

En artikel om Nätverket Folk och fred och Nätverket Aurora 20 samt två liknande europeiska initiativ som publicerats i Miljömagasinet.

Tord Björk

När miljö och fred förenas kan vi förändra världen

<https://aktivisterforfred.wordpress.com/2020/05/10/nar-fred-och-miljo-forenas-kan-vi-forandra-varlden>

OBS! Tyvärr går det inte att dela länken på facebook. Samtliga inlägg med länk till Aktivister för fred svenska blogg har raderats i år retroaktivt sedan bloggen startade. Det är svårt att få besked om varför. Familjejordbrukarna som står bakom namninsamlingen Utan bönder ingen civil beredskap! har drabbats av samma sak.

Engelsk översättning

When peace and environment is united, we can change the world

"We saw it as important that we who engage primarily in social issues had better contact with those who engage in environmental issues." So says Balint Josa from Budapest, the leader of the European anti-racist youth network UNITED. This led to that this network supported the European/ Prague Spring 2020 initiative to address the link between peace and climate issues. Viktor Koren based in Prague from the International Young Naturefriends point at the same reason why, from the other side, they saw it as important to support the new initiative.

For these youth networks, the understanding of the importance of seeing larger contexts is essential. Peace is seen not only as a matter of arms or foreign policy but also as a primarily social issue. Among young people today, one sees that the environmental issue dominates, but is willing to build a bridge across the divide with regard to social issues, regardless of whether their own network have its main focus in the social or ecological field.

The willingness of anti-racists and environmentalists to participate in collaborations across the borders that the established society is trying to maintain is a signal of our time. Never in 50 years as active in people's movements have I seen such rapid development where popular movements come together and at the forefront of organizing resistance and alternatives to the prevailing world order and development model.

This is done internationally, but not least in Sweden. The Corona crisis has intensified the desire of popular movements around the world to see the connections between social and ecological issues. Especially those initiatives that were already under way before the pandemic struck, are now gaining support. So far, the new unifying initiatives have not received wide attention. But they are all based on building from the base in local communities and with the help of democratic organization in popular movements with an internationalist perspective. Sometimes also with parties participating. This means that a strong collaboration can develop where we both think globally and locally and act both locally and globally.

In Sweden, the People and Peace Network (Folk och Fred), in particular, was formed on April 19, which builds a movement from the bottom up for both individuals and organizations. On the initiative of activists in the environmental movement, not least in rural villages and small towns, a collaboration has emerged for both peace on Earth and peace with Earth. This network wants to highlight demands made with the slogan "Without Farmers no civil preparedness" and urge organizations to write a letter to the government signing the UN Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In addition, organize protests against harassment of peace and environmental voices and the military exercise Aurora 11 and 30 May. The protest is aimed at the host country agreement with NATO and military armaments, for peace, the environment and welfare. This exercise will be moved to the coming years because of the corona crisis, but the opportunity is now being made to lay the groundwork for a broad gathering once the military exercise may be done by peace voices wishing to defend the non-alignment position of Sweden against becoming closer to NATO.

These actions, which have a wide support in the peace and environmental movement, aim to give a popular mandate to recurring People and Peace meetings in Sälen every January as a counterbalance to the gatherings of the People and the Defense. On these more official events with all political parties and their youth affiliations, trade unions and big farmers organizations as well as business and military are present, NATO advocates, the

views of big companies and the creation of external and internal enemy images have filled much of the content in recent years.

Parallel to the People and Peace Network, the Aurora 20 Network has also grown. Both networks share the same political direction for peace, environment and welfare, and see both the importance of now laying the foundations for future cooperation against military exercises such as Aurora and protests against the host country agreement with NATO. The difference is that the Aurora network also includes parties and operations and is more limited than the People and Peace which is about to have broader activities and address more issues.

Internationally, the same type of development is taking place. European/Prague Spring 2020 is the result of ten years of cooperation within the Prague Spring 2 network against right-wing extremism and populism. This network grew out of the European Social Forum in Malmö in 2008 and has its main strength in being all-European with participation not least from Eastern Europe including countries outside the EU such as Russia. In 2015, Activists for Peace in Sweden started as a Swedish branch of this network. Peace activists, together with Russian members of the network, have been working to protest repression without double standards on both sides of the West-East conflict in both Russia, Ukraine and the EU. A special digital seminar also called webinar was organized by European / Prague Spring on this theme April 25. Now, the initiators are collecting names for a letter highlighting several cases of imprisonment and mass murder to strengthen international solidarity between movements across all borders.

On April 26, European/Prague Spring 2020 also organized a webinar on the theme of internationalistic answers to the corona crisis. This was attended by Aleksander Buzgalin from Russian Alternativny, Leire Azkargota from the European Secretariat of the International People's Assembly IPA, Reiner Braun Secretary-General of the International Peace Bureau IPB, operating for 128 years, Francine Mestrum from the International Committee of the World Social Forum, Peter Wahl from the German Attac and Alina Aficalor from UNITED and Romania.

In a special self-organized youth session from Sweden, the nurse Michel Diaz from No to Nato in Sweden and smallholder Joel Holmdahl from Nordbruk, Via Campesina Sweden participated among several speakers mainly from Eastern Europe. Everyone was surprised by how well the speakers and the discussion gave so much to everyone, not least considering that this was the first time that the 8 organizations behind the initiative had cooperated. An initiative that initiated European cooperation towards the World Social Forum in Mexico in 2021.

Activists for Peace also participate in IPA, an international initiative operating both in Europe and most other continents. This network is primarily driven by mass movements such as the landless movement MST in Brazil and the World March of Women, but parties are also included. The network has been the driving force behind a call for the corona crisis that has so far gathered 479 organizations. It has also acted against sanctions on Venezuela, Cuba and Iran, and has paid tribute to all those who work and maintain life in connection with May 1st. So far, Activists for Peace are the only participants from Sweden in this global network, but we hope that more people will join.

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