 financial crisis,

the Arab Spring (2011) and the Indignados and Occupy Wall Street movements (2011).

Nothing of the sort exists in 2026. We are currently experiencing the most challenging period in the past 40 years globally, and in Europe, it is the most challenging since the Second World War, marked by an unprecedented rise of the far right and a new large-scale war following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Against this backdrop, bringing together over 3,000 participants—many of them highly militant young people—in just three days to attend 11 plenary sessions and 150 self-organised activities was a significant success. The main halls remained packed right up to and including the final plenary session on the afternoon of Sunday, March 29.

The final declaration is useful because it provides a clear and concise analysis of the current fascist threat and the rise of imperialist aggression. The text states: 'We fight against all forms of imperialism and support the peoples' struggle for self-determination by all necessary means.' The declaration emphasises the need for unity despite differences: "The forces fighting the rise of the far right are diverse and have different analyses, strategies, tactics, programmes and alliance policies. Experience teaches us that, whilst recognising these differences, it is essential to organise a united struggle against our enemies."

The text calls "for the fight against imperialist and colonial aggression, whatever its origin; for the struggle to end NATO; and for support for the struggle of the peoples and governments that are resisting."



*A packed hall for the final plenary session of the Porto Alegre conference on March 29, 2026. Photo: CADTM, CC*



*Closing plenary of the Porto Alegre Anti-fasc Conference on March 29, 2026. Photo: CADTM, CC*

What internationalist position should we adopt?

The key question for us, as revolutionaries and as internationalists, is this: on whose side do we stand? Our answer is clear. We stand with the people against the aims of big capital and the clashes between major powers and the various imperialisms.

In concrete terms, our position means that we support the activists in Russia and Ukraine who oppose the war waged by Russia in Ukraine. Affirming these positions necessitates a critique of the neoliberal and chauvinist nationalist policies of V. Zelensky's right-wing government, as well as a denunciation of NATO and the imperialist aims of Trump and the Europeans regarding Ukraine. We support the workers, students, and social movements in China that are fighting for their rights, better living conditions, and greater political freedoms. We also support workers and the masses in the United States who are fighting against Trump's policies.

We defend the sovereignty of countries in the Western Hemisphere and other parts of the world against the United States' aggressive strategy of domination. We support people's right to self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources. We oppose all imperialist and colonialist aggression, whatever its origin.

In Europe, we oppose the imperialist and neo-colonial policies of our governments and denounce their complicity with Netanyahu's

neo-fascist government, which is committing genocide against the Palestinian people. We oppose the inhumane policies practiced by the majority of governments across the globe toward migrants and asylum seekers. We support all internationalist solidarity activities.

We defend a genuinely internationalist perspective. We stand with people against their oppressors. We are actively engaged with other political and social forces in continuing the efforts that led to the organisation and success of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil (26–29 March 2026). We are continuing to collect signatures for the International Call for the Strengthening of Anti-Fascist and Anti-Imperialist Action. And, as the CADTM international network, we are signing the final declaration of the Porto Alegre conference.

“Women's resistance to the murderous policies of imperialists is to keep life going”  
24 April by Penelope Duggan



*Caption: Penelope Duggan during her speech on March 29, 2026, in Porto Alegre.*

*Photo: Inprecor CC*

This contribution was made during the panel Anti-racism, Feminism, and Civil Rights in the Struggle Against Fascism at the 1st INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST CONFERENCE FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PEOPLES held in Porto Alegre, Brazil from 26th-29th March 2026

Since the beginning of this century, we have seen the rise of far-right, authoritarian, theocratic forces, which are radicalizing towards fascism if not already fascist.

This poses a danger to the entire planet: we have witnessed the wars unleashed by Russia in Ukraine through its imperialist invasion; Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinian

people, which has intensified since October 2023 although it has been ongoing for decades; the war in Sudan; the war waged jointly by the US and Israel against Iran and Lebanon, which is also causing great loss of life among the population, even targeting children's schools; we have seen Trump's bellicose actions and threats in Venezuela, against Cuba, against Greenland, and his war against his own people and migrants.

This far right is openly characterized by its racism, but also by its sexism, these are not separate spheres or ideologies but intrinsic to the far right's ideology.

These forces in government are introducing a profound and systemic shift in dealing with gender issues, placing the regulation of women's bodies and the heteronormative family at the heart of their national agendas, based on a few common principles:

- That women must devote themselves to the family, and not hold leadership positions in society.
- That motherhood is a duty to the nation, and not a choice.
- That "national values" entail excluding those who represent "the other" – such as immigrants, Muslims and people of colour, or ideas perceived as coming from elsewhere

Gen Z in Revolt: From Dhaka to Kathmandu

From Dhaka to Kathmandu, youth movements are exposing the crisis of capitalism but struggling to transform anger into organisation

19 April by Sushovan Dhar



"This experience affects how young people

respond to politics today. Disillusionment is not directed only at the state but at the broader horizon of change itself. This perception goes beyond the simple ineffectiveness of institutions. The youth believe that even significant moments of upheaval can be absorbed without fundamentally altering the core structures. The discourse surrounding anti-corruption reveals a deeper truth: a widespread recognition exists that the anticipated promise of transformation has been postponed, possibly indefinitely."

For popular unity against fascism and all imperialisms, and for the self-determination all peoples

2 April by Collective , Rafael Bernabe



Solidarity with Cuba

Puerto Rico shares a special bond with Cuba. We were Spain's last colonies in the Americas. We fought together against Spanish colonialism and for the confederation of the Antilles. Both were occupied by the United States in 1898. No one has shown greater solidarity with Puerto Rico's independence than Cuba. Solidarity with Cuba is a duty for us and must be a central pillar of the anti-imperialist struggle today.

That struggle has also shown that our ruling classes lack anti-imperialist will. To confront imperialism, therefore, a united front of the working classes and all oppressed sectors is necessary, with total independence from the bourgeoisie and its institutions. That independence must extend to so-called progressive governments. Today we see them hesitating when it comes to supporting Cuba. Waiting for Trump's permission to send oil.

They do not see that by allowing Cuba's independence to be undermined, they are paving the way for the undermining of whatever remains of their own independence; that what imperialism is doing to Cuba today, it will do to them tomorrow. Cuba needs fuel, and we must demand that governments capable of supplying it do so immediately, defying the tightening of the blockade imposed by Trump.

That united front is equally necessary to confront fascism and the far right. Today we see how various sectors believe they can neutralize the far right by adopting parts of its rhetoric. We cannot trust those classes that are unable or unwilling to confront the dangers that threaten us.

We need to build movements that, starting from the most urgent concerns of the people, lead to a challenge of private control over production. The crisis of capitalist civilization—economic, political, ecological, and climatic—raises the possibility and necessity of linking the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist struggle with the need to overcome capitalism.

<https://www.cadtm.org/For-popular-unity-against-fascism-and-all-imperialisms-and-for-the-self>



*Sushovan Dhar (CADTM India) at antifa Porto Alegre conference on 27/03/2026*

CADTM publishes the speech delivered by

Sushovan Dhar from CADTM India at the 5th Plenary Session of the Anti-Fascist and Anti-Imperialist Conference held in Porto Alegre. The intervention addressed the growing convergence between imperialism and far-right politics, critiqued the limits of emerging multipolarity, and emphasised the need for renewed international solidarity among peoples.

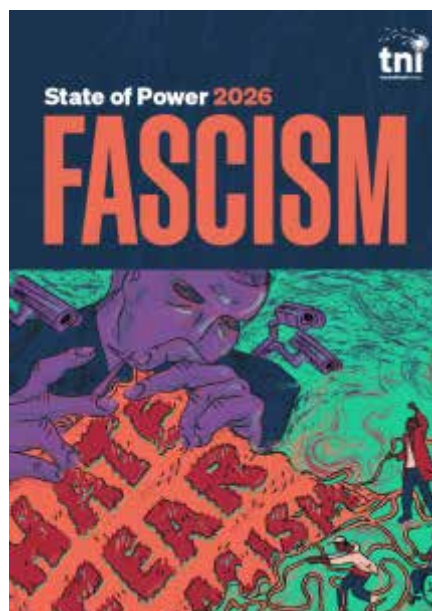
The current global moment is marked by a dangerous convergence of three broad trends: the rise of authoritarian nationalism — at times exclusive ultra-nationalism — the growth of far-right movements, and renewed imperialist competition between global and regional powers. These developments are not isolated phenomena but deeply interconnected expressions of a broader crisis of global capitalism and political legitimacy.

<https://www.cadtm.org/Anti-Imperialism-in-an-Age-of-Rising-Fascism-Solidarity-Beyond-Competing-Powers>

## STATE OF POWER AUTHORITARIANISM

Fascism and the far right are on the rise. TNI's 14th State of Power report looks behind the news headlines at the underlying reasons for their rise, the economic interests that support them, the ways they weaponise today's social and ecological crises for their benefit and proposals on how we can fight back.

<https://www.tni.org/en/publication/fascism>



## **Call for justice against the blatant violations and forced disappearances in North East Syria**

Dear signers of the petition,

With unwavering determination and solid popular support, we are pleased to announce the conclusion of the extensive signature campaign launched by Kongra Star in coordination with women's organisations, civil society organisations and political forces. The campaign took place from 12 to 17 March 2026. This campaign was a resounding cry for justice against the blatant violations and forced disappearances targeting our people in the Sheikh Maqsoud, Ashrafiyeh, Deir Hafer, Tabqa and Raqqa neighbourhoods. The campaign publicly confirms our categorical rejection of the treacherous and abusive policies practised by the 'General Security' forces of the Transitional Government, which disregard all international conventions and concluded agreements.

The campaign resulted in the collection of 349 signatures from legal and civil figures and institutions, particularly from Syria, but also from other countries such as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Argentina, Australia, the United Kingdom, Colombia, India, Finland, Germany, the USA, Chiapas, Catalonia, France, Switzerland, the Philippines, Italy, Spain, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Poland, Scotland, Galicia, Mexico, Sudan, Lebanon, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Brazil and Denmark. All of these individuals and organizations declared with one voice that the issue of the disappeared is a matter of human dignity that accepts no compromise or delay.

This figure reflects the extent of popular cohesion and determination to break the silence surrounding the tragedy experienced by thousands of families caught between loss and the harsh reality of waiting. It is a damning document of popular condemnation of the systematic blackout and practices that have descended to the level of war crimes.

On this occasion, Kongra Star and all the organising entities would like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude to everyone

who contributed to the success of this humanitarian endeavour. We would like to specifically mention the families of prisoners and missing persons, whose patience and steadfastness were the true driving force behind this movement. We also salute all the women's, legal and civil organisations that supported the efforts on the ground, as well as every citizen who signed petitions to give a voice to those robbed of their freedom behind bars. This solidarity is the true guarantee of protecting the Syrian social fabric and safeguarding the inherent right to life and liberty.

In conclusion, we would like to inform public opinion and the international community that these results, which are supported by the signatures of the people, will officially be sent as attachments to a formal legal memorandum addressed to the relevant international bodies: the General Secretariat of the United Nations, the Presidency of the UN Security Council, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture. We entrust this common will to international organisations, holding them accountable for their historical and legal responsibilities. We reiterate that our struggle will persist through all legitimate means until the fate of every missing person is revealed and all prisoners and detainees are released immediately and unconditionally.

Kongra Star, 18 March 2026

Kongra Star is a democratic women's confederal structural organization. It attaches importance to organizing, educating and empowering women and the struggle for women's equality and freedom in all areas of life. It was founded in 2005 under the name of Yêkitiya Star. Kongra Star organizes itself in Rojava, North and East Syria and in Syria. Kongra Star has representatives in Southern Kurdistan, Lebanon and Europe.

The basis of Kongra Star's paradigm is democracy, ecology and women's freedom. By developing women's freedom and the concept of a democratic nation, it seeks to build a free Rojava, a democratic Syria and a

democratic Middle East. This means that the people themselves become a nation by developing autonomous institutions of self-defense, economy, law, society, diplomacy and culture without relying on power and the state. Kongra Star struggles against the ruling patriarchal, racist, capitalist ideology and organizes for an equal, free and just society.

<https://kongra-star.org/>

## **Grzegorz Gawel, has been released in Belarus**

We would like to share remarkable news—made possible only through our collective efforts, persistence, and solidarity.

Today, on April 28, it became known that . A person who, until recently, was almost unknown and whose case gained attention thanks to our joint efforts is now free and safe. He has been transferred directly from a Belarusian prison to Poland.

This is the result of a shared struggle and yet another reminder: we must never give up.

We express our deep gratitude to all anti-nuclear initiatives that raised this issue and demanded justice—including WRI, ICAN, Nuke Resisters, Mayors for Peace, IPB, DFG-VK, IFOR Austria, BSV, Movimento Nonviolento, and many, many others.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who wrote letters of support and solidarity. Yes, the Belarusian KGB attempted to block these letters, withheld them from the monk, and returned them to senders. But what they could not block was our solidarity.

We also thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Belarus section), the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Belarus, our international partners, and human rights organizations. Special thanks go to Polish politicians, whose attention to this case was drawn in part through our collective efforts.

Every action and every step we took mattered. The monk was facing a long prison sentence, torture, and possibly even the death

penalty.

“Our House,” together with WRI, recognized Monk Grzegorz as a Prisoner for Peace. The accusations of “nuclear espionage” do not withstand scrutiny: the subject of nuclear weapons and related information cannot, in itself, serve as grounds for such repression. This release is proof that our solidarity works.

We achieved this together. A monk who stood for peace and against nuclear weapons is now free—and this is our shared victory.

Here is the description of his case:

<https://ndbelarus.com/2025/12/03/polish-monk-detained-in-belarus-on-espionage-charges/>

Recognition of monk Grzegorz as a Prisoner for Peace by Nash Dom and WRI:

<https://ndbelarus.com/2025/12/05/belarusian-prisoners-for-peace-in-belarus/>

## **Russia: Memorial designated as “extremist”**

On Thursday, Russia’s Supreme Court designated the “Memorial” organization as “extremist”. The decision potentially criminalizes e.g. sharing “Memorial” reports on current political repression, labeling it as “extremist activities”.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/04/09/russias-supreme-court-designates-nobel-prize-winning-memorial-as-extremist-a92462> :

”The ruling targets what the court termed the “Memorial international public movement,” an umbrella designation that the group itself notes has no formal legal entity, but which allows authorities to shutter any remaining projects or “structural divisions” linked to its name.

In a statement, the Supreme Court justified the ban by claiming Memorial’s activities are “markedly anti-Russian” and intended to “erode historical, cultural, spiritual and moral values” while undermining the “fundamental pillars of Russian statehood.”

<...>

The extremist label carries severe legal consequences. Authorities can now pursue criminal charges against any Russian citizen who cooperates with Memorial's network in exile, shares content it produces or provides financial support”.

### **Egypt: Poetry at the Barricades: On the Imprisonment of Ahmed Douma**

The Egyptian revolutionary and poet is once again in prison.

”Douma’s searing poetry holds an unwavering commitment to political prisoners in Egypt and worldwide, and to Palestine. During his incarceration, he wrote poems voraciously and considered it the prisoner’s lifeline. His collection *Curly* emerged from this work behind bars and appeared at the 2021 Cairo International Book Fair through El Maraya publishing house, before security officials banned the book, raided the publisher’s wing and ordered the collection removed from its shelves.”

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/free-ahmed-douma-egypt-2011-revolution-political-prisoner/>

### **War prisoners: How both Russia and Ukraine jail thousands of civilians using nearly identical KGB-era entrapment methods**

Because of the Russia–Ukraine war, thousands of people in both countries have ended up in prison. Meduza reveals how security services target their own citizens, and why almost no one will help those imprisoned.

Who are the ‘war prisoners’?

In Russia, the human rights organization Memorial counts at least 1,450 people imprisoned on wartime political charges. The offenses range from social media posts to fabricated acts of treason and entrapment-driven “terrorist” attacks. In most cases, Memorial notes, the only victim of the supposed crime is the accused.

In Ukraine, more than 30,000 criminal cases

have been opened under collaboration and wartime security statutes. Courts, which acquit at a rate of 0.05 percent, have ordered more than 2,000 arrests. According to the U.N. Human Rights Office, at least 21 of 326 people found guilty of collaboration between June and November 2025 were convicted for actions that could lawfully be compelled by Russian occupiers.

The invasion of Ukraine has put thousands of civilians behind bars on both sides of the conflict. Not all of these people meet the criteria that organizations like Amnesty International use to designate political prisoners, but they nevertheless constitute a distinct group that Meduza calls “war prisoners.”

In a special report for Meduza (available in Russian), journalist Shura Burtin spent months documenting war prisoners in both Russia and Ukraine. He reviewed hundreds of published court verdicts, watched scores of video interviews conducted by state-backed propagandists with convicted “collaborators,” and systematically compared the claims of each country’s domestic intelligence agency with what appears in the actual case files. Burtin’s central finding is that both countries’ security services — institutional descendants of the KGB — have responded to the war with the same methods, producing a single phenomenon: thousands of convictions against civilians who pose no threat to anyone.

Who ends up behind bars?

On the Russian side, the largest group consists of Ukrainian civilians seized in occupied territories during “filtration” sweeps at checkpoints or in raids on their homes. Memorial has identified 573 with active criminal cases. At least 1,500 more are held in a legal gray zone, detained without charges under a designation — “held for opposing the special military operation” — that appears nowhere in Russian law.

In Ukraine, many war prisoners are Ukrainians convicted for working during the occupation — a broad category that includes everyone from postal workers who stayed at their counters to people who, under varying

degrees of coercion, took on leadership roles vacated by officials who had fled. Sentences range from five to 15 years. Ukrainian courts sometimes draw little distinction between those who were coerced and those who volunteered.

Beyond these two groups, both countries hold prisoners whose offenses amount to speech. In Russia, poets, librarians, students, and pensioners are serving up to 15 years in prison for social media posts, graffiti, and, in some cases, interviews with journalists. Several have died in custody. In Ukraine, people have been sentenced for phone calls to relatives in Russia and Russian-occupied territories, for liked social media posts, and for private messages in which they described military activity visible to anyone in town.

Telephones figure in another category of war prisoners: the predominantly elderly Russians targeted by Ukrainian scammers. Fraud operations deceive seniors into draining their bank accounts, then manipulate them into committing arson — convincing them they are assisting Russian law enforcement. Victims face terrorism charges carrying sentences of 10 years or more. Intelligence services in both countries also recruit the other side's teenagers through darknet channels, messaging bots, and gaming platforms, paying small sums to set fires or photograph military sites. These teenagers face terrorism charges carrying sentences of up to 20 years. In more extreme cases, intelligence services recruit civilians — sometimes teenagers — as unwitting carriers of explosives, sending them to their targets and sometimes to their deaths.

Burtin's research highlights another group: the victims of entrapment operations that both countries' intelligence agencies run against their own civilians.

Read more here: <https://meduza.io/en/brief/2026/04/28/war-prisoners>

### **Turkey: Press Statement from Polen Ecology Collective Regarding Detentions and Arrests**

The Polen Ecology Collective issued a press

release for the life defenders arrested during the operations that began on February 3 and spread to 22 cities. The statement emphasized that the arrests aimed to separate the ecological struggle from the class struggle.



“82 Prisoners, Dozens Arrested: Targeted Organized Will”

It was reported that over 100 people were detained in operations that began on the morning of February 3 and spread to 22 cities, 82 of whom were arrested. It was stated that individuals including members of the Polen Ecology Collective and the Bakırtepe Environmental Platform were targeted in the operations.

The statement indicated that nature and life defenders Yağmur Apa, Pınar Gayip, Aytaç Sarıkaya, Aynur Ergül, Can Tekin, Cemil Aksu, and Cemre Nayir were arrested, while Tuğçe Eylem Ceylan was placed under house arrest. It was also reported that on the morning of February 17, Collective members Çise Yıldız and Yücel Kurşun were detained as part of an investigation based in Balıkesir. The statement assessed the scope of the operations with the following words:

“This attack is undoubtedly an attempt to eliminate the organized will of the working class, those fighting for women's and LGBT+ freedoms, those defending life against ecological destruction, those fighting for animal liberation, Kurds, Armenians, Alevis, migrants, and all oppressed people in their struggle for freedom and equality.”

<https://medium.com/@nonplatform/press-statement-from-polen-ecology-collective-regarding-detentions-and-arrests-7582aa8000a3>

# Release political prisoners and end repression now!

We call for a campaign to release political prisoners in all countries and to stop deportation and other forms of repression and harassment of political opinion. The escalation of conflicts in the world have brought about the creation of enemy images of not countries seen as opponents but also domestic opposition to status quo. Solidarity and friendship between peoples have been eroded when states and corporations use their power to divide and rule.

We as independent movements have the power to stand up against this when we start to act in solidarity with all oppressed and stop using double standards. This is why we start a campaign to release political prisoners and stop deportations addressing a tip of the iceberg of repression and harassment of political opinion and freedom of expression.

We highlight cases in Azerbaijan, Israel, Lithuania, Russia, Sweden, UK, Ukraine and the US. Apart from these specific cases we call for the release of all political prisoners and deportations. We include also the EU sanctions against German and Swiss citizens due to their pro-Palestinian opposition against German support for Israel, pro Sahel state opposition against French exploitation and opposition against EU Ukraine policy. This is a damaging extrajudicial administrative attack on freedom of expression and right to access your bank account and travel.

Furthermore we specially address the right for consciousness objectors in all countries including Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to not go into the military. We also call for more systematic exchange of experience between movement and expand a common knowledge on different forms of repression and harassment and ways to stand up together acknowledging that the attack on the freedom of expression of one of us is an attack of all.

The social forum network Prague Spring 2 against right wing extremism and populism (PS2) supported by People and Peace working group on Democracy and suppression of opinion together with Worlds Social Assembly of Struggles and Resistances of WSF.

Azerbaijan

**Bahrüz Samadov**



Bahrüz Samadov is a political analyst, researcher, and peace activist from Azerbaijan. He studied and worked at Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic. In his publications, he criticized the Azerbaijani regime for its authoritarian practices and militarist policies, particularly condemning the war with Armenia.

On August 21, 2024, when being in Azerbaijan on vacation, he was detained by the State Security Service and charged with high treason under Article 274 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan. Samadov was accused of collaboration with Armenian intelligence; he denies the accusations. The prosecution provided no evidence beyond his correspondence with Armenian academics.

In June 2025, a Baku court sentenced Samadov to 15 years in prison, a verdict that he and his supporters describe as fabricated and aimed at suppressing criticism and freedom of expression.

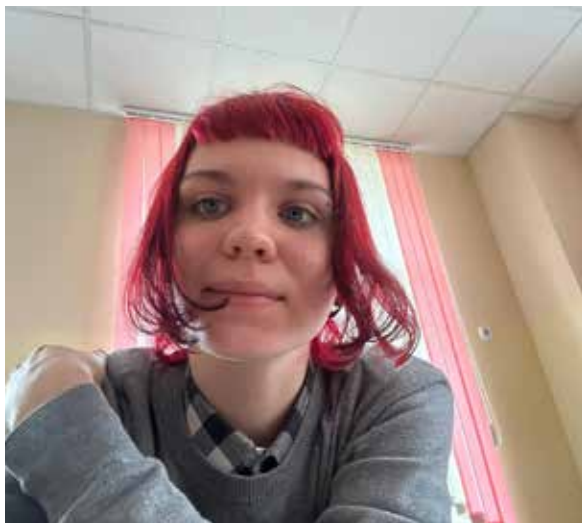
In the end of 2025, the authorities decided to transfer him to the high-security Umbaki prison (about 70 km from Baku). He believes his life is in danger there (and evidence about the Azerbaijani prisons suggests that this may be quite true). On Feb. 5, 2026, the appeal court upheld the decision. Right now, he seems to be held in Umbaki.

On Bahruz Samadov case, the basic information can be found e.g. on <https://freebahruzcampaign.org/> and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/free-bahruz-campaign/posts/?feedView=all>

Particularly, his political positions were expressed in his Feb. 5 appeal court speech: <https://freebahruzcampaign.org/news/court-speech-february-2026>

Belarus

### Alexandra Pulinovich



Help the “Black Nightingales” gain their freedom.

The “Black Nightingales” case is already beginning to attract international attention thanks to your support. We express our deep gratitude, as well as to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Belarus and his office, for their attention to the fate of minor political prisoners in Belarus.

Children must not be in prisons — especially on politically motivated charges — in any

country.

Freedom for Alexandra Pulinovich and all children detained in the “Black Nightingales” case.

<https://ndbelarus.com/2026/04/15/free-aliaksandra-pulinovich/>  
Anatolij Kotov and Nash Dom, look at Nash Dom website

Israel/Palestine

### Marwan Barghouti



Marwan Barghouti is a Palestinian political leader who has served as an elected legislator and has advocated a two-state solution since before his imprisonment by Israel.

Barghouti led street protests and diplomatic initiatives until 2002, the early days of the Second Intifada, when he was captured, convicted, and imprisoned by Israel on charges of involvement in deadly attacks that resulted in the deaths of five people. Barghouti refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of the court or plea, but stated that he had no connection to the incidents for which he was convicted. A report by the Inter-Parliamentary Union found that Barghouti did not receive a fair trial and questioned the quality of the evidence.

Despite his prison sentence, Barghouti has consistently topped opinion polls asking Palestinians who they would vote for in a presidential election, ahead of both current Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the leader of Hamas. Several prominent supporters of a resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process see Barghouti as the leader best able to unite the Palestinians and negotiate a compromise with Israel. He has been called the "Palestinian Mandela".

During his years in prison, Barghouti has remained politically active. He was an initiator and lead author of the 2006 Palestinian prisoners' document, which proposed a political path to a two-state solution, and received support from Hamas. He has organized education for fellow prisoners and led a hunger strike in 2017 that led to increased visitation rights. Since October 2023, he has been denied visits from his family and has been severely beaten several times, which has led to lasting health damage, according to his lawyer. Israeli authorities have rejected his complaints about the events. Several attempts to obtain his release through negotiations have failed.

Wikipedia:

Marwan Barghouti is a Palestinian political leader who has served as an elected legislator and has been an advocate of a two-state solution since prior to his imprisonment by Israel.

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rent Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas and leaders of Hamas. Several prominent supporters of a resumption of the Israel-Palestine peace process view Barghouti as the leader most able to unify the Palestinians and negotiate a compromise with Israel. He has been referred to as "the Palestinian Mandela".

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Lithuania

**Algirdas Paleckis**



Algirdas Paleckis, is serving a sentence for having publicly recalled that the chair of the National Security and Defence Committee of

the Parliament has been a member of a Nazi party. Laurynas Kasciunas was indeed head of the youth organization of the National Democratic Party of Lithuania, a far-right organization, Nevertheless, by a court decision on Kasciunas' appeal, Paleckis was sentenced to no less than a prison term. In another decision, he was sentenced for "belittling the role of Lithuania's post-Second World War guerilla movement against the Soviet authorities." In total, in 2025, 1 year and 10 months were added to the six years custodial sentence of 2023 for "intending to spy for Russia." The "spying" consisted of collecting information on the events of January 1991 in Vilnius.

<https://grokipedia.com/page/algirdas-paleckis>

Laurynas Kasčiūnas who Paleckis was sentenced additional prison term for defaming as Nazi:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurynas\\_Kas%C4%8Di%C5%ABnas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurynas_Kas%C4%8Di%C5%ABnas)

Russia

## Boris Kagarlitsky



Boris Kagarlitsky serves a five-year prison sentence imposed in February 2024 by Russian authorities, following charges of "ju-

stifying terrorism." This decision stems from an ironic video commentary on the Crimean Bridge explosion posted on the Rabkor YouTube channel, which was deemed offensive by a municipal deputy.

Dr. Kagarlitsky is an internationally renowned sociologist, committed intellectual, and critic of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In 2022, he was declared a "foreign agent" – a status assigned without trial and used to suppress dissent. Despite this, he chose to remain in Russia, continuing his public engagement and academic work until his arrest in July 2023. Though initially sentenced to a fine, a court overturned the ruling in February 2024 and imposed a five-year prison term. He is currently held in a penal colony in Torzhok, Tver region.

This is not the first politically motivated arrest Boris Kagarlitsky has faced. He was imprisoned in the Soviet era and again in the 1990s and in 2021 for his democratic activism. Now aged 67, he endures harsh prison conditions, and has been cut off from public life, and is denied the opportunity to see family and friends.

From a statement by the International Sociological Association

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/isa-human-rights-committee/statement-supporting-dr-boris-kagarlitsky>

More information: <https://freeboris.info>

Recent interview: Boris Kagarlitsky behind bars

<https://links.org.au/interview-boris-kagarlitsky-behind-bars>

In Russia, the human rights organization Memorial counts at least 1,450 people imprisoned on wartime political charges. The offenses range from social media posts to fabricated acts of treason and entrapment-driven "terrorist" attacks. In most cases, Memorial notes, the only victim of the supposed crime is the accused.

<https://meduza.io/en/brief/2026/04/28/war-prisoners>

Sweden

## Mahmut Tat



In connection with Sweden's application for NATO membership, the number of cases in which Sweden effectively outsourced the imprisonment of people that foreign powers see as their political enemies on arbitrary grounds increased.

Mahmut Tat was one of them. He was deported from Sweden to Turkey in December 2022. Reuters and Sveriges Radio describe this as a central and symbolic case in the Swedish NATO process. He had sought asylum in Sweden in 2015 after being convicted in Turkey for alleged PKK links; after his deportation, he was arrested directly in Turkey. Sveriges Radio described it as the first known time that Sweden had extradited/deported a person convicted of alleged PKK links to Turkey.

The decision though to deport him was taken before the application for NATO membership was made according to Blankspot. Sweden has a long tradition of scapegoating Kurds and sending them out of the country. After the murder of Olof Palme Kurds were for quite some time suspected for the killing by the police until it became clear that there was no evidence at all for this.

Seven Swedish-Kurdish journalists have fled Sweden after NATO application 2022. They worked for the television channel Aryen. All have been identified as a "security risk" by Säpo, a compilation by Journalisten shows.

On May 11, the newspaper Journalisten reported that the Swedish-Kurdish-Iranian satellite TV channel Aryen TV in Stockholm, which reached millions of people in the Middle East, had been shut down.

None of the affected people have been told why they have been designated as "security risks". These journalists have started new lives in the UK, Belgium and Italy.

The first Swedish-Kurdish journalist to leave Sweden was Saied Aresh Nezami. He has been living in Italy since the summer of 2022.

"I am so sorry that I could not stay in Sweden. I have a son and a daughter in Sweden and I miss them very much," says Saied Aresh Nezami.

– The worst thing is that I was given a fifteen-year travel ban to Sweden, sighs Saied Aresh Nezami.

Read more in this article by Kurdo Baksi (in Swedish)

<https://www.journalisten.se/nyheter/sju-svensk-kurdiska-journalister-har-flytt-sverige-efter-nato-ansokan/>

And by Blankspot:

<https://blankspot.se/sveriges-fortsatter-utvisa-kurder-till-turkiet-med-chartrade-plan/>

Turkey arrests Kurdish refugee Sweden deported:

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkey-arrests-kurdish-refugee-sweden-deported-news-61596>

Report "As a whole, it is worrying" by Civil Rights Defenders. Comprehensive report on democratic backsliding in Sweden, lacks the silencing peace and Kurdish voices.

<https://crd.org/2023/12/12/new-report-as-a-whole-it-is-worrying-one-year-with-the-ti-do-agreement/>

UK

## Heba Muraisi



Heba Muraisi was charged with committing acts of terrorism by participating in Palestine Action's non-violent intervention against the Israeli arms company Elbit Systems UK's research center in Filton. In her defense speech in court, she said:

“The horrors and suffering that I have witnessed coming out of Gaza will always be etched in my memory. And while the world stood by and spoke empty words, we have collectively condemned our brothers and sisters in Palestine to a life of misery and death. And with the ongoing systematic genocide, the state has been complicit and complicit from the very beginning. These tyrants now want to sign a \$2 billion contract with Elbit, a monstrous establishment that is reaping the fruits of the blood of our brothers and sisters in Palestine.”

Together with 7 other political prisoners, she began a hunger strike on November 2, 2025. Heba Muraisi's longest-lasting hunger strike was 73 days. The hunger strike was called off after the British government gave in to demands not to award a £2 billion contract to Elbit Systems UK, which met some of the hunger strikers' demands. The demands concerned their prison conditions and detention, the UK ban on the Palestine Action network, and the operations in the UK of subsidiaries of the Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit Systems. It received attention and support both

inside and outside the UK, but throughout the protest, Justice Secretary David Lammy refused to meet with hunger strikers' representatives. Thousands of protesters were arrested for protesting against the terrorist designation of Palestine Action, a protest that under terrorism laws meant they were supporting terrorism and were therefore arrested. A large number of pensioners were leading these protests as they were at less risk than people in work. In early February, a court declared the intervention against Palestine Action unlawful and disproportionate. On February 21, both the hunger strikers and all 24 political prisoners from Palestine Action were released.

The British state's attacks on Palestine Action and their sympathizers demonstrate how Western governments are willing to provoke the death of nonviolent protesters by imprisoning them without cause. The hunger strike that some of the political prisoners launched to end this attack on political freedom came close to costing lives. If this had happened, it would have been caused by the state and not by the brave people who stood up for everyone's right to express their opinion nonviolently. On the brink of disaster, the government made a decision that allowed the hunger strike to be called off. Yet the state's attack on Palestine Action and the thousands who are willing to support them has already caused serious harm to many people.

Heba Muraisi's defense speech

<https://prisonersforpalestine.org/prisoner/statement-from-heba-muraisi/>

Imprisoned hunger striker linked to Palestine Action tells friend: 'I'm dying'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/jan/12/hunger-striker-heba-muraisi-linked-palestine-action>

Palestine hunger strikes end, but repression continues

<https://socialistalternative.info/2026/02/06/palestine-hunger-strikes-end-but-repression-continues/>

“Monumental victory”: Twelve activists linked to Palestine Action released on bail

<https://maktoobmedia.com/gaza-genocide/monumental-victory-twelve-activists-linked-to-palestine-action-released-on-bail/>

The extraordinary attacks by the British state against Palestine Action and their supporters shows how Western governments are willing to provoke the death of non-violent protesters by putting them into prison without reason. The hungerstrike some of the political prisoners started to end this attack on political freedom was close to causing people's life. If this had happened this would have been caused by the state and not caused by the courageous people who stood up for the right of all of us to non-violently express our opinion. Now on the brink of disaster a court ruled the attack on Palestine Action unlawful when the hunger strike had gone on for 48 days. Yet the state attack on Palestine Action and thousands willing to support them has already caused severe damage for many people. Now on the brink of disaster a court ruled the attack on Palestine Action unlawful when the hunger strike had gone on for 48 days.

Ukraine

### Yurii Sheliashenko



This campaign to release all political prisoners without double standards started in Sweden by immediate alarm about Yurii Sheliashenko by sending out this appeal:

Tell the Ukrainian government to stop prosecuting Yuri Sheliashenko

Pacifist and opponent of all wars and violence, Yurii Sheliashenko, has been arrested by the police in Ukraine. He has long been threatened and falsely accused of supporting Russian war production.

We need to tell the Ukrainian government how many people are paying attention to this.

Sign the petition. Ask others to sign the petition here? Please forward this to anyone who might be interested! Thank you!

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-the-ukrainian-government-to-drop-prosecution-of-peace-activist-yurii-sheliashenko>

As very many protested immediately knowing he was at risk for being detained from countries that Ukraine is dependent upon it gave result. Yurii Sheliashenko was released after two days after being badly beaten and tortured.

Reprted here by DiEM25: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nk7HUF\\_dQlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nk7HUF_dQlg)

Far worse is the situation for thousands of others in Ukraina. More than 30,000 criminal cases have been opened under collaboration and wartime security statutes. Courts, which acquit at a rate of 0.05 percent, have ordered more than 2,000 arrests. According to the U.N. Human Rights Office, at least 21 of 326 people found guilty of collaboration between June and November 2025 were convicted for actions that could lawfully be compelled by Russian occupiers.

<https://meduza.io/en/brief/2026/04/28/war-prisoners>

US

### Respect for human rights deteriorate

From Civic solidarity platform report to the OSCE conference in Vienna December 2025: "US respect for Helsinki principles and

OSCE commitments in the human dimension has deteriorated significantly since 20 January 2025. The US administration implements its harsh immigration policy in a manner inconsistent with OSCE commitments and US constitutional safeguards on the rule of law, non-discrimination, and human rights, including prevention of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Federal agencies arbitrarily detain and deport thousands, sometimes for peaceful free expression, while senior officials inflame hostility toward non-citizens. Arbitrary and incommunicado detention, enforced disappearances, and discriminatory practices such as racial profiling are widespread. Cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of migrants in detention has been widely documented at facilities throughout the United States, and detainees are denied access to legal representation, transferred or deported without informing family members, and subjected to violence. Public spaces throughout the country have been militarized under the pretext of stopping violent criminal migrants, including the deployment of the National Guard to multiple cities, including Washington, DC.

The administration's threats and actions seriously challenge OSCE rule of law and democratic governance commitments regarding individuals as well as independent governmental and nongovernmental institutions, including the judiciary, free media, academia and civil society.”



*Above: Women protesting against ICE arbitrary detentions and deportations.*

[https://civicsolidarity.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Vienna-DeclarationStatement-on-Country-Situations\\_OSCE-Parallel-CS-Conference\\_2025.pdf](https://civicsolidarity.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Vienna-DeclarationStatement-on-Country-Situations_OSCE-Parallel-CS-Conference_2025.pdf)

Other states mentioned specifically in the Civic Solidarity Platform are Russia and Ukraine, but in Ukraine only atrocities carried out by Russia on occupied territory, all Central Asian states, Azerbaijan and Georgia but no EU member state and also not UK.

EU

### Hüsseyin Dogru



### Nathalie Yamb



## Jacques Baud



Bo Bernhardsson, former editor-in-chief of the social democratic daily *Arbetet* writes on the EU's sanctions policy against individuals for extrajudicially silencing free speech and opposition voices:

"On December 15, Jacques Baud was added to the EU's sanctions list along with eleven other people. He is a former Swiss army officer and NATO advisor, now an author and independent consultant in Brussels in the field of intelligence and security. He is therefore being punished for not fully standing up for the true story, he is being singled out as a 'mouthpiece for pro-Russian propaganda' and for spreading 'conspiracy theories' about the war in Ukraine.

The same has happened to several other people before him. One of them is Hüsseyin Dogru, a German journalist who was sanctioned in May 2025. Baud is Swiss but now lives in Brussels. Hüsseyin Dogru is German citizens.

Among those declared outlaws is also Nathalie Yamb, a Cameroonian-Swiss activist and businesswoman. She herself explains that she has criticized France's presence and actions in Africa. According to the EU, this makes her an 'open supporter of Russia' because she

is said to be using Moscow's language directed at the West, especially against the former colonial power France.

So that's how bad the situation is with freedom of the press and freedom of expression in the European Union and in Sweden, which obviously stands behind and backs the decisions."

Mänskliga rättigheter urholkas också i väst - Fredlöshet i vår tid (Human Rights are also undermined in the West - Outlawry in our time)

<https://bernhardssonbo.blogspot.com/2026/02/manskliga-rattigheter-urholkas-ocksa-i.html>

EU sanctions German journalist in shocking first over Gaza reporting

the EU sanctions against German and Swiss citizens due to their pro-Palestinian opposition against German support for Israel, pro Sahel state opposition against French exploitation and opposition against EU Ukraine policy who is an extrajudicial administrative attack on freedom of expression.

"In January, a post I saw on Twitter/X shocked me. "URGENT: As of now, I have ZERO access to any money," Hüsseyin Dogru wrote. "I can't provide food for my family, including two newborns, due to EU sanctions."

Dogru is a journalist, a German citizen living in Berlin.

After reading his post, I sent him a private message offering to order groceries and have them sent to his home.

The reply shocked me even more. "Unfortunately, I'm not allowed to accept any financial or material support," Dogru wrote.

Dogru is the first European Union citizen known to be living inside the EU to face extrajudicial sanctions imposed by Brussels – robbing him of fundamental civil and humanitarian rights.

He's also the first person to be sanctioned specifically for his reporting related to Palestine."

Ali Abunimah

<https://www.defenddemocracy.press/eu-sanctions-german-journalist-in-shocking-first-over-gaza-reporting/>

Pascal Lottaz on EU sanctions against individuals:

It has come as a shock to many of us in the alternative media sphere when, on December 15, the EU put the esteemed analyst, political commentator, and former Swiss Army colonel Jacques Baud, on its Russia-Sanctions list. He was one of several newly sanctioned individuals (alongside, for instance, the popular French journalist, Xavier Moreau). Baud is already the second Swiss to be sanctioned. In June 2025, the EU announced that Nathalie Yamb, a Swiss-Cameroonian activist against neocolonialism, would be sanctioned. Being on the EU sanctions list is a devastating event for the people concerned, especially if they reside in an EU country or a closely associated state like Switzerland, Norway, or the UK. It means banks will freeze their accounts, credit companies will cancel their cards, they are not allowed to enter into contracts with EU-affiliated companies or private persons, and no business in the EU is allowed to have dealings with them, which, in theory, even precludes them from buying bread and other necessities of life. Furthermore, many international businesses will cancel all their services to them, including mail providers, social media platforms, etc. Even Swiss banks freeze or cancel accounts, out of fear they might get in trouble if they don't comply with EU regulations. I recently interviewed two sanctioned people, Nathalie Yamb and Hüsseyin Dogru, and their testimonies are heartbreaking. For an equally harrowing account by Jacques Baud, see the most recent interview with him on Nima Alkhorshid's 'Dialogue Works' channel. Nathalie also posted the short video below, in which she gives an overview of the ordeal (post in French, subtitles in English).

<https://pascallottaz.substack.com/p/what-goes-around-the-eus-extralegal>

## Opposing double standards using the Helsinki Final Act and challenging the Human Rights Movement

World Social Assembly of Struggles and Resistances of WSF has been involved in organizing a process to revitalize the Helsinki Final Act at its 50th anniversary in 2025. Together with International Peace Bureau, World Beyond War, and Nordic Peace Alliance several activities have been organized and reports are being made. The work is now continuing.

On the following pages you find how this process continued last year at the OSCE ministerial summit in Vienna in December and what work lies ahead. You find reports on what happened during the Helsinki+50 activities last summer on the website [helsinkiplus50.org](http://helsinkiplus50.org). More reports are on their way.

The aim is to lay a foundation for people's movements with the human rights movements to take the leadership in all the areas that states once all agreed to see as important. Undivisible security or later framed as common security. Cooperation for the environment and economy, with UN as a guiding help. And human rights for all without double standards. All principles were the states today fail to live up to their promises.

The following pages address the issues:

- **Constructive Criticism from Civil Society and an Appeal for Peace**
- **Appeal for a Dialogue for Peace within the OSCE**
- **How all parts of the Helsinki Final Act can help us today**
- **Double genocide standards**
- **The discussion continues: Let's make a peace conference!**
- **Finnish Pro-Palestinian activists outside the official Helsinki+50 conference**

## Abfang report

<https://abfang.org/osze-konferenz/>

### Constructive Criticism from Civil Society and an Appeal for Peace

Today, 50 years after the Helsinki Accords, some politicians no longer want to talk to each other. Foreign ministers from important countries were absent from this year's conference in Vienna.

Unfortunately, these leaders have become estranged from their people. Months of contact between the peace movement and the OSCE Secretariat, the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and the Austrian parliamentarians who represent us in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly have resulted in no communication. Therefore, we have taken the initiative to issue a constructive appeal to the OSCE Council of Ministers.

#### Call to Strengthen the OSCE

To present a resolution to strengthen the OSCE, representatives from the Nordic Peace Alliance, the International Peace Bureau, World Beyond War, WILPF-Austria, Attac, AbFaNG, and the Action Alliance for Peace, Committed Neutrality, and Nonviolence were not even permitted to enter the conference venue.

The Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE was concluded in 1992. Although not all states have signed it, it has never been applied, not even to resolve the current war. Since the outbreak of war in Ukraine in 2014, the OSCE has played no peace-making role. The Minsk Agreement has not been implemented. In the early years of the war, only the bullets fired and the dead were counted. How could diplomacy be so disregarded?

Is a new conference of world leaders needed to reactivate the principles of the OSCE? This is what peace movements are demanding of the OSCE, so that it will once again take its mission seriously. There are plenty of global crises and problems that require committed, forward-looking politicians: climate change, the alarming arms race, the neglect of universal human rights, and above all, a commitment to ending wars.

<https://fritz.hinterberger.com/make-peace-great-again/>

<https://www.osce.org/chairpersonship/661131>



*Above: Tord Björk to the right and Hans Hedrich to the right discussing the call to OSCE.*



*Above: Peter Degischer editing the call*

# **Appeal for a Dialogue for Peace within the OSCE**

**On the occasion of the 32<sup>nd</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 in Vienna**

In July 2025, the Nordic Peace Alliance (NPA), a network of peace organizations in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, supported by the International Peace Bureau and World Beyond War with support from Austrian and other civil society organizations in many countries, launched its Helsinki+50 People's declaration on common security and human rights, and delivered the declaration to the OSCE member state embassies in Helsinki. In the hope of facilitating civil society dialogue with elected representatives and officials of states participating in OSCE, we have at a meeting in Vienna December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 drawn up the following recommendations.

## **1. BACK TO COMMON SECURITY AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT!**

We recommend to reconsider the notion of the Helsinki Final Act, that security is "indivisible" and that "common security" according to the OSCE Paris Charter of 1990, means taking into account the security interests of all participating states. This is particularly important given the ongoing new round of nuclear arms race, The OSCE has hitherto ignored the will of the peoples, and thus of the majorities of the members of the civil societies, to get rid of all nuclear weapons. As champions of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) that entered into force 22 January 2021 we cannot fail to raise this issue in our dialogue with the OSCE states. We welcome that Austria, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia have signed the TPNW together with 94 other states, who ratified or signed it. We find it necessary that more states do so.

## **2. MAKE USE OF THE COURT OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION!**

We recommend that OSCE returns to being an organisation that promotes mutual understanding and détente. In earlier periods of OSCE's history, understanding and détente were possible even between ideologically hostile blocs. Therefore, they should also be possible today. The "Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE" shall be applied to start a dialogue to end the war in Ukraine.

## **3. A NEW OSCE SUMMIT - FOR A NEW SECURITY ARCHITECTURE!**

15 years have passed since the OSCE Summit in Astana in 2010. We think it's about time to organise a new OSCE summit of heads of state. That would be a worthy goal of the OSCE. A first step would be according to the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the Paris Charter of 1990 and the agreements for conciliation within OSCE to take advantage of this OSCE-Conference to initiate a dialogue in the whole OSCE region including the opposing states at war. This with the aim to stop the killing and destruction and to initiate a peace process for Ukraine and the Russian Federation and beyond for a renewed European Security and Cooperation Agreement based on the Helsinki Final Act.

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INSTEAD OF MILITARISATION!**

Environmental matters are known to have always been an intrinsic component of the OSCE's agenda. But the development of the OSCE states is currently dominated by increasing rearmament, militarisation, and militarism. These and the wars increase the negative impact on the natural environment and the Earth's climate. OSCE is demanded to fully exercise its role as a cooperative body in economic, environmental, and cultural matters.

## **5. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION WITHOUT DOUBLE STANDARDS!**

Regarding OSCE's work for human rights, particularly human rights of women, we demand, that double standards when addressing violations of human rights should be abandoned. This includes the Mediterranean region, which had a separate chapter in the Helsinki Final Act. We also emphasize the rights for migrants also included in the Final Act and we find it especially important to defend the human rights of conscientious objectors in all countries.

## **6. PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE OSCE!**

States and the OSCE have to protect and to promote civic space ensuring participation applying democratic principles to respect the independence and freedom of expression.

## **7. STRENGTHENING THE OSCE!**

Military blocs are no lasting solutions to security problems. We demand that the OSCE must be strengthened in its efforts to achieve common security for the participating states.

On behalf of the people in the participating states of the OSCE longing for peace, Vienna 3<sup>rd</sup> of Dec. 2025

**[Nordic Peace Alliance](#), [IPB – International Peace Bureau – IPB](#), [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-WILPF Austria](#), [AbFaNG – Aktionsbündnis für Frieden](#), [Aktive Neutralität und Gewaltfreiheit](#)**

Asking for contact: [contact@abfang.org](mailto:contact@abfang.org), [info@helsinkiplus50.org](mailto:info@helsinkiplus50.org)

# How all parts of the Helsinki Final Act can help us today

As we all know but tend to forget humankind is in deep trouble. For the first time in our history there is the risk that we erase our possibilities for survival in the thin biosphere of soil, flora, fauna and atmosphere on which we are dependend. Either we can perish due to extinction of species, destruction of the soil or global warming of the atmosphere or more quickly through an atomic war. Humanity are at risk of committing suicide if we do not find ways to cooperate despite differences.

There are many aspects necessary to address today bringing us out of the poly-crisis we are in. In all of them the Helsinki Final Act has something constructive to contribute. On security the Final Act begins with saying that security in Europe is “indivisible”. It further strengthens this notion by stating the importance in taking into consideration the security interest “of each participating State and security in Europe as a whole” as well as the relationship which exists, “in the broader context of world security.”

The Helsinki Final Act also has a long important chapter on the need for cooperation in almost any field which is unnecessarily often forgotten. The chapter signed by the state leaders, or what is called a basket begins by stating: “Convinced that their efforts to develop co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, science and technology, the environment and other areas of economic activity contribute to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole.” There is hope for a better world in these lines further promoted by saying that the cooperation should take “into account the interests of the developing countries throughout the world” and make efforts towards solving “food, energy, commodities, monetary and financial problems.” Especially the co-operation chapter stress the importance of co-operation “for the achievement of the aims and objectives established by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations” and “in particular by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe”.

Finally the state leaders in the 3 rd basket on humanitarian issues begin by saying “Desiring to contribute to the strengthening of peace and understanding among peoples and to the spiritual enrichment of the human personality without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion” furthermore “Conscious that increased cultural and educational exchanges, broader dissemination of information, contacts between people, and the solution of humanitarian problems will contribute to the attainment of these aims” this basket promotes co-operation, “irrespective of their political, economic and social systems.”

All aspects of human rights are addressed - “promote and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms all of which derive from the inherent dignity of the human person and are essential for his free and full development.” It is not only civic rights that are specifically addressed in the Final Act, also such issues as migrants social rights are addressed and so is “the right of persons belonging to minorities to equality before the law, afford them the full opportunity for the actual enjoyment of human rights”.

The combination of these three aspects inspired what is called the Helsinki spirit. I personally and my movement could prosper because of this spirit in the 1980s. We smuggled Gestetner stencil machine to the underground opposition and went to many places in Eastern Europe. I personally met the then underground ecological Solidarnosc and the half illegal Polish Ecological Club in Swedish efforts to help cleaning the air in Krakow. We had collected money to do something about the harmful air by offering to buy 72 security valves which only could be done with Western money. These security valves were necessary when changing from several coal burning heating plants to use natural gas instead. The Polish groups was against this as it was necessary to cooperate with the communist authorities to make it possible. We made it anyway and the air in Cracow became substantially cleaner.

1986 we organised the first political campaign putting forward the same political demands both in the West and the East. Starting in North of Sweden going to London and then Maribor in Yugoslavia ending in Budapest we were able to start an all-European youth movement. It helped the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva with its staff of only 15 people for all its activities to help negotiations reducing the emis

sion of sulphur dioxide to a much lower level helping the European forests to survive.

Many benefited from the Helsinki spirit. A mass movement for detente and peace developed in combination with demands for respect for civil rights. The wish of the State leaders in the first sentences of the Final Act seemed to becoming a reality. "efforts to make detente both a continuing and an increasingly viable and comprehensive process, universal in scope, and that the implementation of the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe will be a major contribution to lasting peace. Gorbashew and Reagan signed agreements for arms control and the Soviet leader proposed the construction of a European house from Lisboa to Vladivostok inspired by the Helsinki spirit.

Peace and other people's movements celebrated the occasion on 50 years since the Final Act was signed by organizing a birth day party on August 1 2025 in the capital of Finland. We see opportunities by addressing the need for Europe to find a role in the emerging multipolar world in line with the Helsinki Final Act.

The Finnish presidency did the opposite. It is of course possible to understand the difficult situation Finland has placed itself after ending the successful neutrality years which gave the country the possibility to achieve its greatest diplomatic success, the Helsinki Final Act. With the Russian war of aggression in blatant violation of international law as well as the Israeli war against the Palestinian also in blatant violation of international law which is also relevant as the Mediterranean has a special paragraph in the Helsinki Final Act the strain of making a constructive 50 year anniversary event was great. Finland did well on the practical level by establishing the Helsinki+50 fund solving some pressing economic problems.

On the political side of things Finland destroyed the legacy of the Helsinki conference on Security and Co-operation step by step. This was done by both selectively choose which part of the Helsinki Final Act to highlight and which to erase out of memory. The whole basket concerning co-operation was made to disappear except for turning the energy issue to a large degree against Russia as if climate change not primarily is caused by excessive overconsumption in rich states. Co-operation was turned into condemnation. Social rights so important today with many migrants who had their concerns especially addressed in 1975 were also erased from the agenda.

Thus the Final Act was stymied by amputating the co-operation and social leg. The next step was to erase the memory of how the security issue was put into a context of seeing it as an issue of indivisibility and taking into consideration the security interest "of each participating State and security in Europe as a whole" as well as the relationship which exists, "in the broader context of world security."

Instead we were presented with a world view where the rest of the world does not exist even if the Mediterranean is explicitly included in the Final Act and wars of aggression in violation of international law is not new in Europe as we saw during the NATO attack on Yugoslavia 1990. Looking at the wider global picture the way the security issue was addressed by Finland and its cooperation partners including some NGOs like European Network for Remembrance and Solidarity is deepening the gap between EU and the rest of the world due to systematic hypocrisy. This was addressed by the only environmental voice at the official Helsinki+50 conference when saying that Gaza and not only Ukraine should be a concern to all of us. Instead the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in its statement claimed that Russia is responsible for genocide in Ukraine but Israel is not in Palestine.

The most advanced way trying to escape from Western responsibility for the ethnical cleansing and terror in Palestine was made by president Stubb: "The civilians in Gaza, Sudan and other places are paying too a high price" for "a break down of the rules based world order", which is the result of that world leaders challenge the rules based multilateral order globally. A pattern of destruction of rules that according to Stubb began in 2008 when Russia attacked Georgia. It is hard to find a more cynical and hypocritical way of that it is not the West that diplomatically and militarily helps Israel in its attempts to erase Palestinians from territories they

claim is theirs and put the responsibility instead on Russia. Thus Finland amputated also the security leg by blatantly using double standards and attempts to blame other for their own complicity in violation against international law.

After this there is not much left of the Helsinki Final Act. What we have is a mouth talking about human rights in a stymied way shouting the shortened version of the first basket in the Final act avoiding the substance which was agreed upon 1975. Furthermore President Stubb and foreign minister Valtonen erased the memory of the peace movement. Stubb claimed that the result of the Final act was that capitalism won against communism, contrary to the kind of hope for finding common ground which was the essence of the Helsinki spirit.

But peace and human rights movement with environmental, economic justice and other will find ways forward and build something better with the help of the Helsinki Accords.

Tord Björk

## Double genocide standards

The double standard used by the West and the great majority of the OSCE member states became embarrassingly clear during the official Helsinki+50 process. It has become even more demonstrated to the rest of the world during the illegal attacks in Iran and Lebanon.

The most explicit double standard was expressed in the Oslo Declaration and Resolutions adopted by the 32nd OSCE parliamentary assembly 2025.

We may agree upon that the parliamentary assembly should live up to addressing human rights violations. But then should their concern be based on universal principles which can be said to have been the strength of the Helsinki spirit.

Genocide is generally considered to be one of the crimes that gets the highest attention. Thus it is of interest to look how the OSCE parliamentary assembly 2025 addressed genocide. The parliamentarians issued a 92 pages long declaration. In it Russia is mentioned four times as a perpetrator of genocide.

The genocide in Gaza is not at all mentioned.

The hardest words are used against Hamas - the OSCE parliamentarians reiterated their strongest condemnation of the attacks perpetrated by Hamas and other groups against civilians in Israel on 7 October 2023, as well as all subsequent attacks on Israeli territory. Their declaration adds a strong condemnation of the then ongoing hostage-taking of Israeli civilians by Hamas.

They reaffirmed Israel's right to exist and defend itself and express their concerns regarding "threats posed by Islamic Republic of Iran and its affiliated groups, such as Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthi movement, as well as other terrorist organizations,"

The declaration "Notes" the issuance of ICC arrest warrants for Israeli politicians and Hamas military commander in connection with alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. By calling for bringing those responsible for grave violations of international law to justice the parliamentarian avoids using the term genocide in the same way ICC does and instead frame it in more general terms.

For the Palestinians vague two-state promises from the past and recommendations to formally recognizing Palestine as a state. Need to adhere to international humanitarian law and protect civilian lives is put in general terms, as if all civilians populations

are equally in danger. Crucial step toward alleviating the suffering of "affected populations" are needed and advancing a peaceful resolution. It is as if what has happened is that terrorists are constantly attacking Israel and its population who are under constant threat and have their right to defend themselves. What happens to civilian Palestinians is not to be strongly condemned.

The Helsinki principles were buried. They can have no other value at its base than treating all acts and actors equally to be legitimate. This is not the case in a declaration that uses double standards so blatantly as was done in Porto. The OSCE parliamentarians lacks respect for equal rights for all, some people are more worthy of our attention than others. With their double standards they are digging OSCE's and Europe's grave as a beacon for universal rights equal for all deeper.

The Helsinki+50 People's Initiative built on democratic movements with a local base is instead building trust by avoiding double standards and build better relations between people

All mentioning of genocide by OSCE PA:

189. Condemns in the strongest terms the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children to Russian-occupied territories and the Russian Federation, recognizing such acts as potential crimes against humanity, in violation of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; (p24)

9. Underlining that the Russian Federation's authorities and occupation administration are committing the crime of genocide against Ukrainian people, including through the systematic indoctrination of Ukrainian children in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine aimed at erasing their national identity, replacing Ukrainian culture and language with the Russian Federation's narratives, and forcibly imposing loyalty to the Russian State and symbols, (p32)

21. Recalling the historical genocides committed by the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union against subjugated peoples such as Circassians, Chechens and Crimean Tatars, (p35)

12. Considering that such acts are a serious violation of international law which may amount to

war crimes and genocide, and that forcing Ukrainian children to serve in the Russian military is a form of human trafficking, (p89)

The mentioning of Israel by OSCE PA is different. Here word like "strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas and other terrorist groups against civilians in Israel" is complemented with "the urgent" need to, "protect civilian lives and work towards de-escalation and a sustainable resolution to the conflict,"

Support for Israel is repeated: "Reaffirming Israel's right to exist and defend itself within the framework of international humanitarian law and under the requirement of proportionality" while emphasizing the threats against Israel "posed by Islamic Republic of Iran"

The declaration is stated to have been adopted unanimously, Russia is a member but do not participates for the time being.

The OSCE PA Porto declaration is using three quarters of its paragraphs criticising Russia which is weakening the justified criticism of the country as double standards are used. This gives this OSCE institution bad reputation. It also fails to address problems in the rest of the OSCE area by giving almost all space to criticism of Russia and very little to the other 56 OSCE member states to not talk about the lack of highlighting solutions.

At the official Helsinki+50 conference a young environmental and human rights activist, Helena Gualinga from Ecuador/ Amazonas stated in a panel. "Over the past two years, we have witnessed genocide—something that has not been discussed enough here today," she said. "We all support Ukraine and can speak freely about it, but we are so afraid to mention Israel..." – here the audience applauded, the only occasion during the official Helsinki+50 process when the hypocrisy was exposed.

*Below: Helena Gualinga at Helsinki+50*



## The discussion continuous: Let's make a peace conference!

The scenario for the paneuropean peace conference i have in mind goes something like this:

1. 2026: people from the european / international peace movement(s) gathering this year in one place during a weekend or so and setting the foundation (in form of a resolution / working papers / white book) for an official peace conference to build that long promised inclusive peace architecture in europe under whatever umbrella (OSCE, UN, other)
2. 2026-27: the resolution / white paper of our conference will later be put on the table (literally speaking) of political decision makers of our countries, followed by continuous advocacy work for the pan-european peace conference / congress (OSCE SUMMIT).
3. 2026-27: from there onwards it will be the responsibility of the member states of the OSCE to launch an official proposal within the OSCE institutions (permanent council, council of ministers of foreign affairs, chairperson in office, secretariat?)
4. 2027-28: preparatory works of the official peace conference / OSCE summit or the summit itself taking place

my reasoning behind this:

1. europe has a centuries old tradition of negotiating and making peace BETWEEN FORMER ENEMIES, a tradition that worked well in 1648, 1815 (and in between), but ended in 1919 (after WW1). the same applies for west asia, as i recently read in a great book about the peace making tradition in the so called "middle east". they knew also how to make peace. but since the paris peace conference of 1919 that refused negotiations with the enemy, in a stark breach of the international law of the time in order to impose new borders and rules, there is an almost constant unrest in that area of the world as well.
2. unfortunately, for over 100 year, europe has NOT had a proper peace congress after a major war - for pure hegemonic reasons wrapped in moralizing ideology ("we the winners of ww1, ww2 and the cold war are the good, the losers are evil! there is no negotiation with the evil, only punishment and accepting the rules imposed on them by the winners!"). But this is just insane (and co-induced ww2 in 1939!) - the consequences of which we still see today: the western hegemony who dominated the international system in 1919, 1945 and 1989 are struggling to keep their hegemony ongoing by inventing new proxy wars in ukraine (directed against russia AND the german economy - see the HEARTLAND THEORY of h. mackinder of 1904 or so), applying double standards between israel and palestine etc. (this is not my interpretation, but well documented in the history of international law.)
3. helsinki 1975 came closest to such a paneuropean peace congress to formally put an end to WW2 (ww2 officially ended only in 1990, but again NOT in form of a peace congress but only in form of a treaty among "2+4" countries). unfortunately, helsinki 1975 was NOT a legally binding treaty, only a political promise for detente, therefore NOT a settlement to make real and lasting peace in europe. still: helsinki 1975, paris 1990 and the resolutions of the later OSCE summits ever since (last one: ASTANA 2010) is the best we have so far (apart from 1815 and 1648). unfortunately, after 1989 NATO as a tool of western hegemony has systematically marginalised the OSCE and took over security in eastern europe. the civil society that appeared and was inspired by helsinki 1975 got pushed into the corner of "human rights" - and as a result being almost completely ignored in the core fields of the OSCE: SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE.
4. the refusal of today's europeans to make peace with the enemy russia has its root causes in the above explanations about 1919 and later years: hegemony disguised in (interiorised) ideology and a moralizing attitude toward an enemy state. the major problem: what only has worked once in 1945 with defeating nazi germany into unconditional surrender cannot be repeated nowadays with russia (who in 1945 helped the westerners essentially to defeat nazi

germany). the western/NATO hegemonialists seem to have watched too many anti-nazi films and after 2022 have recited too often the magic formula "PUTLER", hoping for a wonder on the battlefields in ukraine. it is mainly ukrainian and russian young men who pay the price for this childish magic thinking of today's european decision makers like ursula, kaja etc.

5. to complicate things, we now see trump and putin becoming kinda buddies and the US turning into a fascistoid dictatorship, greedy to devour neighboring countries and killing internal or external enemies in bright daylight. the illusion of "THE GOOD FIGHTING THE EVIL" has died during these last years and days - with pm. CARNEY of canada saying it out loud in davos that "the rules based order" was a lie. basically, the USA and RUS try to get back to the international rule of the 19th century - leaving the naive europeans in a limbo / noman's land and maximal ideological-hegemonial confusion. but there is a deep logic behind this evolutions: since in 1919 the long 19th century did NOT end and in 1945 the veto power = the P5 of the UN CS preserved 19th century type of privileges for themselves), today the very same logic of 19th century imperial power politics comes back with a revenge and in a zombificated version - yet not less dangerous as any power politics! instead of fighting each other further, the US and RUS seem to agree to devore others instead without interfering anymore. and this is the way to irrelevance for the UN system, which is maximally dangerous and concerning for the 190 member states of the UN without veto privileges!

*Below:  
Hans  
Hedrich  
speaking  
for peace in  
Vilnius  
April 2025*

6. future scenarios:

6.1. europe and ukraine stumbling around through space and time and accepting being pushed around, destroyed, and made fun of - with the extreme right wing growing as a response to the policrises coinduced by the european elites... meanwhile the NGOs in the OSCE sphere (CSP included) are being sidelined and allowed to play like kids in the sandbox with nice toys like "human rights", "gender euality", "fighting desinformation and gongos in russia" etc. ANU JUVONENS outrageous BS narratives and outright lies in the face of the officials of the swiss OSCE chairpersonship 2026, about the major importance of NGOs in the helsinki process while her government financially stripped those very same NGOs in 2025 of funding is only the cherry on top of the poisoned cake served to the NGOs by the anti-OSCE pro-NATO pundits and missionaries inside the OSCE herself.

6.2. the european peace movement(s) working their way out of this home made avalanche of ideology, hegemonies, BS narratives and propaganda; getting out of our little sand box, starting speaking not too each other but to decision makers, flipping the script and taking over the narrative, and putting a resolution / white paper on the table of the MFAs, presidencies, secret services, think tanks of our countries demanding ONE thing of them: start speaking about and organizing a EUROEPAN PEACE CONGRESS to establish a COMMON SECURITY ARCHITECTURE in EUROPE AND BEYOND.

7. in case scenario 6.2. succeeds, europe will INSTANTLY be back in the game in world politics. if not, no idea...

love & peace!

Hans Hedrich Wednesday January 28 2026



*Finnish Pro--Palestinian  
activists outside the official  
Helsinki+50 conference  
July 31 2025*

