

Press release

International Campaign for Common Welfare 2008 - 2009

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Miljöförbundet Jordens Vänner/Friends of the Earth Sweden and Nordbruk/Via Campesina Sweden invites, on 26th of January 2008, the Global Day of Action called by World Social Forum, other popular movements in the Nordic countries to participate in a joint campaigning for common welfare, against privatisation, war and environmental destruction. The aim of the campaign is to unite all popular movements that sees it as important to put forward common political demands in a time when neoliberal forces continue their offensive to turn the public sector and environment into commodities in the Nordic countries and the world. A political force that also promotes war, occupation and authoritarian forms of governance built on undemocratic domination by experts.

We plan to start on the 17th of April on the International day of peasant's struggle. The day is called by the international peasant movement La Via Campesina to commemorate the massacre of 19 farm workers and peasants killed by police in Eldorado do Carajás in Amazonia while they were occupying a road to demand land reform. Before the massacre the chairman of Friends of the Earth Sweden visited Eldorado do Carajás to support trade union struggle for human rights in the region. Afterwards a preplanned Euro-Amazonian tour from Spain to Sweden was organised by Friends of the Earth Sweden and the rubber tapper union in Amazonia to protect human rights and stop the killings in Amazonia.

Next step is popular education and participation in the European Social Forum in Malmö 17-21st of September in Malmö and the World Social Forum in Amazonia in January 2009. Friends of the Earth Sweden invites to Malmö active people and representatives from their sister organisations with 2 million members internationally and Via Campesina Sweden its sister organisations with many more million members in total in the world. Through the campaign we wish to improve cooperation with other trade union, environmental, antiracist, peace, women's, indigenous, solidarity, rural, urban, cultural and other movements to organise common activities at social forums to strengthen popular movements basic work in daily life against neoliberalism.

The last step is to pursue common demands during the Swedish EU-presidency in the autumn 2009 and the Climate Summit in Copenhagen in december 2009.

All popular movements in the Nordic countries are invited to a meeting to prepare the campaign 2nd of March in Gothenburg. The type of common demands put forward by Friends of the Earth and Via Campesina Sweden are linked to

issues like yes to common welfare - no to privatisation, yes to peace - not to war and occupation, yes to food sovereignty and fair trade, yes to sustainable planning of society - reduce emissions of green house gases and stop deforestation.

We look forward to cooperation with all popular movements who see it as important to jointly stop the neoliberal forces and work for democratic alternatives.