

International Peace Forum Saturday 7 January

in conjunction with People and Peace conference 8 – 9 January 2023

Peace and building alliances East-West and South-North are the issues addressed at an international forum 7 January at UTC+1 16:00 – 19:30. The international forum is initiated by the Network People and Peace in Sweden together with International Peace Bureau (IPB) and Prague Spring 2 network (PS2).

This forum starts with a discussion on the state of the world with Walden Bello from Focus on the Global South, Amineh Kakabave, former MP in Sweden born in Kurdistan who Erdogan wants to be expelled from Sweden and Ingeborgs Breines, WILP Norway and former chair of IPB and UNESCO director. Comments are made by Sean Conner, Neringa Tumenaite and Maximilian Isendahl, three young activists from the peace, antiracist and Via Campesina movements. In a second section the need for peace and climate alliances across borders are especially addressed by Russian war resister Aleksey Sachnin, pacifist Yuri Sheliashenko from Ukraine, socialist feminist Enikő Vincze from Romania, Soumya Dutta, climate Justice activists from India and Leo Gabriel, member in the World Social Forum international council.

Time: 7-8-9 January 2023.

Location: Online and on site in Sälen, Sweden.

PROGRAMME PEOPLE AND PEACE 2023 (Folk och Fred)

Lördag 7/1 – International Forum, in English

Section 1 – State of the world, 16:00-18:00 (UTC+1)

Walden Bello, Focus on the Global South, Filippinerna
Amineh Kakabaveh, socialist and Kurdish freedom fighter
Ingeborg Breines, WILPF Norway
Comments:

Sean Connor, Executive director, IPB
Neringa Tumenaite, anti racist youth movement, UNITED
Maximilian Isendahl, farmer, Via Campesina Sweden

Section 2 – Peace and building alliances East-West and South-North, 18:15-19:30 (UTC+1)

Yurii Sheliashenko, Ukrainian Pacifist Movement
Aleksey Sachnin, anti-war protester, Russia
Enikő Vincze, Anti-war Socialist Feminist and housing activist, Romania
Soumya Dutta, Climate Justice Activist, India
Leo Gabriel, PS2 and member of World Social Forum International Council

Zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83735402659?pwd=SzA4bHZRa3dvdFIWUFA4S1dUTkVPUT09>

Sunday, January 8 - People and Peace, Day 1, Swedish and other Nordic languages

10:00-10:15 Opening Ceremony

10:15-12:00 - Session 1 - The situation and what do we do now?

Ann-Margrethe Livh, International Arena och solidarity activist
Jonathan Feldman, economy historian engaged in peace- and environmental issues
Tomas Magnusson, former chair IPB

12:00-13:00 - Lunchpaus

13:00-15:00 - Session 2 – No to nuclear weapon and a global NATO

Ulla Klötzer, Women for Peace Finland
Stefan Lindgren, author of the book Dö för NATO, (Die for NATO)
Valter Mutt, Foreign policy
Eva Myrdal, Cooperation against NATO membership

15:00-15:30- Report and comment on Folk och Försvar (People and Defence in Sälen with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, Swedish prime minister Ulf Kristoffersson and Finnish foreign minister Pekka Haavisto as speakers)
Lars-Gunnar Liljestrand, Save the non-alignment

15:45-17:45 - Session 3 - Is the rule of law and democracy both thrown in the bin?
Pia Björstrand, defence lawyer for environmental activists and spokes person for Climate Action.
Hakan Cifci, member of the foreign committee of the Kurdish National Congress
Andi Olluri, media critical author

19:00-20:30 – Evening session 4 - Nordic peace talks
Inledare:
Marko Ulvila, peace activist Finland and initiator of Finnish-Swedish cooperation on no to NATO membership and Rojava solidarity
Marianne Laxén, Pacifist and feminist, Finland
Liss Schanke, WILPF Norge
Hasse Schneidermann, Fredsministerium, Danmark
Ingalill Bjartén, peace activist, Sverige

Måndag 9 januari – Folk och Fred (sändning från Sälen, dag 2)

10:00-12:00 - Pass 5 - Ukraina och den globala konflikten med plundring, svält, förgiftning och krig
Annika Lillemets, Africa solidarity activist
John Hörnquist, former editor Socialistisk Debatt and internationalist
Tord Björk, active in Friends of the Earth Sweden and co-founder of Network for People and Peace, Council member of International Peace Bureau

12:00-12:30 - Report and comment on Folk och Försvar

12:30-13:30 - Lunchpaus

Closing Ceremony

13:30-15:00 - Session 6 - Build the country now!
Inledning 13:30-13:40, Talare 13:40-14:20, Samtal 14:20-15:00.
Helena Thau, Food defense, Edsele
Siri Lundström, Forest defense, Holmsta.
Jonathan Lange, Young syndicalist, Transition from Below, and Energy defense
Maria Engelbrektsson, Village Academy
Jörgen Andersson, Mountain grazing and Nordic network for regenerative agriculture

15:00-15:45 Paus för fika m.m.

15.45-17.30 Session 7 – De-escalation for social and ecologically just transition

KG Hammar, active in the Christian Peace Movement
Ellie Cijvat, aktiv i flyktingpolitiska rörelsen, fd ordförande för Jordens Vänner
Thomas Wallgren, professor i filosofi at the Helsinki University and peace activists

17.30-18.00 Adoption of the statement for People and Peace 2023, Closing ceremony

This International Peace Forum comes in a time when we face accelerating war, social, ecological and North-South conflicts. In this situation it is both growing cooperation internationally between movements as well as strong connections to local and national experiences of importance. An alliance between peace, environmental and the transition movements have emerged. Working for building trust locally and protect food, forests and energy are married to solidarity against all forms of repression and the need for disarmament for a social and just transition.

Here the drastic change in Sweden of 200 years of successful non-alignment policy provides an experience of international interest. The application for NATO membership have opened up for pressuring Sweden. Already have Sweden stopped its ban on export of weapons to Turkey, one of several demands put towards Sweden by the Turkish government. The response to the need for addressing the multilayered crisis on all levels and the acute threats against Kurds in Sweden have caused the need to reach out internationally both to the neighbouring countries and beyond. These and other issues will be addressed during 8 – 9 January by Swedish and Nordic speakers.

People and Peace started three years ago as a response to the way the arms industry and NATO supporters more and more dominated the yearly meeting in Sälen called Folk och Försvar (People and Defense). Thus, our great arms dealer Jacob Wallenberg is one of the speakers this time together with the NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg. The

conference is consequently also sponsored by Bill Gates, America's largest owner of farmland and influential globally on many issues. All the parliamentary parties are also taking part, all of whom agree on the current policy of drastically raising the military budget.

We hope to contribute to the common struggle across all borders for peace and climate justice and see your participation in this event as most welcome.

Tord Björk